

MINUTES
CITY OF ISANTI
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021 – 5:00 P.M.
CITY HALL

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Johnson, Councilors: Jimmy Gordon, Paul Bergley, Steve Lundeen and Dan Collison

Staff Present: City Administrator Josi Wood, City Clerk Jaden Strand, Community Development Director Sheila Sellman, Public Services Director Matt Sylvester, Finance Director Mike Betker, City Engineer Jason Cook and Chief of Police Travis Muires

D. Public Comment

None

E. Committee Meeting Items

1. Liquor Store Bonding Options (*Jessica Green, Northland Securities 5-5:25 p.m.*)

- Financing options were shared with Committee of the Whole regarding the liquor store project. The options included:
 - Lease-Revenue Bonds
 - General Obligation Tax Abatement Bonds
- Methods of sale were shared with Committee regarding the liquor store project. The options included:
 - Competitive Sale
 - Negotiated Sale
- Majority consensus from Committee is to go with lease-revenue bond and negotiated sale options.

2. Public Works Updates

- Public Works had to haul snow out of many cul-de-sacs and intersections this winter to make room for the continuing snow events that took place.
- Doors were posted again in January for tree trimming. Tree trimming is something that Public Works does every year during the winter months.
- With the warm weather we have received lately staff has been out doing yard repairs from plow damage.
- Staff has been out filling potholes and will continue to monitor and fill those as needed.
- Public Works took time to paint the breakroom and bathroom walls at the Public Works shop.
- Staff has also been out sweeping streets and will continue to sweep those weather permitting.

- Staff has been busy hauling brush out. Brush is taken to Central Landscaping in East Bethel.
- Annual maintenance of the air release valves has been started for this year.
- Annual maintenance was completed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The filters were shocked and put back online. The pond aeration pumps had new belts, air filters and an oil change completed.
- Annual maintenance was also completed at the Water Plant for the MIOX machine.
- Staff has created an alarm call-back log for SCADA alarms. This call-back log will help as a training tool for newer staff. There are several alarms that don't happen very often. This log will help staff as a training tool so that the On-call person has an idea as to how to fix the alarm.
- Annual water hardness test was completed. The city website has been updated with the results.
- Alyssa Olson was hired as our new Parks, Rec and Events Coordinator.
- Staff made some shelving at the ICC to store supplies. The items supply includes Christmas decorations and Curious Creatures supplies.
- Water Conservation Reports (MPARS and ESPARS) were completed.
- Solid Waste Report (ReTrac) was completed.

3. Water Shut-Off Policy Discussion

- Historically when utility billing is done, water shut-offs are not done in cold weather months which is October 15-April 15th.
- Cold water rule in Minnesota is for utilities that provide heat.
- Not shutting water off has been a courtesy but it is not written in policy.
- Consensus from Committee is to continue with not shutting water off in cold weather months and for staff to draft a policy by resolution.

4. Address Changes by 911 Coordinator-Dispatcher

- The 911 Coordinator-Dispatcher has contacted Community Development Director wanting review of city addresses for discrepancies.
- There are some addresses on the North side of the road, East side of the road and West.
- Odd numbers should be assigned on the North side for the streets running East and West and vice versa.
- The 911 Coordinator-Dispatcher has provided discrepancies that he has pointed out.
- This does affect a lot of households and businesses.
- There is an ordinance in place that specifically states how addresses are numbered.
- Chief of Police Travis Muyres shared that it's not a public safety concern because changing any of the addresses with discrepancies is not going to change emergency response.
- Consensus from Committee is to leave addresses as is and address any conflicting street signs.

5. City Council Agenda Request (*Josh S, Homepride Inc.*)

- Josh S requested to have 5 model homes built without hooking up sewer and water.

- Community Development Director Sheila Sellman shared that the city does not typically allow development on a proposed subdivision until it has been recorded with the county, a development agreement and a letter of credit in place.
 - Sellman suggested not allowing it because utilities would not be in place.
 - Consensus from Committee is to bring back to Committee of the Whole for further discussion once the final plat is approved.
6. Bee Farming
- Residents have contacted Mayor Johnson wondering why there is not an Ordinance regarding bee farms in the city. Residents are requesting to allow bee farming within City limits.
 - Consensus from Committee is for staff to look into specifics of potentially allowing bee farming and bring back to Committee of the Whole for further discussion.
7. Fire District Rent 2020 Update
- The City was waiting for the Joint Powers Agreement amendment to go through to clear up whether the rent is \$1 or fair market value.
 - After City Administrator Wood spoke with the City Attorney, a resolution would clearly explain that the City Council wishes to charge the Fire District \$1 for rent payment for 2020.
 - Going forward, the newly signed lease-purchase agreement makes the rent not an issue anymore.
8. Heritage Walk Improvements
- There is only an 8-foot boulevard to the right-of-way from back of curb so the trail option would not be able to be done.
 - The only viable option is to do what is already done to most of Heritage which is a 6-foot wide concrete walk running along the back of curb.
 - It is 10% under what was budgeted.
 - Consensus from Committee is to move forward and get a plan set to get a price.
9. Eagle Park
- 12 stalls were deeded to the private property in 1993 and they are assigned that way.
 - It was discussed to potentially reduce pavement area.
 - The private property does not have an easement to the 12 parking stalls.
 - The cost savings to making the area a greenspace is about \$10,000.
 - Consensus from Committee is for staff to look at possible cost of altering into greenspace and possible grant funding.

F. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

Jaden Strand

Jaden Strand
City Clerk