

MINUTES
CITY OF ISANTI
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021 – 5:00 P.M.
CITY HALL

Mayor Pro-Tem Steve Lundeen called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Johnson (arrived at 5:08 p.m.), Councilors: Jimmy Gordon (via Zoom), Paul Bergley, Steve Lundeen and Dan Collison

D. Public Comment

None

E. Committee Meeting Items

1. Arts and Science Academy Conduit Request (*Clyde Boyer and Kevin Fitton*)

- On March 29th a formal request was made by the Arts & Science Academy (ASA) seeking affirmation of the City's intent to issue conduit debit (\$5.6 million) to allow the ASA to buy out the leases on the two buildings they currently occupy realizing savings between the current lease payments and the projected debt service payment. The obligation would be assigned to First Bank & Trust at closing. At that point the City would have no role or obligation associated with the debt issue.
- The ASA has signed the escrow agreement but has not paid the minimum amount due. If there is a consensus by the Committee the request would move to the next Council meeting for consideration. Prior to Council consideration and per City policy, a minimum of \$3,000.00 would need to be paid into escrow before proceeding.
- Staff recommends approval of the request and support for the ASA's request to use Kennedy & Graven as Bond Counsel on the condition that the City's Bond Counsel (Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP) review the final documents prior to closing.
- Consensus from Committee of the Whole is to move forward and bring to City Council for consideration.

2. City Council Agenda Request (*Brandon Heaton*)

- Brandon Heaton has submitted an agenda request to discuss wind turbines in residential areas.
- Heaton was not present.
- The request is to specifically change Subdivision 21 of Section 13 to include low voltage turbines in residential areas.
- According to Heaton's request the motor is smaller than a football and this would be mounted to his roof.
- Current City Code does not permit Wind Energy Conversion Systems in residential areas.

- Consensus from Committee of the Whole is for staff to do more research and to review a video of a working turbine and bring back to Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

3. Bee Farming Discussion

- There is an interest in beekeeping by several members of the community and the City of Isanti currently does not regulate the activity of beekeeping. Adopting an Ordinance allowing for bees to be kept in certain residential districts will provide regulations that will let residents safely handle bees in an urban environment.
- Currently City Code lists regulations for chickens, racing pigeons, dogs and exotic animals. The city is considering the addition of bees to the list of regulated animals to make requirements for zoning districts allowed, hive location, apiary setbacks, flyway barriers, number of colonies and the size of the apiary.
- City staff has researched several cities directly surrounding Isanti as well as other suburban areas to determine what regulations are needed to safely keep bees in the community.
- Consensus from Committee is that the Ordinance shall include language that states regulation of honey bees specifically, City is not liable for hives when the City sprays for mosquitos and registration is required with adjacent neighbors signed consent.
- Consensus from Committee is to move forward and post Ordinance for the required 10 days and bring to City Council for consideration.

4. Richard Avenue Addressing

- The City has received a complaint from a resident about their address on Richard Ave SE. This resident went to renew their driver's license because the "system" had Richard Lane and Avenue did not exist. The Isanti Post Office also has these addresses as Richard Lane. The County, City, 911 dispatch and Google maps has this street as Richard Ave SE. The street sign also says Richard Avenue SE. The post office does not have documentation as to why they have Richard Lane in their system.
- Staff looked through old maps, resolutions and notices. In 2006, there was a street improvement for this area and the resolution for this improvement referenced Richard Avenue. In 2007, a notice of hearing on proposed assessments references Richard Avenue. In 2018, a resolution was approved for the extension of Richard Avenue SE from Broadway Street SE to Main Street E. Staff has not been able to find documentation of Richard Lane as the street name.
- Since the 2 main entities have this road as Richard Ave SE, staff suggests informing the post office that it is in fact Richard Ave SE and have them change it in their system. There may be issues with doing this as some residents have changed their street to Lane and some have not. There are 11 properties on Richard. These property owners will need to be notified if there is a change. A letter regarding the change and work with the post office to make sure it gets delivered to everyone.
- Consensus from Committee is to send a letter to residents and the post office notifying them that the street is Richard Ave SE.

5. Vaccination Policy Discussion

- Other cities have implemented policies for their employees to obtain Covid 19 vaccinations if they desired and they do not have to use their leave banks to do so.
- Allina has reached out if the City would like them to come here to offer vaccinations to employees.
- Vaccinations would be voluntary.
- Consensus from Committee is to not implement a policy, ask Allina if they could come to the City to administer the vaccine if there is a cost to do so.

6. Bluebird Park Amphitheater Discussion

- In January 2020 the Council approved updated plans to continue moving forward with the Amphitheater/ Performance Center project in Bluebird Park. The estimated budget allocated for this project is \$248,230.00.
- Staff recently received updated pricing on the preferred design by Cedar Forest Products labeled Band Shell #3 Kit. The unit would cost \$139,430.00 to purchase with shipping. This cost does not include groundwork or construction. The estimate on Site Work and Structure Fabrication by Minnesota/ Wisconsin Playground is \$106,632.00. Electrical Service, Inspection, Walk and Testing estimated costs are \$20,500.00.
- Staff would also recommend updates to the pre-fabricated structure plans: install a window in one of the dressing rooms to utilize the space for a rentable meeting room at an estimated cost of \$5,000.00 and install a centralized air unit to provide air conditioning and heat at an estimated cost of \$1,500.00. The total estimated cost to build the Performance Center is \$273,062.00.
- The proposed site plan was developed to include the Performance Center, Restrooms and the future Splash Pad for foresight into how all facilities will work together within the Bluebird Park footprint. Staff recommends the design of each of these facilities be considered to create a cohesive look in the park and would like to recommend installing a maroon-colored roof, painting the pavilion roof to match and ensuring all future facilities match as well.
- Lighting will also need to be installed at the Performance Center and at the Sledding Hill and would cost approximately \$15,000.00. This would be by installing two lights: one on each side of the sledding hill to match the lighting already in place at Bluebird Park. The recommendation from Council in February 2021 was to wait to install lighting at the Sledding Hill until the Amphitheater was completed and both could be installed together.
- Majority recommendation from Committee is to move forward with recommended positioning of the amphitheater, with installing lighting, with maroon-colored roof, not include the window and wait to install a restroom facility.

7. Building Inspection Discussion

- The volume of permits is challenging and unrealistic for one person. The Building Official is in charge of plan review, issuing permits, inspections, re-inspections and scheduling inspections. When this position was contracted there was an entire admin staff just for scheduling inspections, there were 2-3 people doing plan review and a couple inspectors dedicated to Isanti.

- Staff recommended hiring a Part-Time Permit Technician to work 29 hours per week to assist in the heavy workflow.
- Consensus from Committee is to move forward and hire a Part-Time Permit Technician.

F. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jaden Strand".

Jaden Strand
City Clerk