

MINUTES
CITY OF ISANTI
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021 – 5:00 P.M.
CITY HALL

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Members Absent: Dan Collison

Staff Present: City Administrator Josi Wood, City Clerk Jaden Strand, Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator Alyssa Olson, Public Services Director Matt Sylvester, Interim Liquor Store Manager Keith Lusk, Chief of Police Travis Muyres, Community Development Director Sheila Sellman and Finance Director Mike Betker

Others Present: William Snelling, Sharon Snelling and Brandon Heaton

D. Public Comment

None

E. Committee Meeting Items

1. City Council Agenda Request (*William and Sharon Snelling*)
 - A request was made for relief of water bill due to Covid-19 illnesses and hardships.
 - Consensus from Committee is to pay average billing amount and waive the rest of the bill.
2. Police Updates
 - A contingent offer has been made for employment of the last grant officer position.
 - The requested speed sign arrived at the end of last week and has been set up at South Passage.
 - The capital squad was ordered in January and the end of May is when it is going to ship from Chrysler.
 - Two officers have been out for defensive tactics instructor course and by the end of this year the Police Department will have all inhouse instructor pool.
 - June 1st City Council meeting will include a resolution for the Joint Powers SRT Team as Lieutenant McCarty was appointed Commander and Chief Muyres was appointed Board Chair.
3. Liquor Updates
 - Gross Profit for the months of January-April was 26.96%.

- Total sales for the months of January-April were \$1,155,968.00 in 2021. January-April sales for 2020 was \$1,112,210.00 and 2019 was \$867,512.00, respectively.
- With Covid, sales in 2020 were up 28% over 2019 while customer count in 2020 increase by 9.5%. Thus far in 2021 the liquor store has managed to stay ahead of the 2020 sales pace despite March of 2020 showing a 42% increase in sales over March of 2019.
- Interim Liquor Store Manager Keith Lusk will be meeting with Louella Polzin at the end of June for a history lesson on Isanti and Isanti Liquor, and to find out what she would like to see in reference to naming part of the new store for Bozo.

4. Turkeys and Ducks Discussion

- There has been interest by residents in the city to keep certain animals, specifically turkeys and ducks.
- The request would be to allow these domestic fowl in residential areas.
- Surrounding cities do not allow domestic fowl to be kept in residential areas.
- Some cities allow turkeys and ducks to be kept only in areas that are zoned agricultural and are considered farm animals by definition.
- Isanti's zoning district equivalent to agricultural land would be the R-1A Residential Rural District. This zoning district has a minimum lot size of 1 acre.
- Recommendation from Committee is for Community Development Specialist Ryan Saltis to research ducks and bring back to Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

5. VFW Park Lease Termination Discussion

- On May 19, 1987, Resolution #98-82 was passed by the City Council, entering into an agreement with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Board of Directors of Rum River Post No. 2735 for the City of Isanti to lease and operate a portion of VFW property for the established VFW Park at a cost of \$1.00.00 per year.
- In previous and ongoing discussions, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Board and the City Council have addressed opportunities to reduce the number of parks operation by the City.
- Staff has identified the VFW Park as a dated property that receives minimal use and requires continued maintenance and is a viable park to discontinue managing in order to meet these goals.
- In review of the leasing agreement, the City may terminate this agreement at any time if the use is deemed incompatible with future goals by giving reasonable notice to the leasing party (VFW).
- Recommendation from Committee is to terminate lease agreement and donate the playground equipment to the VFW if they are willing to accept it.

6. Wind Turbine Discussion

- A request was made by Brandon Heaton to discuss wind turbines in residential areas. The request is to specifically change Subdivision 21 of Section 13 to include low voltage turbines in residential areas.

- According to Heaton the motor is smaller than a football and this would be mounted to his roof.
- The size of the wind turbine is roughly the size of a boot.
- The noise that would be produced from a small wind turbine of this size would be 40 decibels at the turbines top speed, similar to a running refrigerator.
- Recommendation from Committee is to amend ordinance to allow wind turbine and require a permit.

7. Well II Sand Discussion

- During the Well II Rehab work, there was approximately 300 yards of sand removed from the Mt Simon Aquifer. The sand removed is very fine and provides limited use as it is not compactable.
- To have the sand hauled away it would cost about \$10.00 a yard.
- Residents and non-residents have requested to purchase the sand.
- Recommendation from Committee is to sell the sand per the surplus policy.

8. Liquor Store Plaque Discussion

- At new city facilities a bronze plaque is typically done.
- The cost is approximately \$525.00
- Majority recommendation is to move forward with purchasing bronze plaque for the new liquor store.

9. EDA Purchasing Old Liquor Store Discussion

- Committee discussed the option of the EDA purchasing the old liquor store.
- Selling City property needs to be done through the EDA.
- Consensus from Committee is to wait until the appraisal of the liquor store is completed and if that location is the most cost effective for the police dept.
- Committee had no further recommendations.

10. Liquor Store Signage Discussion

- Committee was presented with two different options for signage at the new liquor store.
- Options A & B were images of the front. Option A presented a lit Isanti Liquor logo with the tree and river and option B presented “Isanti Liquor” with sconces.
- Options C & D were images of the side. Option C is lit and option D is not lit with sconces.
- Options E & F were for curbside pickup. Option E is lit and option F is not lit with sconces.
- Committee was presented with an example of a potential option of “beer”, “wine” and “spirits” signs in the windows of the new liquor store.
- Majority consensus from Committee is to move forward with options A, D and F and proceed with research prices for “beer”, “wine” and “spirits” signs in the windows of the new liquor store.

11. Veteran Discount at Liquor Store

- Committee discussed allowing for veteran discount 7 days a week at the liquor store.
- Recommendation from Committee is to continue veteran discount 7 days a week and bring formal resolution to Council June 1st for approval.

F. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

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

Jaden Strand
City Clerk