

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
GOAL SETTING SESSION
CITY OF ISANTI
January 13, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Mayor George Wimmer, Councilors Steve Lundeen, Jim Kennedy, Ross Lorinser and Sue Larson.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Attorney Clark Joslin as Facilitator, City Administrator/City Clerk Don Lorsung, Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk Karissa Henning, Finance Director Kristi Smith, Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan, Planning and Parks Director Lisa Wilson, Police Chief Ron Sager and Public Works Director Pat Meyer.

Overview of 2010 Top Goals

Joslin reviewed the top 2010 goals and they were as follows:

- Economic Development Comprehensive Plan
- Downtown Plan
- Consideration of EDA to an HRA
- Continue work on Rail Industrial Park
- Budgeting without LGA
- Establishing a list of cuts and prioritize budget items
- Determine the percentage of general funds to reserve
- Restructuring bonded debt

Overview of 2011 Goal

Joslin reviewed the goal set for 2011:

- Restructure City Government
 - Provide a three year Budget framework

Joslin also noted that there was direction by the Council to establish two citizen input meetings, which were held in March 2011. The outcomes of the meetings were fairly positive and that the citizens were happy with the services provided by the City.

Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan reviewed with Council a draft EDA Marketing / Work Plan for 2012. The Plan included goals and objectives that included the following:

- Update Brochures for real estate to include “Shovel Ready” certification and updated aerials
- Attendance at conferences and networking events for marketing

- Continued website enhancements and updates specific to promoting economic development
- Continue to support large events held in Isanti that bring commerce or help local businesses
- Development of current maps to market Isanti
- Calls to targeted industries
- Continued business retention and expansion visits
- Analysis comparing development costs from Isanti and its regional competitors
- Consider addition of a Business Spotlight section in the Isantian
- Use various forms of media to highlight Isanti successes
- Market Isanti's Shovel Ready Certification

Larson made comment she finds it very important for Sullivan and Lorsung to have presence at legislative forums to help Isanti marketing. Lorsung stated Sullivan and himself can attend legislative forums but will need direction from Council to do so. Mayor Wimmer agreed with Larson and requested of staff to make Council aware of the events and from there it will be decided.

There was discussion on the need for review and recommendation of Utility Billing; this will be brought to Finance Committee.

Finance Director Kristi Smith provided an update of the 2011 Goal as previously stated above in regards to:

- General Fund Financial Condition– changes in the market value credit, by 2015 the City will have a lack of revenue sources and will need to find balances to cover expenditures
- Capital Replacement Fund – Smith stressed concern for the lack of funding for the Capital Replacement Fund

There was discussion on the Municipal Building Reserve in regards to if the reserve is only for the City Hall and Public Works buildings. Smith will look into this for verification.

Lundeen questioned when the Police Department building was built and if anything needs to be replaced. Police Chief Ron Sager stated the building was built in 1984 and the last time the building was renovated most everything was replaced from the furnace to roofing. However, Sager noted that the windows within the building could be replaced; a lot of heat is lost through the windows and window replacements would cut down on heating costs for the building.

Larson questioned what is the yearly average that is being placed into the municipal fund per year and if the City could continue to place money into this account for unexpected building maintenance needs. Smith will look into on average how much was being placed in the municipal fund.

Lorinser made comment that it would be hard for the City to keep placing money into the Municipal Building Reserve Fund at this point due to low City funds.

Mayor Wimmer directed the Finance Committee to look into the Municipal Building Reserve fund in regards to allowed expenditures and to have a policy set in place to clarify this matter, along with a resolution, which will be brought back to City Council at a later date.

Smith presented the Isanti Community Center losses from 2007 through 2012 with budgeted data provided for 2011 and 2012.

Mayor Wimmer discussed some possible options he has and will be looking into regarding the Isanti Community Center. Mayor Wimmer made comment that the Isanti Lions Club does not have an interest to take over the Community Center. Mayor Wimmer noted that he had meet with Pastors within the area to discuss options of moving the programs currently held at the Isanti Community Center to the churches within the area if need be. The Mayor received a positive message from the churches within the Community if the programs were to need a new site. Mayor Wimmer also will be looking into asking the townships if they would help financially sustain the Isanti Community Center and its programs, as a large number of those using the Isanti Community Center's programs are from within the townships.

Both Mayor Wimmer and Larson made comment on the importance of the Community Center and their hopes to find a way to keep the Community Center up and running.

Mayor Wimmer and Lorsung agreed that a plan needs to be made as far as what will happen to the Community Center within the next year.

Mayor Wimmer decided that a task force will be made up for the Community Center. This task force will research and review all of the options for the future of the Community Center. Mayor Wimmer set a time frame of 6 to 12 months from now for the task force to complete researching all the available options for the Community Center; whereas at that time they will present to City Council their recommendations.

There was discussion on County Road 5 regarding traffic and congestion issues as well as a concern for pedestrians. Mall owners will be met with regarding the right of way for pedestrian access.

There was discussion about a growing concern of cars speeding on Main Street. Chief Sager will set up traffic reading systems to see the average speed of cars traveling on Main Street and report back to the City Council.

Mayor Wimmer summarized the 2012 goals:

1. Community Center Review
 - a. Contact Townships regarding Assistance with Facility costs.
 - b. Citizen Task Force – To be formed to review the Community Center and all options and within 6-12 months present to the City Council their recommendations.
2. Capital Replacement Fund – Municipal Building Fund Reserve

Finance Committee to review and bring back a recommendation on the following:

- a. Municipal Building Replacement Policy
 - b. On-going Balance in Account
 - c. Use of Existing Funds
 - d. Review of General Maintenance Building Reserve Funds and consider if fund needs to be adjusted.
3. Review and Recommendation regarding Utility Billing – Finance Committee
 4. Review CSAH 5 Traffic and Congestion Issues
 - a. Meet with Mall owners regarding the right of way for pedestrian access. Report back as to potential solutions.
 5. Main Street Traffic Issues
 - a. Police Chief Sager to conduct vehicle speed study and report back on findings and potential recommendations.
 6. Continue Economic Development Efforts to Diversify and Increase the Tax Base.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark A. Joslin, Facilitator
Isanti City Attorney