

**MINUTES
CITY OF ISANTI
CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 3, 2012
ISANTI CITY HALL**

Mayor Wimmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Administrator Don Lorsung, City Attorney Clark Joslin, Finance Director Kristi Smith, Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk Karissa Henning, Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan, Lieutenant Gene Hill, and City Engineer Brad DeWolf

Motion by Larson, second by Lorinser to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Smith joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

E. Proclamations/Commendations/Certificate Awards

None.

F. Approve City Council Minutes

Motion by Larson, second by Lundeen to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2011 City Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Citizens Input

Cindy Lind-Livingston, 508 Hillock Court, representing the Isanti Redbirds, gave an update to City Council. Lind-Livingston stated that pull tabs were started on August 1, 2011 and that the Redbirds are planning to fix the outfield lights and fence. A list of other improvement projects the Redbirds hope to achieve is being created as well.

H. Announcements

Announcements were read.

I. Council Committee Reports

Councilor Larson reported on:

- **Fire District**
 - History of the Fire Department
 - Joint Powers Agreement
 - Grants

- **East Central Regional Development Commission**
 - A Legislative forum will be held January 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Cambridge City Hall

J. Public Hearings

None.

K. Business Items

1. Sewer Rate Review

Mayor Wimmer recognized Jeff Duncan from 407 12th Avenue, NW. Duncan reported that in January, February and March his household averaged 4,567 gallons of water for 2011. However, since September 1st, the average has dropped to around 1,189 gallons because he is now the only person living in his house. Duncan stated that he believes the January, February and March averaging system is one of the best ways to do water billing, although due to the drastic change in water usage and occupants within his household, Duncan requested his account be reviewed again.

There was discussion on accounts and occupancy, which can change very frequently for others as well, both increases and decreases in occupancy. Mayor Wimmer stated the City tries to do the water billing in the most systematic way as possible and treat everyone equally. Larson stated the City did a lot of research when they set up this billing system, which takes the averaged lowest water usage time of the year and uses that amount for account billing. Mayor Wimmer stated that changing the billing for individual accounts can become a huge cost issue.

2. Resolution 2012-001 Approving Salary Changes for Pay Equity Compliance and Authorizing Transfer

Mayor Wimmer stated that the City goes through Pay Equity reporting every three years. Mayor Wimmer announced that the City is out of compliance, as has been the last two times the City had to do Pay Equity reporting as well. Numbers were ran and the most cost effective solution to bring the City back into compliance is to raise the monthly salaries of the Finance Director, Planning and Parks Director, Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk, Account Clerk and Police Secretary/Administrative Assistant. Larson questioned if these numbers were ran with Lorsung's raise. Mayor Wimmer responded that the numbers were run for the compliance report with and without Lorsung's raise, and either way the City falls out of compliance. The solution presented is the best scenario to bring the City into compliance.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2012-001 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Consider Designating an Official Newspaper and Appointing Depositories and Professional Service for Year 2012

a. Open Bids for the Designation of the City's Official Newspaper

Lorsung opened and read the bids that were received for the Official Newspaper as follows:

Isanti County News	\$4.75 per column inch (11 lines/inch) 4,112 distributions in the 55040 zip code area and all of the City of Isanti
Isanti-Chisago County Star	\$1.10 per column inch; (11.5 lines/inch) 197 distributions in Isanti

b. Resolution 2012-002 Designating an Official Newspaper and Appointing Depositories and Professional Services for Year 2012

Motion by Larson, second by Lorinser to award the Official Newspaper for the year 2012 to Isanti County News at the bid received in the amount of \$4.75 per column inch, based on the higher circulation of their paper within the City of Isanti. Motion carried unanimously.

Lorsung stated that if Council desires, City Council Work Sessions could be called versus set within the City Council meeting schedule, which would then eliminate many work session cancellations. Staff recommended calling the City Council Work Session at the first City Council Meeting of the month. There was consensus among Council.

Mayor Wimmer read off the appointing depositories and professional services.

Motion by Larson, second by Lorinser to call City Council Work Sessions when needed and to approve the professional services and depositories for the year 2012 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Interview Applicants for the Vacant Term Seats for the Planning Commission and the Park and Recreation Board

Two applications were received for the two open seats on the Planning Commission and were received from Cindy Lind-Livingston and Michael Streiff. The terms for the open positions are three years terms. Lorinser questioned being the two applicants are members of the Planning Commission, and the only applicants, if they need to be interviewed. City Council agreed interviews were not necessary for they are known members who would be reappointed.

Motion by Lorinser, second by Kennedy to reappoint Cindy Lind-Livingston and Michael Streiff to the Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

There are two open seats for the Park and Recreation Board; one application from City resident Jenny Garvey was received. Both current members, Aaron Zdon and Bridget Parker also applied to be reappointed for the open seats; however their applications were received late.

Jenny Garvey was present and the City Council asked questions of Ms. Garvey relating to the Park and Recreation Board seat.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lorinser to appoint Jenny Garvey to fill one of the two open seats on the Park and Recreation Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wimmer stated there is one remaining open seat for an adult on the Park and Recreation Board. Zdon's application was received a day before Parker's, but Parker and Zdon both have been on the board and bring great things to the Board. Larson made comment to approve Zdon for the second Park and Recreation Board seat, being his application was received earlier.

Motion by Larson, second by Kennedy to appoint Aaron Zdon to fill the remaining open seat on the Park and Recreation Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wimmer announced that there is one open seat on the Park and Recreation Board for a student and that one application was received from Chloe Sunde, who was previously on the board. Mayor Wimmer made comment that Sunde brings a lot of great ideas and information to the board regarding the youth.

Motion by Lorinser, second by Larson to appoint Chloe Sunde to fill the open student seat on the Park and Recreation Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wimmer announced that the only change he would like to make for the commissions and advisory committees for the year 2012 is to appoint Larson as the primary for the North 65 Corridor Coalition, and have Council approval to remove the requirement of staff attendance from the Coalition meetings.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lorinser to appoint Larson as the primary for the North 65 Corridor Coalition and for all other appointments to remain the same for the commissions and advisory committees for 2012 as they were in 2011; and the approval to remove staff's required attendance from the North 65 Corridor Coalition. Motion carried unanimously

5. Resolution No. 2012-004 Identifying Official Signatures on Documents Pertaining to City Matters

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2012-004 as presented. Motion carried unanimously

6. Resolution No. 2012-005 Authorizing Signatures for the Purpose of Accessing and Maintaining City Funds and Investments

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2012-005 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Resolution No. 2012-006 Approving Police Chief Ron Sager to Accept a Scholarship and Attend the International Association of Chiefs of Police Leading by Legacy Training

The training is scheduled for February 25-27, 2012 in Phoenix, AZ (Saturday through Monday). The Police Chief was previously approved to apply for this program conditional upon the time and location of the training.

Motion by Lundeen, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2012-006 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Discussion on Water Meters Not Yet Changed Out

Smith reported there is one resident that is still refusing to have the new water meter placed in. A letter was submitted from the resident as to why the resident does not want the meter placed in his household and it was reviewed by Finance Committee. The Committee waited to see if there were other letters or complaints sent in regarding the placement of the new water meters; nothing was received.

Mayor Wimmer stated that the City Engineer contacted the manufacturer and researched the issues brought up by the resident and found little to no affect of the water meters in regards to electromagnetic systems and health concerns. The water meters transmit small wattages, and much less than any other product such as a Wi-Fi signal in the air.

DeWolf affirmed that the residents concern was brought up to the manufacturer on the water meters purchased. DeWolf added that the meters were found to transmit at a very low level, much less than a microwave, cellular phone or telephone. The meters are very low wattage compared to other electronic products used in everyday life. Research done was not only by contacting the manufacturing company and raising concern about the resident's issue, it was also found through independent research and case studies that were not done by the company. DeWolf additionally stated that the signal would not be running all the time, the signal would be sent out once a month when water meters are checked.

Mayor Wimmer made comment that these water meters are being placed in because they create a significant cost savings to the City in labor.

Larson questioned if a doctor's note was brought in. No doctor letter was received.

Mark Wyandt 1109 3rd Avenue, who had submitted the letter, presented himself to the Mayor and City Council and stated that his daughter is ultra sensitive and that he would like another alternative besides the \$75 reading fee if the water meter is not installed in his household. Wyandt informed Council that the new water meter brings another small amount of electromagnetic waves into his house which affects his daughter's health.

There was more discussion on electromagnetic waves, research and findings relating to Mr. Wyandt's situation.

There was consensus to have Mr. Wyandt bring in a doctor's statement from his daughters doctor.

Motion by Larson, second by Kennedy to table the matter until the next City Council meeting to allow further more information to be received. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Resolution 2012-007 City of Isanti Conflicts of Interest Policy

Joslin reviewed the City of Isanti's Conflict of Interest policy with Council, noting that the Fire Chief has been removed from the list of public officials because he is no longer under the direct authority of the City Council. All City Council members and public officials defined within the Conflicts of Interest Policy must complete and submit to City Administrator/City Clerk Lorsung the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Forms. Joslin reminded Council that any personal/financial issues that a Council member has or is perceived to have, should abstain from such discussions in which that conflict of interest inhibits one from making an independent decision on behalf of the City.

L. Consent Agenda

1. Consider Accounts Payable in the Amounts of \$143,789.88, and Payroll in the Amount of \$66,599.68, and 4th Quarter Council and Commission and Board pay in the Amount of \$4,924.23
2. **Resolution 2012-008** Not Waiving Statutory Liability Limits for the City of Isanti
3. **Resolution 2012-009** Approving Temporary 3.2 Beer Licenses to the Blaine Jaycees
4. **Resolution 2012-010** Approving the Placement of Two (2) Community Recognition Signs for the Cambridge-Isanti Rotary Club and Authorizing Public Works to Place Such Signs on Their Behalf
5. **Resolution 2012-011** Approving Transfer of Vehicle
6. **Resolution 2012-012** Requesting Advancement for Municipal State Aid Funds
7. **Resolution 2012-013** Accepting Planning Commission Member Nick Dimassis's Resignation

Motion by Lorinser, second by Kennedy to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion by Lorinser, second by Kennedy to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karissa Henning
Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk