

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ISANTI  
CITY COUNCIL  
October 1, 2013  
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 Sue Larson, Adam Johnson, Steve Lundeen and Dan Collison

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Don Lorsung, City Attorney Clark Joslin, Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk Karissa Henning, Finance Director Sarah Cotton, Police Chief Ron Sager, Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan, and City Engineer Brad DeWolf

**D. Adopt Agenda**

1. Addendum:

**Add New L.9** Resolution Approving the Special Assessment for Reimbursement of Costs and Expenses Associated with Abatement of a Hazardous Building and Authorizing Signature of the Certificate of Filing with the Office of the Isanti County Auditor

Motion by Larson, second by Lundeen to approve the agenda with the addendum as presented.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**E. Proclamations/Commendations/Certificate Awards**

Mayor Wimmer proclaimed that the week of October 20 to October 26, 2013 shall be observed as Minnesota Manufacturers Week.

**F. Approve City Council Minutes**

Mayor Wimmer noted that the minutes from the September 17, 2013 City Council meeting should clarify that only the Boy Scouts had stated they would not be paying the fee associated with using the Community Center; the Council has not heard from the Cub Scouts yet.

Motion by Larson, second by Johnson to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2013 regular meeting of the City Council with the clarification of only the Boy Scouts indicating they would not be paying the Community Center usage fee. Motion carried unanimously.

**G. Citizens Input**

None.

**H. Announcements**

Announcements were read.

## **I. Council Committee Reports**

Councilor Larson reported on:

- **Highway 65 Coalition**
  - Accidents on 65
- **Ice Arena Board**
  - Proposed Insurance Changes
  - Summer Ice
- **Upcoming Events**
  - Home for the Holidays
  - Santa Days
- **Fire Board**
  - Joint Powers Agreement
  - Relief Training
- **League of Minnesota Cities Policy Groups**
  - Draft Policies
- **GPS 45:93**
  - Economic Gardening Presentation
  - Minnesota Bumped up to #8 in the List of Best Places to have a Business in *Forbes* Magazine

Mayor Wimmer reported on:

- **Legacy Park Tour for Schools**
  - Tuesday, October 8, 2013
- **Took a Tour of Sheriff's Department**
  - Processes on 911 Calls

## **J. Public Hearings**

None.

## **K. Business Items**

### **1. Fire District Joint Powers Agreement**

Mayor Wimmer noted there are some amendments the Fire Board has proposed for the Joint Powers Agreement. The main change would be in regards to insurance liability and stating that the townships/entities would have equal responsibility for the Fire Relief Association liabilities. Mayor Wimmer explained that he needs a written opinion from the State Auditor stating that this equal Relief Association responsibility would be accepted and legally recognized.

Larson noted the Fire Board will check to make sure the State Auditor would uphold this.

Larson indicated that she would like direction from the Council on this before the next Fire Board meeting so there can be a vote at the next meeting.

Mayor Wimmer stated that the Council needs a written opinion and that nothing can be voted on until whether or not it is known that the State Auditor would accept equal responsibility for the Fire Relief Association between the entities.

## **2. Invitation to Mayor, City Council and Staff to Review Joint Powers Agreement Budget**

Mayor Wimmer reported that over the past five years the Fire District budget has gone up, that he is concerned, and would like to know why the budget continues to increase. Mayor Wimmer noted that he has noticed there is a smaller geographic area that the Fire District will be serving and is concerned that the City will be paying more. Mayor Wimmer made comment that he has some questions about the budget regarding increases to certain line items and that he would also like a better understanding of what some of the funds are.

Larson noted that the Council could write all of their questions down and then the Fire District would address each question.

Mayor Wimmer stated he will work with the Council to get all of their questions in writing for the Fire District.

Fire Chief Randy Polzin entered the Council Chambers at 7:18 p.m.

Mayor Wimmer informed Polzin that the Council will write down the questions they have in regards to the budget so that they can be addressed. Polzin added that this is the correct route of action, as that is the process in which the Fire District answers questions pertaining to the budget.

Polzin stated the Fire District will be reviewing the budget at the next Fire Board meeting and that the Fire District goes through and reviews the budget line item by line item and welcomed the Council to attend the meeting.

Mayor Wimmer informed Polzin that he needs to know from the State Auditor that the equal responsibility for the Fire Relief Association would be accepted.

Polzin stated that the State Auditor had written an article in the *Minnesota State Fire Chief's* magazine and, in essence, when it comes to responsibility over a fire district and liabilities, it is the 'biggest dog' that has the responsibility; in this case, that would be the City of Isanti. As similarly stated in the Joint Powers Agreement, for the Isanti Area Fire District, as it reads, it would still be the municipality's (the City of Isanti's) responsibility ultimately. Polzin noted that City Attorney Joslin reads the agreement the same, in which the municipality has the responsibility. Polzin added that however, because the municipality has the responsibility, supplemental aid goes to the municipality as well. \$17,000 dollars this year will go to the 'municipality' - the City of Isanti.

Mayor Wimmer asked Polzin if there is any way the Fire District can still turn into a taxing district.

Polzin made comment that there is little support for the Fire District to become an independent taxing district. Polzin continued that one of the problems is the City Council does not show up at the Fire Board meetings - Larson is the only one who does, and struggles representing the City of Isanti along with supporting the idea of an independent taxing district; she is out numbered.

Polzin stressed that the City Council needs to show up and support Larson and the idea of the independent taxing district.

Polzin stated that the Fire District ran the numbers using the valuations, and the City of Isanti would get a \$30,000 reduction if the Fire District turned into a taxing district.

There was discussion on the Fire District becoming an independent taxing district, and the process of becoming a taxing district taking a step backwards after a majority of resolutions were passed in support of the taxing district; and what it has cost the Fire District.

Polzin stressed concern about many of the fire fighters getting fed up with the political activities going on regarding the Fire District trying to become an independent taxing district, and a majority of the fire fighters have expressed that they could retire if they wanted. This would throw off the Fire District's succession planning and they would be short many men.

Mayor Wimmer stated the Council will put forth another strong effort toward the Fire District and supporting it becoming an independent taxing district.

Polzin notated the next Fire Board meeting will be Wednesday, October 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., Station 1, and encouraged the City Council to attend.

Mayor Wimmer requested of staff to post notice of the City Council attending the next Fire Board meeting to be in accordance with the open meeting law.

Motion by Larson, second by Johnson to post that the City Council plans on attending the next Fire Board meeting so all Council members can attend and participate. Motion carried unanimously.

### **3. Sponsorship/Donations for the Community Center**

Mayor Wimmer noted that now all sponsorships and donations for the Community Center should be running through the new Community Events and Parks Coordinator Josi Wood.

There was discussion about the lights in the Community Center being fixed and that Wood is working on this and getting rebates for the lights. Mayor Wimmer also noted that Wood has resolved a gas leak issue and that the stove in the Community Center is now disconnected. Mayor Wimmer stated that there has been some great progress made within the Community Center. Mayor Wimmer stated Wood is doing well within her position.

### **4. Resolution 2013-199 Authorizing the Execution of Repayment Agreement with J. Robinson Construction, LLC on Lot 20, Block 1, Villages on the Rum Third Addition Phase Three**

Mayor Wimmer noted that now 7 businesses have utilized the repayment agreement program and that the program has been working great, and does not cost the City anything.

Motion by Larson, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2013-199 as presented.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Resolution 2013-200 Authorizing the Purchase of In Design Software for City Laptop**

Mayor Wimmer noted the program is to help the City with marketing.

Motion by Larson second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2013-200 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Resolution 2013-201 Authorizing Submittal of 2013 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC)**

Mayor Wimmer noted this highlights the top economic development projects for the City and makes federal funding potentially available for such economic development projects.

Larson stated that she would like to see work continue towards finding a hotel to be built within the City of Isanti.

Mayor Wimmer made comment that getting a hotel in Isanti is still being looked at with a high priority. However, he noted that through a market study, it currently shows that a hotel would have issues with a shortage of customers mid-week, and that although through the weekends a hotel would be packed - because of the many weekend events that happen in Isanti - hotels would struggle with a shortage of customers mid-week.

There was discussion on getting a hospital or clinic in Isanti. Mayor Wimmer noted that he does not foresee a whole lot of activity for a medical clinic or hospital in Isanti for the next couple of years due to some big changes with the electronic records transition and the uncertainties right now with the Affordable Care Act.

Motion by Larson, second by Johnson to approve Resolution No. 2013-201 as presented.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Resolution 2013-202 Approving an Amended Utility Easement for Fiber Optics for Sprint Across the Property Located at 601 E Dual Blvd. NE**

Mayor Wimmer noted this is simply a resolution to approve placing the easement on the other side of the road.

Motion by Lundeen, second by Collison to approve Resolution No. 2013-202 as presented.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Resolution 2013-203 Approving Quote for City Hall Sidewalk Repair**

Motion by Lundeen, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2013-203, with the low bidder, Bob Pankan & Sons as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Resolution 2013-204 Supporting Isanti SWCD's Grant Application for Storm Water Retrofits Within the City of Isanti that Benefit The Rum River**

Mayor Wimmer noted that this would be a 25/75 match; 75% of the costs would be able to be covered for the City through grant funding.

Motion by Johnson, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2013-204 as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

**L. Approve Consent Agenda**

1. Consider Accounts Payable in the Amount of \$266,700.70 and Payroll in the Amount of \$71,989.31
2. Final Minutes of the August 27, 2013 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting
3. Final Minutes of the August 27, 2013 EDA Meeting
4. **Resolution 2013-205** Approving the Modifications to the Landscaping Plan as Requested by Therapy Associates Inc. for the Property Located at 904 6<sup>th</sup> Ave Court NE
5. **Resolution 2013-206** Approving a Local Gambling Permit for Knights of Columbus for a Bingo Event
6. **Resolution 2013-207** Offering the Position of Utility Billing Clerk to Ms. Teresa Lauseng
7. **Resolution 2013-208** Offering the Code Enforcement/ Zoning Technician Position to Ms. Laura Leckband
8. Recommendation for Approval of Payment for the Repair Work Completed on the Waste Water Treatment Plant Clarifier
9. **Resolution 2013-209** Approving the Special Assessment for Reimbursement of Costs and Expenses Associated with Abatement of a Hazardous Building and Authorizing Signature of the Certificate of Filing with the Office of the Isanti County Auditor

Motion by Lundeen, second by Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Lundeen, second by Johnson to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karissa Henning  
Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk