

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ISANTI  
CITY COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 18, 2011  
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, Planning and Parks Director Lisa Wilson, Police Chief Ron Sager, and City Engineer Brad DeWolf

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

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

Mayor Wimmer proclaimed that the week of October 23 to October 29, 2011 shall be observed as Minnesota Manufacturers Week.

**F. Approve City Council Minutes**

Motion by Larson, second by Lorinser to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2011 City Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**G. Citizens Input**

Mark Wyandt from 1109 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue spoke to Mayor Wimmer and the City Council regarding the remote water meter reading. Wyandt asked if there was another option for water meter reading that does not consist of signals going through his house or him having to pay a fee of \$75.00 to get his water meter read without the signal in his house. Mayor Wimmer asked Wyandt to prepare a written statement explaining why he does not want the signal in his house and provide it to City Staff. If he has a solid viable reason for needing there to be no signal in his house, then City Council will look at other options. Wyandt asked if he could simply mail in his water meter reading on a monthly basis. Larson requested Wyandt to first create a letter to City Staff about the issue of the signal in his house.

**H. Announcements**

Announcements were read.

## **I. Council Committee Reports**

Councilor Larson reported on:

- **Community Education**
  - Meeting times and places
  - Performance Center
  - Hardy Center Performances
- **Isanti Area Library Friends**
  - Santa Days
- **Chamber Connections**
  - Promoting business
  - Lunches and training
- **Downtown Committee**
  - Christmas Village
  - Santa Days start the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, in December, at DJ's from 9:00 a.m. to noon
  - Town tree decorating
- **East Central Regional Library Board Meeting**
  - 10% of the library budget for Isanti County will be eliminated, which is about \$40,000.00

Mayor Wimmer reported on:

- **Water Meter Readings**
  - Billing is variable and is dependent upon when the water meters were changed
- **Property Values**
  - There has been a 22% reduction in overall property values for the upcoming year
    - The new budget plan will reflect these changes

## **J. Public Hearings**

### **1. Resolution No. 2011-246 Adopting a Written Spending Plan and Awarding Financial Assistance to C.L. Hough, LLC and RMW Twins, LLC**

Sullivan reported that the C.L. Hough, LLC project has an estimated market value of \$450,000.00 and anticipates this will create a minimum of 5 full time jobs with wages ranging from \$10.00 to \$12.00 dollars an hour. The proposed assistance amount is \$55,000.00. For the RMW Twins, LLC project, it has an estimated market value of \$300,000.00 and anticipates that this will create a minimum of 8 jobs ranging from \$7.25 to \$15.00 dollars an hour. The Proposed assistance amount for this project totals \$65,000.00.

A Public Hearing was opened by Mayor Wimmer to consider adopting a Written Spending Plan and Awarding Financial Assistance to C.L. Hough, LLC and RMW Twins, LLC. There was no discussion that took place for C.L. Hough, LLC.

For RMW Twins, LLC, Kennedy questioned why the amount of money for the plan increased, yet the assistance did not decrease. David Brooks, Rick Waytashek's advisor for the new plan, talked about shrinking the footprint without the capacity and how starting out small would be the best. Brooks discussed that although the building has become smaller other things have been added to enhance the aesthetics of the building. Larson made comment that the project has changed significantly, Brooks made comment that the business shrunk in size to something a little more manageable and sustainable. Brooks also expanded on some of the major changes include: a smaller building and parking lot, and a children's play area to be added. It was explained that the building could always be added on to, but for a start-up, the smaller size fits more appropriately until it is up and running with profits. With no further discussion the hearing was closed.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2011-246. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **K. Business Items**

##### **1. Resolution No. 2011-247 Approving the Modifications to the Site Plan/Building Appearance Approval as Requested by Rick Waytashek, RMW Twins LLC, for a Restaurant to be Located on the Property at 410 Main Street**

Rick Waytashek, representing RMW Twins, LLC had changes to the site/plan and building appearance to the restaurant to be located on the property at 410 Main Street. The major change was the decrease in size of the restaurant.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2011-247 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

##### **2. Resolution No. 2011-248 Approving a One-Year Extension for the SitePlan/Building Appearance Approval as Requested by CI Hough LLC for the Property Located at 1 Enterprise Avenue NE**

The applicant had received Site/Plan Building Appearance approval on December 21, 2010 by Resolution No. 2010-296. To date, the applicant has not begun construction on the proposed addition. As a result, the petitioner has requested a one-year extension for the Site Plan/ Building Appearance Approval. As of Tuesday, October 11, 2011, the taxes on the property have been paid.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2011-248 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

##### **3. Isanti Tumble Weeds – Purple Love Grass Discussion**

On September 20, 2011 City Staff received an email from a resident living on the south end of Rum River Drive SW. The email reflected the frustration that some residents within this area are feeling towards the "tumble weeds" that seem to appear towards the late summer and beginning or fall within the neighborhood. After research, City Staff found that the "tumble weeds" were found to be not "tumble weeds" at all, but Purple Love Grass. This grass is native to the area and is still growing on the un-mowed portions

of the lots, and adjacent native areas, and proceeds to blow about in the wind upon reaching maturity. The only way to control this grass would be to have the areas mowed more often. Larson suggested changing the mowing policy. Mayor Wimmer commented that the dryer the Purple Love Grass gets the better it grows, so mowing more frequently would then cause the grass to grow faster. Mowing for control of the grass would become too excessive.

**4. Resolution No. 2011-249 Authorization to Accept Quote from Dynamic Fasteners for Material and Tool Rental**

Snow brakes on the City Hall Building were damaged last year due to the heavy snow load. The damaged snow brakes have been removed and without replacement it is possible that the City could incur additional costs due to damage that could be caused by snow falling off the roof. Dynamic Fastener had the best quote for materials and tools and is recommended by the Building and Ground Committee for roof brakes.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2011-249 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Consider Amendment to City Code and Fee Schedule**

- a. **Resolution No. 2011-250 Adopting Fees Within the City of Isanti**
- b. **Ordinance No. 521 Amending the Code for The City of Isanti, Chapter 160, Fees**

As part of the Automatic Meter Reading System Project, Midwest Testing, LLC and the City of Isanti have been denied access into several properties. In order to facilitate a timely transition, staff is recommending a meter replacement fee for non-compliance of \$75.00 dollars a month. The resolution approves the changes to the Fee Schedule; the Ordinance amends the Code and authorizes implementation of the fee.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2011-250 and Ordinance No. 521 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Resolution No. 2011-251 Authorizing the Contribution of Additional City Funds for Upgrades to Go Spatial**

On March 1, 2011 City Council approved Resolution 2011-041 authorizing City Staff to enter into the GIS Agreement with Isanti County for the use of Go Spatial and authorizing the contribution of City Funds for upgrades to Go Spatial. The original estimate from Isanti County was \$700.00. City staff has since been notified that the City will need to contribute \$1,500.00 instead of the original \$700.00. Finance Committee met on October 7, 2011 and recommends approval of the additional funds required.

Motion by Lorinser, second by Kennedy to approve Resolution No. 2011-251 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Discussion on the First Amendment to the Joint and Cooperative Agreement for the Cambridge-Isanti Bike/Walk Trail – Trail Naming Rights**

It was discussed that the Cambridge City Council does not want full partnership in the naming rights of the Bike/Walk Trail and has voted to have each entity name the sections they are responsible for. Larson made comment that having two different names does not make sense and believes it would be best to move forward with one name and work together. Staff was directed to contact Cambridge to set up a Committee meeting to discuss this matter further.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to vote down the amendment to the agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **L. Consent Agenda**

1. Accounts Payable in the Amount of \$465,310.38 and Payroll in the Amount of \$66,625.24
2. Partial Pay Estimate for the 2011 Street and Utility Improvements
3. Partial Pay Estimate for Well House No.1
4. Approval of Change Order No. 1
5. **Resolution 2011-252** Approving Police Chief Ron Sager to Submit an Application to Attend the International Association of Chiefs of Police Leading By Legacy Training, Conditional Upon the Time and Location of the Training
6. **Resolution 2011-253** Approving Community Service Officer Revised Job Description
7. **Resolution 2011-254** Awarding Quote for Ancillary Liquor Store Parking Lot Snow Removal Services
8. **Resolution 2011-255** Approving the City of Isanti Snow Plowing Policy
9. **Resolution 2011-256** Approving Exempt Sidewalks From Snow Removal
10. **Resolution 2011-257** Awarding Ready Watt Electric a Three Year Contract For Maintenance on the City's Outdoor Warning Sirens

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

#### **N. Closed Session**

##### **1. Attorney/Client Privilege on Pending Labor Arbitration Matters**

###### **a. Closed Session 7:38 p.m.**

###### **b. Open Session 7:51 p.m.**

Joslin provided a summary of the closed session whereas he updated the City Council on two pending grievances. One of the grievances applies to the two year Lump Sum Stipend in the current LELS contract. The other grievance relates to seniority in the selection of a candidate for a School Resource Officer (SRO) as it relates to the LELS contract. The process has been followed per the union contract on proceeding with both grievances.

Motion by Lorinser, second by Lundeen to move forward to arbitration regarding the SRO matter. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lorinser, second by Larson to move forward to arbitration regarding the Lump Sum Stipend matter. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Lorinser, second by Lundeen to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karissa Henning  
Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk