

**MINUTES
CITY OF ISANTI
CITY COUNCIL
November 5, 2014
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, Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator Sarah Cotton, Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk Karissa Henning, Police Chief Gene Hill, Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan, Community Development Director Roxanne Achman, Community Events Manager/Parks Coordinator Josi Wood, and City Engineer Brad DeWolf

D. Adopt Agenda

Larson requested to pull L.6, Resolution Acknowledging Permanent Employment Status for Sean Stevens and place this as a business item (K.9).

Motion by Larson, second by Johnson to approve the agenda with the requested change. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Proclamations/Commendations/Certificate Awards

None.

F. Approve City Council Minutes

Motion by Johnson, second by Lundeen to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2014 regular meeting of the City Council. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Citizens Input

Jim Harris, 459 3rd Avenue N, stated he was disappointed in regards to no one doing anything about his police brutality complaint. Harris made comment about the Mayor being reelected for another term, and noted that he hopes that the Mayor can address his complaint now. Harris stated he wants the Mayor and Council to fill out his survey that he had brought to previous Council meetings. Harris has not received the surveys back yet. Harris brought more copies of his survey; the Mayor directed Harris to provide staff with the copies of his survey. Harris noted if the Council does not do anything about his police brutality complaint he will take the matter up with a higher power.

Harris also asked the Council what they will be doing about the trains and noise pollution.

Mayor Wimmer stated Harris' time was up for comment under citizens input.

H. Announcements

Announcements were read.

I. Council Committee Reports

Councilor Larson reported on:

- **East Central Regional Development Commission**
 - Audit report
- **Arena Board**
 - Input from other teams
 - Snowmobile parade
- **Anoka-Ramsey Advisory Committee**
 - Realignment with colleges

J. Public Hearings

None.

K. Business Items

1. Cambridge Medical Center RN Negotiations Update

Amanda O'Connor and Katie Williams, both representatives of the Minnesota Nurses Association, were present and informed the City Council of the negotiation struggles between the nurses' union and Cambridge Medical Center (CMC). O'Connor expressed concern in regards to patients at CMC because the CMC management has cut down nurses' hours and also removed some staff members. O'Connor states this is a concern to the union because they are concerned about the patients. Williams noted four nurses have been laid off and nearly 95% of nurses have seen a reduction in their hours.

Mayor Wimmer noted this item was placed on the agenda because of community concerns and questions. Mayor Wimmer also welcomed CMC's administration to come and explain their side at a Council meeting, noting it is important to hear both sides. Mayor Wimmer noted it is good to make this as public as possible so the community can get answers to their questions. This information also is important to be heard from an economic development standpoint, so questions can be answered for those outside of the community looking to become a part of the area.

Williams noted the union has been trying to make this as public as possible. Williams invited the Council to join an informational picket outside of the CMC on November 20th from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

LeAnn Reichel, a nurse within the union, stated she knows Isanti is a community that cares and thanked the Council for caring. Reichel noted she does shopping, attends community events, and banks in Isanti because Isanti is a community that cares.

2. Fire District Discussion

Mayor Wimmer presented the cost of the Fire District over the years to the Council and noted from 2005 to present, there have been yearly increases for the cost of service. Mayor Wimmer stated the increases have become unsustainable for the City; the City has cut all other areas of spending besides spending for fire services. Other than the Fire District, the City of Isanti is spending less now than it was in 2006. The City does not have control and cannot cut the fire district budget. Any changes to the Fire District's budget only requires a simple majority from all voting members. If costs continue to escalate, overtime the City would find that having a fire department would be less expensive than being a part of the Fire District for fire services. Mayor Wimmer explained that from what Larson last reported from the Fire District meeting, there are no changes being made. Mayor Wimmer asked the Council what they would like to do and how they would like to move forward.

Larson stated the overpayment in medical calls is due to how the formula is set up. Fire runs and medical calls are billed the same. Larson noted the Fire District gives a great service and that as costs go up, the budget has to go up in order to continue giving good service. Larson noted she feels the Council should continue down the road of talking about the formula and working towards an amendment.

Mayor Wimmer noted there have been discussions on the formula for a long time. Mayor Wimmer noted from reading the notes on the Fire District meeting, it appears that there is no desire for change. Mayor Wimmer stated what he would like to happen is for the Council to approve for him and Johnson to talk with Isanti and Athens Township. Mayor Wimmer stated the City needs to find out whether Isanti and Athens Township would be willing to work with the City in regards to shared fire services.

Lundeen noted he does not think the City can afford to start a fire department.

There was discussion on the fire study that was done for the City and that all costs were laid out as a worst case scenario.

Mayor Wimmer noted that within the past six years, the City's payments to the Fire District have doubled. Mayor Wimmer expressed his wishes to still work down two tracks, proceeding forward with looking at bringing a Fire Department in-house, and working towards making changes to the Joint Powers Agreement or potentially working with Isanti and Athens Township in regards to sharing fire services.

Motion by Collison, second by Johnson to authorize Mayor Wimmer and Johnson to meet with Isanti and Athens Township in regards to shared fire services. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion Regarding Vision Wake Park

Mayor Wimmer noted that when Vision Wake Park first started their business in Isanti he was skeptical, which is why the City required an escrow for the project, in case it did not succeed. Mayor Wimmer proceeded to explain that Vision Wake Park is not doing very well and they have asked if the City would like to partner with them and create a new agreement. Mayor Wimmer noted he does not believe partnering with Vision Wake would be a good idea; there are

many costs associated with water parks. Mayor Wimmer noted he would be happy to see Vision Wake succeed, but if not, there is money in escrow for the City to repair the site where Vision Wake has placed their wake board park.

Larson stated she votes for option number three within the memo: not to change the agreement between the City of Isanti and Vision Wake; should they close, the City would use the \$20,000 in escrow to reclaim any outstanding balances owed to the City and restore the land to its original state.

Motion by Larson, second by Johnson to selected option number three as stated above. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Resolution 2014-255 Authorizing Staff to Work with the Property Owner of 503 Elizabeth St SW in Determining the Outcome of Outlot A, Mattson's Second Addition and to Perform Erosion Control on Said Lot

The owners of the property 503 Elizabeth Street contacted the City in regards to erosion of the property along the creek bank in their back/side yard. Upon inspection, it was determined that the eroding bank is actually on City property and the nearby homeowners were under the impression that it was their property. The owners currently have a small shed and fence constructed on the City lot.

Homeowner Melanie Schmaltz was present and requested the shed and fence be grandfathered in.

Mayor Wimmer discussed with the Council deeding the property over to the homeowners and to fix the property before deeding it over. Once the property is deeded over it would then be the responsibility of the homeowners.

Motion by Lundeen second by Larson to direct staff to prepare the documents to deed over the City property to the homeowners of 503 Elizabeth Street and to fix up the property before it is deeded over. Motion carried unanimously. (Resolution 2014-255)

5. Resolution 2014-256 Approving Purchase of Property Owned By Bank Site Developer LLC

Motion by Johnson, second by Larson to approve Resolution 2014-256. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Resolution 2014-257 Authorizing Work on SW Corner of Main Street and First Avenue

Motion by Johnson, second by Larson to approve Resolution 2014-257. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Presentation and Recommendation for Approval of the Asset Management Plan

DeWolf presented the Asset Management Plan to the City Council: the plan's objectives, the analysis performed for the plan, the plan benefits, along with current conditions, and recommended approval of the plan.

Mayor Wimmer noted any improvement will tie into the next stage of upgrades needed - which would be transferring to a fully mechanical plant. Mayor Wimmer noted the funding for this would come from water and sewer funds, along with bonding.

Motion by Larson, second by Lundeen to approve the asset management plan. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Presentation and Recommendation for Approval of the Pavement Management Plan

DeWolf presented the Pavement Management Plan to the City Council: the plan's objectives, the analysis performed, the existing pavement conditions, PASER recommendations, and recommended approval of this plan. Municipal State Aid would be able to be drawn for some of the projects. Funding for the remaining portion can be discussed. Some options for additional funding would be a tax levy and special assessments. This would be a ten year program.

Mayor Wimmer noted the Council may want to re-review the assessment policy and should look at also doing some community meetings.

Motion by Larson, second by Johnson to approve the pavement management plan. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Resolution 2014-258 Acknowledging Permanent Employment Status for Sean Stevens

Larson stated she is wondering whether or not this cost is needed within the City budget. Larson noted some citizens have complained that they are being treated unfairly in comparison to their neighbors.

Mayor Wimmer noted this is a budgeted position, and within the City Code in terms of regulating nuisances. Mayor Wimmer believes code enforcement is a benefit to the community and is enforced consistent with City Code. Mayor Wimmer noted he believes the City has come a long way in terms of code enforcement and how properties look. If a certain standard is not maintained, individuals may not be attracted to coming and living in the City. Code enforcement is about public health and safety.

Motion by Collison, second by Johnson to approve Resolution 2014-258. Motion carried unanimously.

L. Approve Consent Agenda

1. Consider Accounts Payable in the Amount of \$110,210.48 and Payroll in the Amount of \$80,082.16
2. Final Minutes of the September 23, 2014 Park, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting
3. **Resolution 2014-259** Authorizing Additional Compensation for Appointed Key Holders at the Liquor Store
4. **Resolution 2014-260** Approving Participation with the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA)

5. **Resolution 2014-261** Approving Amendment of the Lock Box Policy for the City of Isanti
6. ~~Resolution Acknowledging Permanent Employment Status for Sean Stevens (moved to K.9)~~
7. **Resolution 2014-262** Approving to Replace the Vacancy in the Part-Time Peace Officer Roster with Jacob Isaacson
8. **Resolution 2014-263** Approving Updated Plan Documents for the City's Flexible Spending Account (FSA)

Motion by Lundeen, second by Larson 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 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karissa Henning
Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk