

**MINUTES
CITY OF ISANTI
CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 2, 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, Police Chief Ron Sager, Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan, Planning and Parks Director Lisa Wilson and City Engineer Brad DeWolf

D. Adopt Agenda

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

E. Proclamations/Commendations/Certificate Awards

None.

F. Approve City Council Minutes

Motion by Larson, second by Johnson to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2013 regular meeting of the City Council. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Citizens Input

None.

H. Announcements

Announcements were read.

I. Council Committee Reports

Councilor Larson reported on:

- **Northern Lights Express (NLX)**
 - Environmental Studies
 - Public Hearing
 - Service Development Plan Submitted
- **Fire District**
 - June 30th Audit Deadline
 - Anticipated an additional \$30,000 left over from the budget, it will be used for Capital Improvements

- **GPS 45:93**
 - Manufacturers Round Table
- **Arena Board**
 - Further Discussions on Year-Round Ice
 - Insulating Walls
 - July 15th Ice Will Be Back
 - Upcoming Events at the Arena
 - Circus
 - Watson Food Show
 - Wrestling Tournament
- **Upcoming Events**
 - City Wide Clean-Up
 - City Wide Garage Sale
 - Isanti Area Pet Clinic
- **Chamber of Commerce**
 - Upcoming Events
 - Spring Fling
 - Take a Kid Fishing Day
- **Isanti Community Center**
 - Upcoming Events
 - Lions Pancake Fundraiser Breakfast
 - Family Fun Day

Mayor Wimmer mentioned he would be unable to attend the upcoming NLX meeting. Mayor Wimmer added that if he were able to attend, he would ask the NLX that from the materials they had provided, ahead of the meeting, it appears the costs of the NLX are leveling out. However, the revenue is at a perfect 45 degree angle, and he would like to know what that is based upon.

J. Public Hearings

None.

K. Business Items

1. Introduction of Congressman Nolan's Field and Constituent Service Representative

Mayor Wimmer stated that Representative Rick Olseen was unable to be in attendance due to a death in the family.

Mayor Wimmer added that due to many rescheduled mobile office requests, that staff direct the next mobile office request for Congressman Nolan to be directed to him.

2. Resolution 2013-059 Establishing and Appointing Members to the Aesthetics and Sign Sub-Committee

Mayor Wimmer read off the list of individuals to be appointed to the sub-committee. Mayor Wimmer noted that he believes there is a good mix of business representatives within the proposed members, along with a sign expert. Mayor Wimmer made comment that there are a few members listed who were members from the original sign committee as well. Staff for this sub-committee will be Planning and Parks Director Wilson.

Motion by Lundeen, second by Larson to approve the Aesthetics and Sign Sub-Committee members as presented in Resolution No. 2013-059. Motion carried unanimously.

Larson added that through discussions with Officer Barrows she found that Barrows would like to be on the sub-committee as well and would like to have Barrows considered as an additional member.

Motion by Lundeen, second by Larson with the addendum to approve the consideration of Barrows, by the Mayor, to serve on the sub-committee. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Tier I Doughnut Hole Areas

Mayor Wimmer noted that staff was not sure if they had clear direction on the Tier I doughnut hole areas in regards to readdressing. Mayor Wimmer stated it was requested by the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board (MESB) and 911 dispatch to have all of the doughnut holes readdressed, not just those on County Road 5. Mayor Wimmer stated he believes the biggest doughnut hole addressing area in Tier I is on Jackson. Mayor Wimmer stated he would like to get all of the Tier I doughnut hole areas readdressed at the same time.

Motion by Lundeen, second by Johnson to readdress all of the Tier I doughnut hole areas. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Isanti Fire District

Mayor Wimmer stated he wanted to clarify a few things from the public meeting that was held on Wednesday, March 27, 2013 with State Senator Benson, Local Legislators and citizens regarding proposed legislation to create the Isanti Area Joint Operating Fire District. Mayor Wimmer noted there seemed to be a lot of misinformation.

Mayor Wimmer stated that the reason the Isanti City Council approved the resolution for the independent taxing district, which he believes 5 other townships had voted in favor for as well, was because the City wanted the Fire District to be able to become an independent taxing district. Mayor Wimmer made comment that he believes now there is some disconnect and that some of those townships who had originally voted in favor for the taxing district are no longer in favor of it. Mayor Wimmer noted that the City currently does have more financial liability for the Fire District.

Mayor Wimmer stated that there needs to be a discussion held between the City of Isanti and the Townships on their relationship in regards to the Fire District, and that one of three courses needs to take place:

1. Leave the Fire District how it is now, which in the City's eyes is not acceptable
2. Push and get the taxing district up and running
3. Try to renegotiate the agreement between the Townships and the City for the Fire District and to look at the power sharing and pension issues. The City currently pays for 32% of costs and only has 14% of the voting power, and may hold extra liability for the Fire District.

Mayor Wimmer added if all else fails, another option would be to start our own fire department. This would be the most costly option, and may not be the best option - however, something needs to be done. Mayor Wimmer stated we need to move forward on this one way or another this year.

Mayor Wimmer asked that a letter be sent out to all of the Townships requesting that their boards meet with the City of Isanti to discuss where we are headed with the Fire District. Mayor Wimmer made comment that all of the Townships should do a final vote and decide on whether or not they are in favor of an independent Fire District.

Mayor Wimmer stated he would like to get from Larson (the City's representative for the Fire Board) a list of all the assets the City has with the Fire District, any policies and handbooks (including personnel policies) that the Fire District might have, and for Larson to find out if there is an extra operating liability that the City is taking on.

5. Resolution 2013-060 Approving a Fifteen (15) Foot Easement for Fiber Optics for Sprint Across the Property Located at 601 East Dual Blvd NE

Wilson reported that the original drawings for the upgrades to the Sprint antennas, located on the City's water tower, were supposed to have had a fifteen foot easement to the existing ground unit on East Dual Boulevard NE, to run across the fiber optics; however this was not depicted within the drawings. Sprint is offering a one-time payment of \$1,500, and will cover the costs for all of the legal documents and the recording of the easement.

Motion by Johnson, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2013-060 as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

6. Consider EDA Downtown Loop Recommendations

a. Resolution 2013-061 Authorizing EDA and City Staff to Re-Instate Events in Historic Downtown and to Transfer Funds to EDA Budget

Mayor Wimmer stated there was discussion at the EDA meeting on how to get eyes on downtown Isanti. There were suggestions to have the street dances, car shows and farmers market brought back. Mayor Wimmer stated he believes the City is the only one who would be able to get these types of events going again and be able keep these types of events running every year; with the help of volunteers and the Chamber. Mayor Wimmer added in implementing these types of events the Chamber of Commerce will play a key role. Mayor Wimmer stated he is looking at trying to bring back this year two street dances and a farmers market, with the vision of eventually getting three street dances in the summer, one for June, July and August. The EDA will be discussing other events that could also happen downtown.

Mayor Wimmer noted Sullivan also suggested a market study be done in the fall to see how successful the summer events were and the impact it made on businesses; which he believes is a good idea.

Larson stated she enjoyed reading the EDA notes and wonders if the City could play a role in the enforcement of regular business hours downtown. Mayor Wimmer stated this issue has been discussed before and that he is hoping with summer events there will be a flow of more customers and eyes in downtown Isanti, which could help with business hours.

Mayor Wimmer stated he is looking at a dollar amount not to exceed \$15,000 for getting two street dances and a farmers market up and running this summer. Mayor Wimmer stated this money would come from the technology fund, liquor fund and, if needed, some could be pulled from the general fund. Mayor Wimmer made comment there has been more cash flow going into the liquor and technology funds. Mayor Wimmer stated a majority of the money provided for these events would go towards getting bands booked.

Johnson asked what the average cost was for getting bands booked. Jan Peterson from the Chamber of Commerce was present and stated that it would cost around \$3,000 to get a good band booked. Additional costs regarding power and getting generators will also be expensive. The City could be looking at around another \$1,500 if they were to get a generator truck for an event.

Motion by Larson, second by Johnson to approve the downtown marketing Resolution No. 2013-061 for the implementation of a farmers market and two street dances; with the money to fund these events not to exceed \$15,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Sullivan added he would like a confirmed motion from Council for the transfer of the \$15,000 for the implementation of the downtown marketing events.

Motion by Larson, second by Lundeen to transfer \$15,000 to the marketing fund for summer marketing events. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Bulletproof Vest Partnership FY 2013 Application

Motion by Lundeen, second by Larson to approve application for the 2013 Bulletproof Vest Partnership as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Resolution 2013-062 Awarding Quotes for Outsourcing the Mowing of Nuisance Weed / Grass Abatement Lots

Lundeen asked if the proposed bidder to be awarded the quote was the same vendor as last year. Lorusung confirmed the vendor was the same as last year.

Johnson asked overall how the services were last year. Lorusung stated the services provided were good.

Mayor Wimmer stated like as in years past, for nuisance mowing on property that is foreclosed - the costs get assessed to the property and the City re-coups the money back upon sale of the property.

Motion by Lundeen, second by Johnson to approve Resolution No. 2013-062 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

L. Approve Consent Agenda

1. Consider Accounts Payable in the Amount of \$124,593.73 and Payroll in the Amount of \$77,509.25

2. Final Minutes of the February 26, 2013 Park and Recreation Meeting
3. Final Minutes of the February 26, 2013 EDA Meeting
4. Approve City Council Member Sue Larson's Request to Attend the LMC Annual Conference
5. **Resolution No. 2013-063** Approving the Six Month Business Service Review of SDL Services
6. **Resolution No. 2013-064** Authorizing That a Letter of Support to Maintain the Governor's 40-40-20 Split in the Legacy Funding Bill and the Greater MN Regional Park and Trails Commission Bill (HF1065/SF1021) be Provided by the Mayor on Behalf of the City of Isanti
7. **Resolution No. 2013-065** Authorizing a Naming Contest for Overlook Areas Within Legacy Park
8. **Resolution No. 2013-066** Approving Purchase of Name Tags For City Council and Department Heads

Collison asked why Larson has requested for lodging at the League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference in St. Paul (consent item L.4) and stated he believes it is within a reasonable driving distance. Larson stated there are events going into the night. Mayor Wimmer made comment he finds it appropriate and that Larson is at the conference representing the City of Isanti. Mayor Wimmer added that Larson is budgeted with \$500 for training and that lodging for this conference is an acceptable expense.

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

Adjournment

Motion by Lundeen, second by Larson to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karissa Henning
Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk