

**MINUTES
CITY OF ISANTI
CITY COUNCIL
May 3, 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: Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk Irene Bauer, City Attorney Clark Joslin, Finance Director Kristi Smith, Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan, Police Chief Ron Sager, Liquor Store Manager John Jacobi, City Planner Lisa Wilson, CSO Officer Steve Wacha, and City Engineer Brad DeWolf

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

E. Proclamations/Commendations/Certificate Awards.

1. Seat Belt Proclamation

Mayor Wimmer read the proclamation proclaiming May 6, 2011 as 'Seat Belt Awareness Day'.

F. Approve Minutes

Motion by Lorinser, second by Larson to approve the following minutes of City Council meetings: April 19, 2011 Work Session meeting, April 19, 2011 regular meeting, and the April 19, 2011 Closed Session meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Citizens Input.

H. Announcements - Announcements were read.

I. Council Committee Reports

Councilor Larson reported on the following meetings she had attended and on upcoming community events:

- City Wide Garage Sales
 - o Scheduled for May 7th
- Historical Society
 - o Main Street Forum for Isanti County – May 5th
- ECRDC
 - o Isanti County is Number 2 out of 87 counties as a percentage of foreclosed homes based on Sheriff's sales
 - o MN Arts Survey

- LMC
 - o Reviewed preliminary list of City needs
- Fire District
 - o Special Meeting scheduled for May 4th at Station 3
- Friends of the Isanti Area Library
 - o Will have a booth at the Ice Arena for the May 7th City Wide Garage Sales – promote membership and book sale

J. Public Hearings

There were none.

K. Business

1. Discussion on Park Vandalism and Plan to Address

There was review and discussion on vandalism that takes place at City parks. Mayor Wimmer inquired how vandalism at the parks can be effectively addressed.

Chief Sager stated that vandalism was down in City Parks by ten percent for year 2010 versus the previous year. Sager stated that his department has placed the patrolling of parks as a high priority. That Officer Gau walks through the parks and City recreational properties. That his department will be pushing to enforce the curfew policy.

There was comment of young people congregating in Mattson Park and discussion of youth accessing the culvert that is located under Main Street at the Mattson Park location; it was questioned if the culvert area could be signed 'no trespassing'. Sager stated that most often these types of signs are removed by youth. There was discussion on placing 'danger' warning signage in this location.

Cindy Lind Livingston, representative for the Redbirds inquired if they could place 'no trespassing' signs on the perimeter fence around the Redbirds field. This led to discussion on placing 'no trespassing' signs on other recreational areas including the BMX track.

Lorinser suggested that the Police Officers make positive contacts with folks that use the parks that may assist in deterring vandalism.

Motion by Larson, second by Kennedy to direct Public Works to place No Trespassing signs at the BMX and Redbirds sites that are on City owned property. Motion carried unanimously.

There was brief discussion on other properties in the City that may desire to have properties posted and it was stated that should another organization want assistance that they can request it from the City.

2. Discussion on Wickstrom Home

There was discussion on the condition of the old Wickstrom home and its removal. Mayor Wimmer stated the structure has been vandalized and now a family of fox are living under it. That the Park Board has reviewed this matter and have recommended that the house is either given away or demolished; that according to a family member there is

no sentimental attachment to the structure. It was suggested that the City give notice to give away the structure and that the structure is to be removed; that the party who is awarded the structure shall pay all costs for its removal and the removal must take place within a sixty day time period; and if no one comes forward who would like the structure that it is to be demolished as it has greatly deteriorated and is a nuisance.

There was comment if the Historical Society might be interested in the structure and Larson stated that the condition of the building would not warrant its preservation.

Motion by Larson, second by Lundeen to give a published and posted notice to give away the old Wickstrom structure at the risk of the person who offers to move the structure their own cost within sixty days from the date of this meeting.

Lorinser inquired of City Attorney Joslin if there is an issue to give the house away or if it must be sold for a dollar. Joslin stated that he recommends the Building Official looks at the structure to determine if there is any potential value, if so, the City will have to take bids or offer bids on the structure; if the Building Official determines it is without any apparent value the City can then give the structure away to the first person who has an approved plan in place to remove the structure.

Motion by Larson, second by Lundeen to amend the initial motion and include that the Building Official makes a determination if there is a value to the structure prior to giving notice to give the structure away. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Ordinance No. 509, an Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 256 – Residential Property Maintenance Standards

Wilson gave a staff report whereas there are a number of properties throughout the City that are either occupied or vacant that have broken garage doors. In many cases, the resident of the dwelling has either failed to repair the item or has simply placed a tarp over the area that was broken. This causes concerns not only for health and safety reasons, but in terms of blight and adverse affects upon the adjacent residential properties. It has also been noticed that some residents have begun to accumulate trash and other items on their property; and have decided to burn these items rather than contract for garbage and recyclable services through a garbage hauler.

Motion by Lorinser, second by Kennedy to adopt Ordinance No. 509 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Resolution No. 2011-094, a Resolution Approving the Restructure of Liquor Store Staffing and Layoff

Jacobi gave a staff report whereas one of the goals Council had established when he was hired as the Liquor Store Manager was to increase revenues and gross profits for the Liquor Store. Jacobi stated that as one of the ways to meet this goal he has reviewed the staffing as an effective way of decreasing expenditures that will ultimately increase revenues and gross profits and still provide the customer service and sales base needed to effectively operate the Store.

Jacobi reported that at its April 21st meeting, the Finance Committee reviewed the staffing hours at the Store and recommended that the proposed number of hours required

to effectively operate the store is amended. The proposal includes the elimination of the Full-Time Clerk I position and the hiring of two Part-Time Clerk III employees. This will allow the Store to have the staffing needed to operate the store and that this will allow spreading out the supervision to a few days per week per employee and therefore cutting the overall expense of having one full time employee with benefits. That the elimination of the Clerk I position results in the layoff of the employee in that position.

It was questioned what the savings would be with the elimination of the Clerk I position and Jacobi stated it would be approximately \$27,000.

Motion by Lorinser, second by Kennedy to approve Resolution No. 2011-094 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Resolution No. 2011-095, a Resolution Approving Revised Liquor Store Part-Time Clerk III Job Description and Authorizing to Fill the Clerk III Positions

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lorinser to approve Resolution No. 2011-095 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Resolution No. 2011-096, a Resolution to Order Public Hearing to Consider Nuisance Abatement for Violation of City Code , Chapter 216 - Nuisances

Wacha gave a staff report whereas property located at 524 Birch Street SW is in violation of City Code as it relates to a vehicle parked on the lawn and the storage of rubbish and salvage on the driveway and lawn. Wacha displayed pictures of the violation and noted that as of this date the vehicle has been removed.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2011-096 that calls for a public hearing on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 for a nuisance abatement for violation of City Code, Chapter 216 – Nuisances for property at 524 Birch Street NW. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Resolution No. 2011-097, a Resolution Approving the BJA ‘Body Armor’ Policy

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2011-097 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Resolution No. 2011 -098, a Resolution Approving the BCA Joint Powers Agreement

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2011-098 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. A mendments to Dog Code:

- a. **Ordinance No. 510, an Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 87 - Animals, Article II, Dogs**
- b. **Ordinance No. 511, an Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 160 – Fees**
- c. **Resolution No. 2011-099, a Resolution Adopting Fees**

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve the above stated Ordinance No. 510, Ordinance No. 511, and Resolution No. 2011-099 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Resolution No. 2011-100, a Resolution Creating Redbirds Special Revenue Fund

Wimmer stated that Isanti Redbirds Baseball is requesting the City hold donated funds received in a City Fund. It was noted that the Isanti Redbirds are not a 501(c)3 and therefore it requires a fiscal host to receive donations for the organization.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2011-100 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Resolution No. 2011-101, a Resolution Approving ABM Equipment & Supply Quote for Additional Repairs to Vactor Tank

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2011-101 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

L. Consent Agenda

1. Consider Accounts Payable in the Amounts of \$463,724.71 and Payroll in the Amount of \$65,306.71
2. Approval of March 22, 2011 Park and Recreation Board Minutes
3. Approval of March 22, 2011 EDA Minutes
4. **Resolution No. 2011-102**, a Resolution Cancelling the May 17, 2011 City Council Work Session Meeting
5. Approve Use of Mutual Aid Agreement Template

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

Adjournment

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lorinser to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Irene J. Bauer
Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk