

**MINUTES
CITY OF ISANTI
CITY COUNCIL
June 17, 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/City Clerk 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, and City Engineer Brad DeWolf

D. Adopt Agenda

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

E. Proclamations/Commendations/Certificate Awards

1. Presentation of Ambassadors

Mayor Wimmer presented the candidates for the Ambassador program. The candidates shared what they would look forward to if they were to become the next Isanti Ambassador.

F. Approve City Council Minutes

Motion by Larson, second by Collison to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2014 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:

- **Friends of the Isanti Area Library**
 - Parade
 - Bowling for Books
 - New Phone System
- **Isanti Area Joint Fire District**

- Upcoming Meeting on Joint Powers Agreement
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Bike Rodeo
 - Street Dances
 - Car Show

Mayor Wimmer reported on:

- **Family Dollar Store Project**
 - Connecting sidewalks on both sides
 - Not currently within the development agreement
 - Potentially a 50/50 cost sharing for the sidewalk; the City would pay \$2,500 and Family Dollar would pay \$2,500

J. Public Hearings

None.

K. Business Items

1. Fire District Discussion

a. Proposal to Conduct a Fire Department Study

Mayor Wimmer stated, as directed, City staff connected with a consulting agency to review the costs involved with conducting a fire department study. Staff connected with Springsted; Springsted has a lot of experience in regards to fire department studies and consulting services. Springsted prepared a proposal to conduct a fire department study for the City. The proposed cost for the fire department study to be done is \$19,000.

Larson stated that she felt the Council should hold off on authorizing staff to proceed forward with accepting Springsted's proposal and conducting a fire department study. Larson advised that the Council wait until after the Fire District work session next week.

Mayor Wimmer noted that time is a factor. If the Council waits for the results of the Fire District work session, it will take an additional 2-3 months after the work session before any change can be voted on. The board is unable to vote on anything at a work session. Waiting would push back the City's timeline back even further, if it does end up bringing a fire department in-house. Mayor Wimmer reminded the Council that the City must give the Fire District a 15 month notice if they are going to leave the District.

The four changes the Council had agreed upon and requested to be made to the Joint Powers Agreement - with the Fire District - in order for the City to *not* bring a fire department in-house were the following:

- Weighted voting based on financial contribution
- Maintain current level of service
- Reimbursement for usage of City owned Station 1
- Restructuring of contribution formula to a valuation only format

Mayor Wimmer continued to explain that the City has already waited too long for the Fire District to make changes and no changes have been made yet. Mayor Wimmer noted that every time the City requests changes the City ends up in the same spot. Mayor Wimmer added according to the most recent Fire Board minutes, not all entities agree on the current changes the City has requested.

Mayor Wimmer stated as the Council had discussed previously, he would like to continue to work the dual tracks, and that during the last discussion, at the May 20, 2014 Work Session, the entire Council seemed to agree to do so as well. The City can continue to work with the Fire District to make changes and also work on bringing the fire services in-house, in case changes are not made. This way the City is not pushed further back in the process if the City decides to bring fire services in-house.

Collison asked if staff had looked into other companies for consulting and providing the fire department study.

Mayor Wimmer stated yes, however Springsted is known for their work and they have had a lot of experience with fire departments. Mayor Wimmer noted Springsted is currently working on a very similar study, to the one the City is requesting of them, with Lino Lakes.

Mayor Wimmer and Larson had discussion on waiting for the Fire District work session and timeframes.

Larson stressed a concern about many firefighters being on the verge of retirement and that if the fire services are brought in-house, that many firefighters may retire early.

There was further discussion between Mayor Wimmer and Larson in regards to waiting or proceeding forward with the fire department study at this time.

Larson motioned to table the proposal and fire department study until after the Fire District work session. There was no second.

Motion by Collison, second by Johnson to proceed forward with the proposal prepared by Springstead for the fire department study. Motion carried 4-1(Larson opposed).

2. Mosquito Control Discussion

Mayor Wimmer noted mosquito control for the City was further looked into. In having additional discussion with the City of Cambridge, it was found that due to the number of times Isanti would need to be sprayed, and the specific weather conditions needed, Cambridge would not be able to provide the City with effective mosquito spraying services. This leaves the City with the option of either spraying for mosquitos themselves, or contracting out the services. Mayor Wimmer noted contracting out the services is too expensive. Mayor Wimmer noted the best route of action would be to internally do the spraying. Mayor Wimmer added that spraying is not something the City would be able to prepare for this year. Equipment needs to be purchased and staff needs to become trained and attain spraying licenses. Mayor Wimmer proposed that allowing the City to be able to spray for mosquitos be placed for consideration in the 2015 budget.

Motion by Lundeen, second by Larson to place for consideration in the 2015 budget all necessary figures for the City to prepare and take on mosquito control starting next summer. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Friends of the Isanti Area Library Request

Friends of the Isanti Area Library Representative Penny Golden requested of the City Council to waive the fee for the use of the Community Center for the Library's Off-Leash theatre production in September 2014.

Mayor Wimmer noted that all non-profits are required to pay the fee and that the Council must treat all groups consistently.

There was no motion to waive the fee.

Golden thanked the Council for their time.

4. Consider Awarding Bids and Approving Plans and Specifications for 2014 City Projects and BMX Project Action Summary

Mayor Wimmer reported that the bid for the BMX project went down slightly in price, with change order 1, making the construction cost \$23,547 less. Mayor Wimmer noted the change order could have been lower yet if the sprinkler system costs were removed, however, the building must have the sprinkler system in case BMX is unsuccessful. This way the City can have alternative uses for the building. It costs far less to place the system in now, versus later. Mayor Wimmer noted that the City would lease the building to BMX with payments in the amount of \$6,000. The payments will increase overtime with inflation. Mayor Wimmer noted that the bond used for the upcoming projects will be backed by the City and that after 2017 the City will only have half of the debt left.

a. Resolution 2014-127 Approving a Lease Agreement and Operating Policy Between the City of Isanti and Rum River BMX Association for the BMX Track and Indoor Facility to be Located Within the Northeast Corner of Bluebird Park, and Authorization to Proceed with Tax Abatement Bond Financing

Motion by Johnson, second by Larson to approve Resolution 2014-127. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Resolution 2014-128 Awarding Recommendation of Bid - Isanti BMX Building

Motion by Johnson, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution 2014-128. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Resolution 2014-129 Awarding Recommendation of Bid - 2014 Bluebird Park and Public Works Site Improvements

Motion by Johnson, second by Larson to approve Resolution 2014-129. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Resolution 2014-130 Approving Plans and Authorizing to Advertise for Bids - Unity Lift Station Improvements

Motion by Johnson, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution 2014-130. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Resolution 2014-131 Amending Development Agreement with Prairie Senior Cottages of Isanti

Motion by Johnson, second by Larson to approve Resolution 2014-131. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Resolution 2014-132 Authorizing the Execution of Repayment Agreement with Holl Construction Company on Lot 2, Block 2, Sun Prairie First Addition

Motion by Johnson, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution 2014-132. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Tee Intersection Plowing Request

A resident had requested for the City to equalize the snow from one side of the street to another. This particular resident receives more snow than the properties across the street due to the sequencing of plow operations.

Motion by Johnson, second by Larson to make no changes to the current plowing equipment allocation or utilization near the resident's home. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Resolution 2014-133 Approving an Amendment to Resolution No. 2012-218, Adopting a Nuisance Lot Mowing Policy

Motion by Johnson, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution 2014-133. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Ordinance 580 Amending Ordinance No. 123 (an Ordinance Defining and Prohibiting Nuisances and Providing a Penalty of Violation); Section 6: Abatement

Motion by Johnson, second by Lundeen to approve Ordinance 580. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion on Potential Changes to Nuisance Mowing on Large Tracts and Subdivisions

a. Resolution 2014-134 Amending Resolution No. 2011-042, a Change to Nuisance Mowing Frequency on Large Tracts and Subdivisions

Motion by Larson, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution 2014-134. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Resolution 2014-135 Approving the Site Plan for a Parking Lot to be Located on the Property at 444 East Dual Boulevard NE

Motion by Lundeen, second by Larson to approve Resolution 2014-135. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Resolution 2014-136 Approving the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for an Eight Foot High Screening Fence to be Constructed at Wintergreen's Located on the Property at 306 Credit Union Drive NE

Motion by Larson, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution 2014-136. Motion carried unanimously.

L. Approve Consent Agenda

1. Consider Accounts Payable in the Amount of \$268,032.55 and Payroll in the Amount of \$79,285.48
2. Final Minutes of the May 13, 2014 Planning Commission Meeting
3. Final Minutes of the May 6, 2014 Economic Development Authority Meeting
4. **Resolution 2014-137** Approving the Retention and Ownership of a Remington Model 110 .22 LR with Scope
5. **Resolution 2014-138** Approving a Donation Box at the Liquor Store
6. **Resolution 2014-139** Authorizing Staff to Apply to the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services for the COPS Hiring Grant

Motion by Johnson, second by Lundeen 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 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karissa Henning
Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk