

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ISANTI  
CITY COUNCIL  
JUNE 19, 2012  
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 Michael Streiff

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator/City Clerk Don Lorsung, City Attorney Clark Joslin, Finance Director Sarah Cotton, 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

Motion by Larson, second by Kennedy 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 Lundeen to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2012 City Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**G. Citizens Input**

None.

**H. Announcements**

Announcements were read.

**I. Council Committee Reports**

Councilor Larson reported on:

- **Mayor's Employer Celebration Day**
  - Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>
- **East Central Regional Development Commission and GPS 45:93**
  - Business Summit at Spirit River
- **Isanti Community Center**
  - Presentations
  - Booth at Jubilee Days

- Capital improvement plan priorities
- Grant opportunities
- **ICCLE**
  - Foreclosure meeting
- **Isanti Area Friends of the Library**
  - Budget talk
- **Liquor Committee**
  - Increase in sales
  - Store layout
  - Possibility of new shopping carts
- **Community Advisory Council**
  - Calendar meetings approved
  - Art Center performances

## **J. Public Hearings**

### **1. Resolution 2012-136 Establishing Municipal Development District No. 2 and Approving the Development Program Therefor and Establishing Tax Increment Financing (Economic Development) District No. 11 and Approving the Tax Increment Financing Plan Therefor Within Municipal Development District No. 2**

Sullivan reported that the public hearing and resolution are in regards to a 33 unit hotel project to be constructed on the east side of highway 65. Tammy Omdal from Northland Securities was present to answer any questions about specifics to the plan. There were no questions asked of Ms. Omdal.

Mayor Wimmer made comment that the TIF plan is being funded by the development group that is coming forth with the hotel project.

Mayor Wimmer opened the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

With no public comment Mayor Wimmer closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2012-136 as presented.  
Motion carried unanimously.

### **2. Resolution 2012-137 Approving Spending Plan for the Use of Tax Increments to Stimulate Construction and Business Subsidy to Isanti Hotel Partners, LLC**

Sullivan reported that this is the second facet of the hotel project. City Council approval of the financial assistance package, development agreement and the Written TIF Spending Plan is needed to keep this project moving forward.

The proposed City assistance package of \$600,000 is needed to inject enough funding into the project to make a financeable deal for the Developer.

Sullivan stated that the hotel will have an oversized pool for the community and the project costs for the hotel exceed \$3,500,000. It is estimated that the hotel will generate nearly \$100,000 in new annual property taxes with \$30,000 being collected annually for the City of Isanti. Adding a hotel to Isanti increases the capacity of the market to bring commerce to the area. Businesses, business

travelers, out of town visitors, local sporting venues and residents will all benefit from this added amenity to the community.

Sullivan noted that later on in the Council meeting the Council will be looking at the Site Plan and Plat Approval.

Sullivan stated that the project will receive special TIF financing; this financing was put into place by the State legislature and the City is working on tight deadlines. The stated approvals will allow construction to commence prior to June 30, 2012, which will make the hotel project an eligible project to receive Special TIF financing; this will keep the project moving forward.

Mayor Wimmer made comment that the City of Isanti Development Team has been working very hard on this project for the past year. Everything has been laid out. Given approval, the project can meet the TIF deadline. If the deadline is not met, the Special TIF program ends because the legislature did not extend the program.

Mayor Wimmer explained the next steps in the hotel project process and discussed the private financing that needs to be done on the Developer's half before the project and construction would commence – noting there will be a lull before construction happens.

Mayor Wimmer stated this is a very good package from the City's standpoint and the Developer's standpoint.

Mayor Wimmer opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

With no public comment Mayor Wimmer closed the public hearing at 7:10p.m.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2012-137 as presented.  
Motion carried unanimously.

## **K. Business Items**

### **1. Friends of the Library Discussion on the Library's Present Status**

Larson introduced Dwight Haberman, the president of the Friends of the Isanti Area Library.

Haberman thanked the Council and Staff for all the assistance they have provided the Library with.

Haberman stated the library still has a long-range goal to have a free standing library with full services.

Haberman noted that the library could possibly be placed into the Community Center and that many cities have their libraries within their community centers.

Mayor Wimmer thanked Haberman and the group for their work.

Larson stated a lot of citizens use the link site in Isanti and it is a great amenity to have.

## **2. Presentation from the Isanti Community Center Task Force**

### **Isanti Community Center Task Force Representative**

Larson presented Lynn True, a Task Force representative, to discuss the progress of the Isanti Community Center Task Force and its current findings.

True mentioned that the citizens of Isanti have strong feelings towards the Community Center and that it is important to have such a place within the community. Many fundraisers, programs and community events go on at the Community Center – Jubilee Days, National Night Out, family and business events, senior dining, youth programs, etc.

The Task Force is looking into ways to find money to help support the Center financially as well as ways to decrease expenses.

It was found that weddings are the most expensive events that take place at the Community Center. The Task Force looked into the possibility of having more wedding parties take place at the Center. Unfortunately, even if there was an increase in wedding parties held at the Community Center, this money alone would not be enough to help the Center break even on the costs of keeping it up and running.

True noted more research will be done and further options will be looked into.

True suggested the possibly of having costs of the Community Center spread through taxes.

True requested the budgeting for the Community Center be continued and possibly increased.

True stated that a website is needed in order to increase the Community Center's presence.

### **Senior Dining and Senior Citizens Representatives**

Larson requested that the representatives for Senior Dining and Senior Citizens speak.

Linda Draxten and Clell Bone spoke on behalf of Senior Dining and the Senior Citizens.

Draxten stated that the Task Force has been meeting faithfully every month and invites others to join the meetings.

Draxten noted that grant opportunities are being looked into.

Draxten stated that signage is needed on the south side of the building as many people have a hard time finding the Community Center.

Bone made comment that the Community Center is more than just a building. There is a lot of history behind the Community Center. Bone further discussed the importance of having a Community Center within the City.

Bone emphasized the importance of signage for the Community Center.

**Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts Representatives**

Larson asked that the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts come up to speak.

Trent Koukol and Tawnay Fletcher representing the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts spoke.

Koukol stated that those in and outside of the City of Isanti use the Community Center. Koukol also touched on the value of the Community Center.

Koukol noted an understanding of the costs of the Community Center but also commented that the Center is an investment on the community. The Center helps maintain the concept of having a community for generations.

Koukol suggested having everyone help pay for the Community Center through taxes.

Fletcher addressed the issues of having the scouts meet elsewhere.

Fletcher mentioned that many individuals do not know about the Community Center and that a website is needed; the Community Center needs to advertise.

Mayor Wimmer thanked everyone for coming.

Mayor Wimmer stated additional events do not create more revenue.

Mayor Wimmer reiterated the importance of finding out the information he had requested in earlier meetings regarding who all uses the Community Center - how many people within and how many people outside of the City use the Community Center.

Mayor Wimmer noted that if the taxpayers are going to help support the Community Center this would have to be voted on.

Mayor Wimmer agreed that the Community Center gives the community an identity and that it is important, but given the huge loss the City takes on the Center priorities have to be looked at.

Mayor Wimmer stated in three to five years a significant investment would have to be made just to keep the Center safe - many improvements are needed just to keep the doors open.

Mayor Wimmer noted the Lion's contributed to most of the costs for the Center in the past; this was done with the revenue of bingo. The Lion's will no longer be doing bingo.

Mayor Wimmer announced the need to figure out two things:

- Is there enough support in the community to keep the Community Center open, and if so, can the City sell the idea to the tax payers to keep the Community Center.
- How to fund the Community Center long term.

Mayor Wimmer stated the Center is already funded through 2013, but after 2013 the City needs a good idea of how they can fund the Center and whether or not if it can succeed.

Larson spoke in support of the need for a web presence for the Community Center.

Larson noted that the Task Force looked at the Capital Improvement plan and that the parking lot should be number one in terms of the improvements needed.

Mayor Wimmer stated he feels that sprinkler system is what needs to be repaired first.

Streiff asked if the Task Force has looked at what other cities are doing to fund their community centers. Sue replied that is Task Force is starting to look into what other cities do to fund their community centers.

Mayor Wimmer and Streiff discussed marketing.

Mayor Wimmer encouraged for everyone to be creative and formulate ideas on the best ways to get the most use out of the Community Center, and also how to finance the Center for the future.

There was no further discussion on this matter.

### **3. Tabled Resolution Authorizing Staff to Start Fund Raising for the Creation of a K-9 Program within the Police Department**

Officer Gau presented his K-9 proposal to the City Council.

The proposal is for a narcotics trained lab for the Isanti Police Department. Having a narcotics trained lab would help the Police Department address an increasing problem with narcotics in the community.

The K-9 Program start-up is proposed to be funded through fundraising. The cost to start up the program is \$14,000 and it would cost an estimated \$1,200 to maintain the program. The \$1,200 maintenance fees would consist of veterinary costs, food, etc.

Mayor Wimmer asked Gau how this would change what he does as an officer. Gau responded that assuming he was the officer, working with the dog would make him more successful. There is an ongoing problem with narcotics in the community and it is very hard to address this issue without a K-9 unit. All officers are trying very hard to dissolve the narcotics problem but a K-9 unit would greatly aid in the stopping of this issue within the community.

Gau reported that the City of North Branch currently has a successful narcotics trained lab and this program has been in place for quite some time.

Mayor Wimmer stated if this moves forward he would like to see an MOU created with the union for this program.

Mayor Wimmer asked if Gau believes this is the highest need for the Police Department right now. Gau stated he believes it is.

Streiff asked if Isanti County has a K-9 unit. Gau noted that the County currently does not, but it will be getting a dual trained apprehension and narcotics dog within the next few months.

Streiff inquired about training for the K-9 program. Gau stated training would be on the job.

Streiff asked why an additional squad is needed. Gau stated that it is a legal requirement to have the squad fitted for the K-9.

Mayor Wimmer asked about the anticipated costs for the vehicle maintenance. Gau noted that as with the other squads, he cannot determine what will go wrong with the car and maintenance fees.

Larson inquired if the other officers are in support of having a K-9 program. Gau replied it is supported.

Mayor Wimmer stated he needed to see more costs laid out. A breakdown is needed on how to budget for the program, true costs need to be found, funding needs to be found to maintain the program, work schedules and call times need to be looked at, and an MOU would need to be put together.

Streiff requested Gau to take a look at 5 other departments and how they are handling the funding, how they started up and staffing costs.

Lundeen asked Gau if he had looked for grants. Gau stated he has not found any grants for this type of program.

Mayor Wimmer directed Henning to check with the insurance carrier on the costs for this type of program.

Mayor Wimmer and Larson stated there needs to be more information before a decision can be made.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to table the proposed Resolution until further information is received. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Resolution 2012-138 Approving the Special Event Application for Clay Stawski, on Behalf of, Wintergreens Golf and Grill**

Motion by Lundeen, second by Kennedy to approve Resolution No. 2012-138 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Resolution 2012-139 Approving the Special Event Application for the Fusion Group From Word of Life Church**

Motion by Larson, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2012-139 as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

**6. No Action - Resolution Waiving the Unity Park Ball Field Usage Fees for Faith Lutheran Church Adult Softball League**

Mayor Wimmer pointed out that everyone has always had to pay; if the City waived the fee, then there would need to be a change in policy to be fair and consistent.

Kennedy stated he would pay for the fee. Lundeen stated he would split the fee with Kennedy.

There was no action on this item; the fee will be split between Kennedy and Lundeen.

**7. Ordinance No. 535 Amending Ordinance No. 445 Zoning; Section 21 Administration and Enforcement, Article 2 Conditional Use Permits**

Wilson reported this is an amendment to the zoning ordinance allowing the City to revoke or remove expired conditional use permits, provided that they are no longer consistent with the zoning ordinance. The Planning Commission reviewed this at a public hearing and recommends approval.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Ordinance No. 535 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Resolution 2012-140 Approving the Interim Use Permit as Requested by Lucille Ebling to Permit a Residential Kennel on the Property Located at 1100 Hillock St. NW**

Mayor Wimmer asked if there were any issues with the neighbors. Wilson stated there was one complaint found, but it was for the previous kennel permit on the property and not related to the current request.

Motion by Lundeen, second by Kennedy to approve Resolution No. 2012-140 as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Resolution 2012-141 Approving the Interim Use Permit as Requested by Kenneth and Denise Wellik-Peterson to Permit a Residential Kennel on the Property Located at 306 Dogwood St SW**

Wilson reported the Planning Commission meeting had two neighbors come forward against the permit. However, after it was found that there is a trainer working with the dogs, the permit was approved for Council recommendation with a 90 day review period. The neighbors were okay with this recommendation at the Planning Commission Meeting.

Jake Orson, one of the neighbors stressed his concerns with the dogs. The dogs are a nuisance and are barking. If the barking stops he will be okay with the permit.



Mayor Wimmer asked why 90 days was given. Larson stated that the 90 days gave the dogs and the trainer enough time.

Kennedy asked if the dogs were getting better. Orson stated the dogs are not let out as much.

Ken Peterson stated the trainer could not be at the meeting but sent a letter. Peterson stated he is working on training the dogs and they are improving. The dogs have had training for the past two months and the trainer will come out again on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Wimmer asked if the dogs are making progress, and the trainer is coming back out on July 14<sup>th</sup>, if it would be reasonable to have the date of July 31<sup>st</sup> as a cutoff date. Meaning if there is a complaint after the 31<sup>st</sup>, then the permit would come back to Council and it may be revoked.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2012-141 with the amendment that the owners have until July 31, 2012 to get the barking under control; if there is a verified complaint after July 31<sup>st</sup> the permit will come back to Council and may be revoked. Motion carried unanimously.

**10. Request from Bank Site Investment, LLC for Final Plat Approval for Bank Site Third Addition and Site Plan/Building Appearance Review to Allow for a 33-Unit Hotel with Pool to be Constructed on the Property**

- a. **Resolution 2012-142 Approving the Final Plat for Bank Site 3<sup>rd</sup> Addition**
- b. **Resolution 2012-143 Approving the Site Plan/Building Appearance to Construct a 33-Unit Hotel with Pool**

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2012-142 and Resolution No. 2012-143 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**11. Resolution 2012-144 Approving a Quote from Jill Reller for the Bike-Walk Trail Rules Sign**

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2012-144 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**12. Resolution 2012-145 Authorizing an Amendment to the Existing Contract with Jimmies Johnnies to Add an Additional Standard Unit with One Servicing Weekly to Bluebird Park**

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2012-145 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**13. Resolution 2012-146 Authorizing City Staff to Release Funds for Additional Redbird Field Improvements and to Approve the Placement of Signage at 620 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NW (Sportsman Field)**

Cynthia Lind-Livingston verified that all items were on the resolution to be approved.

Mayor Wimmer stated that so long as the Redbirds have the funds they can spend it and in the future to work with staff on checking if they have enough funds for additional items. Mayor Wimmer noted this is their own money that they are requesting the release for funds on.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2012-146 as presented.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**14. Resolution 2012-147 Approving the Placement of Permanent Signage on the Property Located at 236 Broadway Street SE**

Mayor Wimmer noted that in the future there needs to be discussion on whether or not the City wants to continue owning the property or to keep leasing it on a month to month basis.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2012-147 as presented.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**15. Resolution 2012-148 Terminating Development Agreement with C.L. Hough, LLC**

Motion by Larson, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2012-148 as presented.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**16. Resolution 2012-149 Accepting Proposal to Provide Engineering Services for Railroad Avenue Improvements**

Motion by Larson, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2012-149 as presented.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**17. Resolution 2012-150 Authorizing Staff to Purchase Two X2 Taser Packages and to Trade in the Non-Functioning M-26 and Oldest of the X26 Tasers**

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2012-150 as presented.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**L. Approve Consent Agenda**

1. Consider Accounts Payable in the Amount of \$211,302.73 and Payroll in the Amount of \$75,501.42
2. **Resolution 2012-151** Declaring a Vacancy Within the Planning Commission
3. Final Minutes of the May 8, 2012 Planning Commission Meeting
4. Request to Serve on the LMC Policy Committee
5. **Resolution 2012-152** Approving a Memorandum of Understanding Between LELS, Local #217 and the City of Isanti and Authorizing Signature

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

**Adjournment**

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karissa Henning  
Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk