

**MINUTES
CITY OF ISANTI
CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 8, 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, City Engineer Brad DeWolf and Community Service Officer Tanya Nuss

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

E. Proclamations/Commendations/Certificate Awards

1. Mayor's July Great Yard Awards

Mayor Wimmer announced the winners of the Mayor's July Great Yard Awards as follows:

1 st Place	4 Appaloosa Ln SE	Mark & Jennifer Bussen
2 nd Place	1114 Maplewood Ct SW	Stephanie & John Marsolek
3 rd Place	705 Fir St SW	Nathan Erickson

The following are the prize providers of the awards:

1 st Place Prize - \$100 – Above All Roof Tops
2 nd Place Prize - \$ 50 – Startac Construction, Inc.
3 rd Place Prize - \$ 25 – KJD Signs

F. Approve City Council Minutes

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2012 regular meeting and budget work session of the City Council. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Citizens Input

Jeff Lero, 416 Rum River Drive, stated about 2 months ago his neighbor had placed up a fence that was a foot over on the property line and he was directed to bring this matter up to the Council, as this issue has not been resolved. Mayor Wimmer will look into this issue with Building Inspector Sames.

Lero also stated that there is tall grass across the road from his property. Mayor Wimmer stated he would take a look at this as well.

H. Announcements

Announcements were read.

I. Council Committee Reports

Councilor Larson reported on:

- **Sidewalk Sales**
- **Fire Department**
 - New ISO rating
 - Kitchen fire demonstration
 - Bids for the parking lot
- **Arena Board**
 - Landscape drainage
 - Looking at ways to reduce electrical costs
- **Highway 65 Coalition**
 - Discussion on roads
- **GPS 45:93**
 - Angel Fund
- **Liquor Store**
 - Tree removal
- **East Central Regional Development Commission**
 - Revolving loan fund

Mayor Wimmer reported on:

- **New ISO Fire Rating**
 - Helps fire district growth

J. Public Hearings

1. Resolution 2012-172 to Authorize Nuisance Abatement for Property Located at 524 Birch Street SW

Community Service Officer Nuss reported that the piles of debris on property 524 Birch Street SW were cleaned up by the bank; however there is still a concern with tall grass and weeds, in addition to some structures that are against code. Nuss explained it was thought that the structures against code would be removed along with the debris.

Mayor Wimmer asked Nuss if when she contacted the bank she informed the bank of these remaining issues. Nuss stated the bank was informed.

Mayor Wimmer opened the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

With no public comment Mayor Wimmer closed the public hearing at 7:19 p.m.

Lorsung stated in discussing this matter with City Attorney Joslin, the Council could do one of two things. The Council could move ahead and abate the property or send another letter and give

the bank additional time. If the remaining items are not removed within the requested timeframe the City could then proceed to abate the property.

There was consensus to give the bank an additional week.

Motion by Lundeen, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2012-172 with the added change of allowing the bank one additional week to clean up the remainder of the property. The bank will be contacted on August 9, 2012 regarding this matter and the property will need to be cleaned up by August 16, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

K. Business Items

1. City Attorney Services

Mayor Wimmer noted that the City has established a rotation to review the City's outside services every five years. City Attorney services were not reviewed the last time the City started to review services. Mayor Wimmer brought this to the Council's attention and inquired if they wished to review City Attorney services at this time, as other services are starting to be looked at again.

There was discussion on the appreciation of Joslin's services and pricing and to keep Joslin's services for another five years.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to keep City Attorney Joslin's services for another five years. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Community Center Task Force Update

Councilor Larson introduced John Bettendorf, 738 Park Brook Road, and asked him to present, on behalf of the Isanti Community Center Task force, an update to the Council.

Bettendorf reported the task force took a vote in regards to what should happen with the Community Center, there was a unanimous vote to explore the option of building a new facility.

Bettendorf expressed the importance of the Community Center to the citizens of Isanti.

Bettendorf explained the task force is aware of the costs involved with building a new community center and that the force understands this might not be able to happen.

The costs estimated to fully remodel and update the facility with standard bathrooms range from \$219,760 to \$313,610.

Bettendorf continued that if the Council would not consider approval of a new building due to the high costs, the task force still maintains the desire of capital improvements in the updated CIP to be done to the community center.

The current community center is 3,600 square feet; an estimated cost for a new 3,600 square foot assembly/banquet facility would be around \$558,898 - this is for standard wood construction. The estimated costs for non-combustible exterior walls would be around \$651,222.

Additionally, Bettendorf requested of Council to consider a levy referendum question be placed on a ballot given a new building is not an option.

There was discussion on whether to place a question on the ballot for the upcoming November elections or to wait.

Mayor Wimmer noted that the school district may be looking at doing a levy next year, and he is unsure if this would improve or decrease the chances of success of a question on the ballot in regards to the community center.

Mayor Wimmer inquired if the joining of the Community Center and City Hall's parking lots had been looked at. Bettendorf and Larson stated this had been looked along with moving the storm water pond for the extension and combining of the parking lots.

Bettendorf noted the task force had discussed holding off on doing a ballot question for 2012.

There was discussion on getting more stake holders involved.

There was discussion on the idea of having the library link within the community center. Mayor Wimmer noted that he is unsure if the library would be interested at this time to provide more services as some existing services have been cut.

Mayor Wimmer brought up the issue of the ongoing costs of the community center regardless of if the community center is a new building or if repairs are done on the current building.

Mayor Wimmer suggested that the task force look into what could help defray the day to day costs of the community center.

There was discussion on having groups such as the cub scouts do annual fundraisers for the community center.

Bettendorf added the task force felt having a few community meetings would help spread the word on the current situation with the community center. This could also generate more ideas on how to fund the operations of the community center.

There was discussion on the significant costs to doing repairs on the current community center or to explore building a new one.

Larson made comment regarding the time and effort it takes to fully explore all of the options and find what would work best for the City of Isanti's Community Center.

There was further discussion on the uncertainty of when it would be best to place a question on the ballot for the community center.

Larson stated moving forward into 2014 the community center is not budgeted for and stressed the concern of having something be placed on the ballot this November in regards to the community center.

There was discussion on those outside of the City who use the community center and how to get those communities to help share the costs.

There was discussion on the costs of putting a question together for the ballot. The costs would be around \$500.

There was discussion of a levy referendum question going on the ballot if it were for improvements to the current community center.

There was talk of the task force further looking into the option of placing a question on the ballot this November.

Mayor Wimmer laid out the options on what the Council can do:

- Vote to authorize the expenditure of \$500 to create a ballot question, for improvements to the community center, knowing it might be lost if the referendum question does not go through this year
- Not ready to do a levy referendum this year
- Waiting until the task force meets and possibly call a special meeting

Streiff felt strongly to wait for the task force to meet and call a special meeting if need be.

There was discussion on if there was enough time to get a question ready for the November ballot. The question has to be submitted to Isanti County by August 24, 2012.

The Mayor and Council shared if the task force feels strongly about placing a question on the ballot for this November, for capital improvements to the community center, that there is the possibility a special meeting could be called.

a. No action Resolution Approving Proposal from Briggs and Morgan for Preparation of Election Documents for Community Center Ballot Question

3. Resolution 2012-173 Approving the Isanti Intermediate School/ School for All Seasons Special Event Application and Providing City Services for Such Event

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2012-173 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Ordinance 538 to Amend the Code for the City of Isanti, Chapter 216 Nuisances and Chapter 273 Solid Waste

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Ordinance No. 538 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Resolution 2012-174 Approving Modifications to the Operation of the Cable Wake Board Park Located Within Bluebird Park

Mayor Wimmer stated he wanted to make one friendly change to have no open fire pits.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2012-174 with the modification of no open fire pits. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Resolution 2012-175 Approving the Site Plan/ Building Appearance to Place/ Construct an Accessory Structure on the Property Located at 950 3rd Avenue NW (Isanti Soccer Complex)

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2012-175 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Resolution 2012-176 to Order a Public Hearing to Consider Nuisance Abatement for a Property in Violation of Nuisance Code §216-2 (E) and (L); and Ordinance No. 445 Zoning, Section 15, Subdivision 4

Motion by Larson second by Kennedy to approve Resolution No. 2012-176 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to Set Public Hearings on Vacations

a. Resolution 2012-177 Setting a Public Hearing on Vacations

b. Resolution 2012-178 Setting a Public Hearing on a Vacation

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2012-177 and Resolution No. 2012-178 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Request for MNCIS Login Account

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve City Attorney Joslin access to the MNCIS login account. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Change Order No. 2 for the 2011 Street & Utility Improvements Project in the Amount of \$4,964.00

Motion by Larson, second by Kennedy to approve Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$4,964. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Legacy Park Trail Change Order No. 1 in the Amount of (-\$177.40) and Revised Cost Estimate

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of (-\$177.40). Motion carried unanimously.

12. Contractor Maintenance Services

Lundeen abstained himself from the meeting for this discussion as Lundeen is the owner of SDL services; SDL services submitted a quote to the City for plumbing and mechanical services.

a. Tabled Resolution Awarding Quote for Electrical Maintenance Services

b. Tabled Resolution Awarding Quote for Plumbing and Mechanical Maintenance Services

Mayor Wimmer inquired about the difference between a call list versus having these services contracted.

Lorsung explained that if the vendors are approved for maintenance services, the approved vendors would be the City's primary contacts for maintenance services. The City would then also have the benefit of having the vendors' certificates of insurance.

Lorsung stated because Lundeen is a member of the Council and the owner of SDL services, SDL services would have to be unanimously approved.

Larson noted she would like to see emergency services rates.

Mayor Wimmer asked for it to be found out if the vendors who provided the quotes for maintenance services have back-ups, given they are unable to come in right away to do emergency work.

There was discussion on the possibility of a preference/call list.

City Attorney Joslin stated if the Council does not proceed forward with the proposed contracts for maintenance services, the City would have to vote each time to use SDL services because of the possible appearance of a conflict of interest and the availability of other vendors.

Mayor Wimmer stated two things can happen, there can either be an approved vendor list, and SDL is not on it, or to table this item and send it back to the next Council meeting with more information.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to table this item and to have it come back to the next Council meeting with information regarding emergency rates and back-up services. Motion carried unanimously.

L. Approve Consent Agenda

1. Consider Accounts Payable in the Amount of \$691,957.26 and Payroll in the Amount of \$145,187.46
2. Pay Request No. 6 for the Well House No. 1 Water System Improvements Project in the Amount of \$3,995.55
3. Final Minutes of the June 26, 2012 EDA Meeting
4. Final Minutes of the June 26, 2012 Park and Recreation Board Meeting
5. **Resolution 2012-179 Authorizing Staff to Re-Advertise to Fill the Vacant Planning Commission Seat**
6. Canvass Board Meeting Absence - City Administrator
7. Tree Removal at Isanti Liquor Store

Motion by Larson, second by Kennedy 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 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karissa Henning
Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk