

**MINUTES
CITY OF ISANTI
CITY COUNCIL
September 16, 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 Attorney Clark Joslin, Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator Sarah Cotton, Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk Karissa Henning, Public Works Director Nick Fleischhacker, Police Lieutenant Travis Muyres, Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan, and Assistant City Engineer Jason Cook

D. Adopt Agenda

Addendum:

Add L.19 Resolution Approving a Stipend to Lieutenant Muyres for Use of His Personal Mobile Phone for City Related Business

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

E. Proclamations/Commendations/Certificate Awards

None.

F. Approve City Council Minutes

Motion by Johnson, second by Lundeen to approve the minutes of the September 2, 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:

- **Arena Board**
 - Dave England was let go from employment with the arena

- **East Central Regional Development Commission**
 - Revolving loan fund committee has money to give out to businesses
- **League of MN Cities Election Task Force**
 - Election rosters
- **Community Education Advisory Council**
 - Strategic plan - enrollment retention
- **Northern Lights Express (NLX)**
 - Funding Formula
- **Fire District**
 - Special meeting

K. Business Items

1. Hockey Association Donation

Steve Lindell from the Hockey Association presented a check to the Mayor in the amount of \$750.

2. Fire District Discussion

Mayor Wimmer stated that he and Sue had a meeting with Athens and Isanti Township and that the meeting went well.

Mayor Wimmer stated that in order for the City Council to move forward with the options of a City Fire Department or a Fire Service under a new Joint Powers Agreement with specific entities, action needs to be taken. The following are motions the Council needs to consider:

Motion to: 1) Accept the Municipal Fire Department Study, as prepared by Springsted, Inc., 2) Direct Staff to begin work on a Fire Department for the City of Isanti, and 3) Direct staff to give written notice to the Isanti Area Joint Operating Fire District regarding termination of the Fire Hall Lease effective January 1, 2016.

Mayor Wimmer noted if the City does not move forward, he does not believe any changes will occur with the Fire District.

Larson stated she would accept the fire department study and that she believed this was a good study to do.

Larson explained she is not sure about directing staff to start working on bringing a fire department in house just yet. Larson believes Athens and Isanti Township are willing to participate with the City of Isanti in some type of fire service agreement with the City's desired changes.

Larson stated the fire fighters do a great job and she does not want to do anything that would hurt the current service.

Mayor Wimmer and Collison stated there would be no change in the level or quality of service provided.

Mayor Wimmer pointed out that in the fire department study it was found that Isanti has one of the best fire service providers in the nation.

Mayor Wimmer touched base on the history of the fire district and how they were unable to become an independent taxing district over a year ago.

Lundeen expressed concern that if the City has its own fire department, he is unsure whether or not the current fire fighters would continue to provide services for the City.

Lundeen also noted he does not feel the City can afford a fire department and that it will cost more than what the fire study had laid out.

Mayor Wimmer explained the fire study was laid out for the worst case scenario and that an in-house fire department would not cost more than what the fire study listed.

There was consensus to accept the fire department study; there was discussion to table moving forward with staff working on bringing a fire department in house and for staff to write notice terminating the fire hall lease until November.

There was discussion regarding the consequences of pushing back the second and third proposed actions.

Don Hanson from Isanti Township was present and noted to the Council that the township is interested in working with the City of Isanti.

Mayor Wimmer reviewed the issues again with the Council; the four changes the City wants to be made are as follows:

- 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 again noted that with the timeline laid out within the fire department study, if one thing gets pushed back, everything gets pushed back.

Mayor Wimmer noted that if things are pushed back on the timeline he would like to see some changes made such as a change to the relief association reporting, so that the City no longer would have to sign and approve the pension reports.

Joslin noted that if the Council does not motion to give notice of the fire hall lease termination, which expires December 31, 2015 and automatically renews for two year terms, the City will be in the lease for another two years. The City is required to give a 15 month advance notice for the lease termination.

Al Jankovich, from the Relief Association, was present and explained to the Council that everyone is in favor of the language change to the Relief Association Agreement; however, the association wants to do all amendments at once, not multiple times for different amendments.

Mark Volk, from the Relief Association, was present and explained that the City is not financially responsible for the association, however, since the agreement has not been changed, the City still has to sign the pension reports.

Mayor Wimmer stated the change in language should have happened over a year ago and he would like to see this taken care of.

Motion by Johnson, second by Larson to accept the fire department study by Springsted, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Larson, second by Johnson to table the direction of staff to begin work on a fire department for the City of Isanti, and to bring this item back to the first Council meeting in November. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Johnson, second by Larson to direct staff to given written notice to the Isanti Area Joint Operating Fire District regarding the termination of the fire hall lease effective January 1, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Charter School Discussion

Mayor Wimmer stated that the City received communication last week in regards to an issue of there being no area for a playground by the Charter School. The Charter School would like to have a playground temporarily set up in a cul-de-sac. The City must follow City Code and cannot break the rules to allow a playground to be set up in a cul-de-sac. Mayor Wimmer stated that a number of issues the school is now encountering were pointed out by the City last year. The City has done everything it can do. Unfortunately, the fact that there is not a playground for the children is not a City problem.

Larson indicated that she is very excited about the Charter School.

4. Rezoning and PUD Amendment to Lots 16-19, Block 1, Isanti Hills 6th Addition, and Preliminary Plat of Isanti Hills 8th Addition

a) **Ordinance 582 Approving an Amendment to Ordinance #247 (Zoning); the Official Zoning Map**

b) **Resolution 2014-211 Approving an Amendment to the Isanti Hills 6th Addition Planned Unit Development**

c) **Resolution 2014-212 Approving the Preliminary Plat for Isanti Hills 8th Addition**

Motion by Lundeen, second by Larson to approve Ordinance 582 and Resolutions 2014-211 and 2014-212. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Ordinance 583 Amending Ordinance No. 445 Zoning; Section 7 Business Districts; Article 1 “B-1” Central Business District, Subdivision 4 Interim Use and Section 13 Use Regulations, Article 2 Non-Residential Use Regulations**

Motion by Lundeen, second by Johnson to approve Ordinance 583. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Resolution 2014-213 Accepting the Conveyance of Rum River Landing Park Located Within the Rum River Landing Addition, and Directing Staff to Prepare a Quit Claim Deed**

Motion by Larson, second by Johnson to approve Resolution 2014-213. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Ordinance 584 to Amend the Code for the City of Isanti, Chapter 273, Solid Waste Collection**

Motion by Larson, second by Lundeen to approve Ordinance 584. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **Resolution 2014-214 Adopting a Modification of Tax Increment Financing Plan for Tax Increment Financing District No. 10**

Motion by Larson, second by Johnson to approve Resolution 2014-214. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Resolution 2014-215 Approving Market Tourism and Lodging Analysis Study**

Motion by Lundeen, second by Johnson to approve Resolution 2014-215. Motion carried unanimously.

L. Approve Consent Agenda

1. Consider Accounts Payable in the Amount of \$391,836.15 and Payroll in the Amount of \$79,846.90
2. Isanti BMX Pay Request No. 1 in the Amount of \$125,967.15
3. Final Minutes of the August 13, 2014 Planning Commission Meeting
4. Final Minutes of the August 6, 2014 Economic Development Authority Meeting
5. **Resolution 2014-216** Authorizing to Enter Into an Agreement Between the City of Isanti and Owls Hockey Club to Allow Parking a Motor Coach on City Property
6. **Resolution 2014-217** Approving a Multiple Event Temporary 3.2 Beer License to the Minnesota Owls
7. **Resolution 2014-218** Approving a Local Gambling Permit for the North Branch Area Education Foundation
8. **Resolution 2014-219** Approving City of Isanti Snow Plowing Policy
9. **Resolution 2014-220** Approving Exempt Sidewalks from Snow Removal
10. **Resolution 2014-221** Accepting Annual Walkthrough of Buildings on City Property Report
11. **Resolution 2014-222** Approving Request for Quotes to Purchase a Vacuum/ Jetter Truck
12. City Code Amendments - Water and Sewer Availability Fees
 1. **Ordinance 585** to Amend the Code for the City of Isanti, Chapter 325, Water
 2. **Ordinance 586** to Amend the Code for the City of Isanti, Chapter 260, Sewer
13. Request to go out for Bids for Contractor Maintenance Services - Plumbing and Electrical

14. **Resolution 2014-223** Amending the Personnel Policy, Section 8, Retirement
15. **Resolution 2014-224** Approving a Donation Box at the Liquor Store - MMBA Food Drive
16. **Resolution 2014-225** Appointing Election Judges for the 2014 General Election
17. **Resolution 2014-226** Approving the Volunteering Policy for Movie Nights at the Isanti Community Center
18. **Resolution 2014-227** Approving a Lease Agreement and Operating Policy Between the City of Isanti and the Cambridge-Isanti Soccer Club for the Isanti Soccer Complex
19. **Resolution 2014-228** Approving a Stipend to Lieutenant Muyres for Use of His Personal Mobile Phone for City Related Business

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 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karissa Henning
Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk