

**MINUTES
CITY OF ISANTI
CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 4, 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, Attorney Peter Grundhoefer, Finance Director Sarah Cotton, Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk Karissa Henning, Police Chief Ron Sager, Police Lieutenant Gene Hill, Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan, Planning and Parks Director Lisa Wilson and City Engineer Brad DeWolf

D. Adopt Agenda

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

E. Proclamations/Commendations/Certificate Awards

1. Mayor's August Great Yard Awards

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

1 st Place	Mark & Carol Gehrke (201 2nd Ave SW)
2 nd Place	Jerome & Mary Cole (1104 Birch St SW)
3 rd Place	Thomas & Dana Phillips (906 Wendover St SE)

The following are the prize providers of the awards:

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

F. Approve City Council Minutes

Motion by Larson, second by Lundeen to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2012: canvass and special meeting, and August 21, 2012 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:

- **Improved Service Delivery Policy Meeting**
 - Municipal jails/ juvenile detention
- **Improved Local Economies Policy Meeting**
 - Private/ public partnership
- **HR Data Practices Policy Committee**
 - Data requests
 - Re-employment benefits
- **Innovation and Road Safety Forum**
 - Prevention of distracted driving
 - Senior citizen road safety
- **Northern Lights Express (NLX) Meeting**
 - Environmental study
- **GPS 45:93**
 - Economic Development Work
 - Web tools
- **East Central Regional Development Commission**
 - Statewide economic development plan
 - Regional economic development plan

Mayor Wimmer inquired about if the Isanti Community Center Task Force had generated the list he had requested, breaking down those in and outside of the City of Isanti using the Community Center.

Larson stated the Task Force does not have the breakdown yet.

J. Public Hearings

1. Tabled Resolution Authorizing Nuisance Abatement for Property Located at 917 East Dual Blvd NE

City Attorney Joslin removed himself from Council Chambers because of a potential conflict of interest. Attorney Peter Grundhoefer from Grundhoefer & Alliegro, LLC took Joslin's place as the Attorney for the public hearing.

Mayor Wimmer opened the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Darren Fletcher, owner of Diamond Welding at 917 East Dual Blvd NE, informed the Council that his portion of the building, along with the whole building itself, is up for sale. Diamond Welding will be moving out of town.

Fletcher had received a letter stating the business has been accused of driving people out of the community and expressed he did not understand what the issue is and who was being driven out of the City.

Mayor Wimmer stated that the letter Fletcher received is correct and that there have been complaints regarding, rubbish, vehicles and materials on the back of the property.

Mayor Wimmer noted he cannot release those names at this time but the City could arrange a closed session if need be regarding this.

Mayor Wimmer questioned when the City could anticipate the rest of the materials and vehicles cleaned up.

Fletcher stated the materials and vehicles could be cleaned up by the end of the week, but noted some of the materials and vehicles are used for the business.

Mayor Wimmer inquired if there were ways to get a screening fence up or find some way to get the back of the property into compliance.

Larson stated the business has outgrown the building.

Fletcher stated without being able to use the back of the property for materials and projects, it limits what the business can and cannot do.

Mayor Wimmer asked who was responsible for the rest of the property.

Fletcher stated RIC.

Mayor Wimmer asked if there can be overnight parking.

Attorney Grundhoefer stated that he was not familiar with Isanti's ordinances, but overnight parking is not typical. Grundhoefer stated that it would most likely be considered outside storage.

Mayor Wimmer asked Fletcher how many bays there are and if there was room for a parking lot.

Fletcher stated there are 4 bays and he does not believe there is room for a parking lot.

Mayor Wimmer stated there is a lot of outdoor storage that needs to be screened.

Mayor Wimmer asked if anyone else would like to speak to the public hearing.

With no further public comment Mayor Wimmer closed the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

Larson stated there is not a whole lot Fletcher can do - all the space is utilized.

Mayor Wimmer stated the vehicles parked there overnight need to go.

Larson suggested a letter be sent to RCI to get the grass trimmed on the property.

Fletcher stated the purchase agreement was signed this morning.

Mayor Wimmer asked Council if they would like to table this matter for two weeks to see if there is any progress and if the property has been sold.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to table the matter for two weeks.

2. Hearings for Roadway Vacations

- a. **Resolution 2012-197 Vacating a Portion of an Alley Located within Block 10 of the Original Townsite of Isanti**
- b. **Resolution 2012-198 Vacating a Portion of an Alley Located within Block 11 of the Original Townsite of Isanti**
- c. **Resolution 2012-199 Vacating a Portion of an Alley Located within Block 12 of the Original Townsite of Isanti**
- d. **Resolution 2012-200 Vacating a Portion of an Alley Located within Block 13 of the Original Townsite of Isanti**
- e. **Resolution 2012-201 Vacating a Portion of an Alley Located within Block 14 of the Original Townsite of Isanti**
- f. **Resolution 2012-202 Vacating a Portion of an Alley Located within Block 15 of the Original Townsite of Isanti**
- g. **Resolution 2012-203 Vacating a Portion of an Alley Located within Block 16 of the Original Townsite of Isanti**
- h. **Resolution 2012-204 Vacating a Portion of an Alley Located West of Second Avenue SW and South of Marion Street SW within the Original Townsite of Isanti**
- i. **Resolution 2012-205 Vacating a Portion of Arabian Lane SE and Appaloosa Lane SE**
- j. **Resolution 2012-206 Vacating a Portion of Second Avenue SW and Marion Street SW**
- k. **Resolution 2012-207 Vacating a Portion of Marion Street SW between Second Avenue SW and First Avenue SW**
- l. **Resolution 2012-208 Vacating a Portion of Short Street SW**
- m. **Resolution 2012-209 Vacating a Portion of Shawn Street SE**
- n. **Resolution 2012-210 Denying the Vacation of a Portion of Marion Street SW Located Between First Avenue SW and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad within the Original Townsite of Isanti**
- o. **Resolution 2012-211 Denying the Vacation of a Portion of an Alley Located within Block 17 of the Original Townsite of Isanti**
- p. **Resolution 2012-212 Denying the Vacation of a Portion of Viola Street NE**

Mayor Wimmer opened the public hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor Wimmer reported that the hearings for the roadway vacations are in regards to some property the City had for the extension of a street. There are three properties that the City does

want to keep, but the rest of the property the City is looking at vacating and allowing the surrounding property owners to have those properties; the property would be split right down the middle for property owners.

Citizen 1

Howard Anderson, block 13, lots 11 and 12 - the citizen stated there would be no legal access with a vacation on Marion Street and he believes he should have some legal access.

Wilson stated that the resolution for Marion Street SW is requesting the denial of the vacation and asking to maintain the right-of-way.

Citizen 2

Patrick Baisley, block 15, Creekside - the citizen expressed concern about the vacation and whether the citizens would need to pay if the road needs to be redone.

City Engineer explained that the City has a policy where a portion of the property gets assessed through the adjacent properties, given the road needs to be redone, in those cases the citizen pays around 30%.

Citizen 3

Dale Shortell, block 17 - the citizen inquired what with happen with the alleyway with the vacation.

Wilson stated this is another part that will be denied for vacation.

Citizen 4

Chauncy Karow, 215 Arabian Lane - the property owner stressed concern about a green box for a septic system that he would acquire with the vacation and what would happen to it.

Mayor Wimmer stated the City would still maintain an easement.

With no further public comment Mayor Wimmer closed the public hearing at 7:59 p.m.

Mayor Wimmer asked if the hearings approving and denying vacations needed to be approved separately.

Joslin stated the hearings could be approved together so long as it is clear which vacations are approved and denied.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Larson to approve Resolution(s) No.: 2012-197, 2012-198, 2012-199, 2012-200, 2012-201, 2012-202, 2012-203, 2012-204, 2012-205, 2012-206, 2012-207, 2012-208, 2012-209, 2012-210, 2012-211, 2012-212 as presented for all vacations and the three properties being denied vacation. Motion carried unanimously.

K. Business Items

1. Request for the Mayor to Proclaim Step into Africa Day

Chris McDonald informed the Mayor and Council that 6,000 people die every day because AIDS and that ½ of those people are in Africa. McDonald continued and gave a brief history about Africa.

McDonald asked of the Mayor to proclaim Step into Africa Day for September 22, 2012.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to approve the Step into Africa Day proclamation as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Resolution 2012-213 Approving a Special Event Application for the MN Owls

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2012-213 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Resolutions Relating to the 2013 Preliminary Budget

a. Resolution 2012-214 Setting the 2013 Final Budget and Levy Meeting

b. Resolution 2012-215 Approving the 2013 Preliminary Budget

c. Resolution 2012-216 Approving the Preliminary 2012 Tax Levy Collectible in 2013

Mayor Wimmer stated there is a 0% tax increase and spending is slightly down.

Mayor Wimmer asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution(s) No. 2012-214, 2012-215 and 2012-216 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Direction to Pursue Billing Water and Sewer “In-House”

Mayor Wimmer stated this was one of the City’s goals that were set during the goal setting session.

The hard costs the City is currently paying Opus to maintain billing is around \$33,000 and there have been many issues that the City has had to deal with such as incorrect billings and wrong rates. There are also soft costs the City would have to deal with internally such as troubleshooting and handling issues, problems and inquiries - but this is already being done.

The City would need to look at having a part-time employee come in to aid in managing this process.

Motion by Larson, second by Kennedy to move forward in putting together a proposal for Council for in-house billing for water and sewer.

5. Resolution 2012-217 Accepting Bid for Towing Services and Authorizing Staff to Prepare a Contract with Team Transport Towing

Motion by Lundeen, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2012-217 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Appointment for Cable Franchise Renewal

Mayor Wimmer stated he would like to appoint Lundeen for the cable franchise renewal.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Streiff to approve Lundeen's appointment for the cable franchise renewal as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Resolution 2012-218 Adopting Revisions to the Nuisance Lot Mowing Policy

Wilson reported staff has proposed to make some changes to the Nuisance Lot Mowing Policy. Those changes are to have the CSO take a measurement and a picture when grass is at the 8 inch mark before the City calls to have the contractor mow, as well as to remove the door posting policy.

Motion by Streiff, second by Larson to approve Resolution No. 2012-218 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Resolution 2012-219 Approving a One-Year Extension for the Final Plat for Bank Site Third Addition as Requested by Kevin Johnson on Behalf of Bank Site Investment LLC

Mayor Wimmer reported a status update for the hotel. Everything is on schedule for the ground breaking at the end of October.

Motion by Larson, second by Lundeen to approve Resolution No. 2012-219 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Resolution 2012-220 Authorizing a Park History Research Project

Mayor Wimmer stated this research project would be to put something together for informational plaques on landmarks around the City and parks to show the History of Isanti. This would educate those who are visiting as well as those living here; there is great history within Isanti that many do not know about.

Mayor Wimmer stated he is looking to start gathering information regarding Isanti's history.

Larson asked the project be called the Isanti History Research Project.

Larson asked the proposed costs of this project.

Mayor Wimmer stated the proposed project, right now, would be at no cost, other than some staff time and volunteer work.

Motion by Larson, second by Kennedy to approve Resolution No. 2012-220 with the name of the project called the Isanti History Research Project. Motion carried unanimously.

L. Approve Consent Agenda

1. Consider Accounts Payable in the Amount of \$111,428.87 and Payroll in the Amount of \$71,862.08
2. Final Minutes of the July 24, 2012 Park and Recreation Meeting

3. Final Minutes of the July 24, 2012 EDA Meeting
4. **Resolution 2012-221** Approving City of Isanti Snow Plowing Policy
5. **Resolution 2012-222** Exempting Sidewalks from Snow Removal
6. **Resolution 2012-223** Authorizing a Change in Location for the September 25th Park Board Meeting to Legacy Park
7. Liquor Store Parking Lot Snow Removal
8. Resolution 2012-224 to Approve a Multiple Event Temporary 3.2 Beer License to the Blaine Jaycees
9. **Resolution 2012-225** Approving the Police Department to Take Action of the 2011-2012 Safe and Sober Grant Matching Equipment Option and Authorize the Police Department to Purchase Two VieVu Body Worn Camera/Audio Camera Systems
10. **Resolution 2012-226** Authorizing Execution of Agreement for the 2012-2013 Safe and Sober Grant
11. **Resolution 2012-227** Approving a Donation From the Isanti County Sheriff's Office to the City of Isanti Police Department of Two Portable 800 MGZ Radios

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

N. Closed Session

At 8:15 p.m. Mayor Wimmer announced that the Council would go into a brief recess to clear out the Chambers. Mayor Wimmer stated that the City Council would then go into closed session to discuss negotiations for the potential purchase of 209 Main Street West.

At 8:18 p.m. the City Council went into closed session.

1. Discuss Negotiations for Potential Purchase of 209 Main Street West

At 8:52 p.m. Council came out of closed session. Mayor Wimmer requested City Attorney Joslin provide a summary of the closed session.

Joslin reported that during the closed session discussions were held by the Council regarding the preparation of the potential offer for purchase of property located at 209 Main Street West. The public purpose was discussed along with potential redevelopment regarding Main Street West. Potential offers were discussed, following that discussion the Council went out of closed session.

Mayor Wimmer stated he would like the Council to consider the maximum dollar amount for acquisition of the property - which would include all costs associated with the potential purchase and the parameters discussed within closed session.

Mayor Wimmer asked for Council to motion either to move forward, or not to move forward, with those parameters and set maximum cost.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Streiff to approve the discussed maximum dollar amount for the acquisition and parameters regarding the potential purchase of 209 Main Street West. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion by Kennedy, second by Lundeen to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karissa Henning
Human Resources/Deputy City Clerk