

**CITY OF ISANTI  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, September 5, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.  
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, Council Members: Paul Bergley, Dan Collison, Steve Lundeen, and Ross Lorinser (arrived late)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Administrator Don Lorsung, Human Resources/City Clerk Katie Brooks, Finance Director Mike Betker, Public Service Director/Assistant City Administrator Josi Wood, Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan, City Attorney Clark Joslin, and City Engineer Brad DeWolf

Others Present: D. Rosten

**D. Adopt Agenda**

Motion by Lundeen, second by Collison to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**E. Proclamations/Commendations/Certificate Awards**

**1. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Presentation.**

Dave Rosten, a representative from Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, presented a plaque to the City Council in gratitude for the city of Isanti's support for the program. Mr. Rosten explained that Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is a program that creates awareness of past and present servicemember's needs and assists with connecting and coordinating organizations, agencies, companies, and individuals in the community to provide resources and support to servicemembers and military families. He reported that the Isanti County chapter is the largest Yellow Ribbon Community in Minnesota. Mayor Wimmer thanked Mr. Rosten for his military service, his work with Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, and his gratitude for the support that the City of Isanti provides to the program.

**F. Approve City Council Minutes**

- 1. August 15, 2017 - Regular Meeting of the City Council**
- 2. August 2, 2015 - Closed Meeting of the City Council**

Motion by Lundeen, second by Bergley to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**G. Citizens Input**

None.

**H. Announcements**

- 1. City Council Meeting** Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
- 2. Planning Commission Meeting** Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.  
(Immediately following City Council Meeting)

## **I. Council Committee Reports**

Mayor Wimmer reported that Ruth Hunstiger, Catholic Charities Director of Community Services, sent a letter thanking the city of Isanti for its commitment in providing support, food, and space for their Senior Dining program. Mayor Wimmer explained that this is the second year that the city of Isanti has participated in Catholic Charities “Plant a Row, Harvest a Row” program, which provides produce grown in the community garden directly to the Senior Dining location in Isanti.

Mayor Wimmer shared that the sub-committee for the Isanti County EDA sent a letter stating they would not allow a meeting with the Isanti County EDA regarding the hotel project as it did not meet their requirements for a project. Those requirements were: not enough equity in the project, it promoted competition with an existing business in Isanti County, and there was no proof that there was financial backing for the project. Mayor Wimmer explained those reasons were untrue and the project developer had already responded to the sub-committee’s allegations.

Mayor Wimmer then broke the requirements down point-by-point to give a public response. Isanti County EDA policy requires a 20% threshold on equity and with the amount of money currently involved, the hotel project has reached approximately 30% equity.

The last approved project was for a gas station in Cambridge with a 100% abatement for a number of years. This raised the point that according to the Isanti County EDA project requirements and policies, that project violated more than one requirements as there is more than one gas station within Isanti County and Isanti County EDA policy states that an abatement may not go over 50%. Due to this, a request had been made to Isanti County for all public data regarding the gas station project that was approved.

Documentation had been provided to the sub-committee regarding financing for the hotel project. This included showing that all equity had been raised, the term sheet from the bank, and personal information on two of the investing partners who had provided personal guarantees on the loan.

Mayor Wimmer said the subcommittee’s decision was disappointing, especially since there was no opportunity to refute any of the misinformation. He did point out that there has been no vote by the Isanti County EDA to reject the project as it did not move further than the subcommittee. Both the hotel developer and the City of Isanti intend to keep working on the project.

## **J. Public Hearings**

### **1. Resolution 2017-224 Approving the Tax Abatement for Isanti Hotel Partners, LLC**

Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan said the city of Isanti and Hotel Partners, LLC have been working together to bring a 60-unit Best Western plus hotel to the City of Isanti. The hotel is considered a priority project due to the benefits it will bring to the city and Isanti County. Mayor Wimmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m.

There were no comments during the public hearing.

Mayor Wimmer closed the Public Hearing at 7:21 p.m.

Motion by Lorinser, second by Bergley to approve the request as presented. Motion carried.

### **2. Resolution 2017-225 Adopting Redevelopment Project Area and Plan**

Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan explained this is part of the process the city of Isanti and EDA go through to define a redevelopment area and plan so citizens can see what the plans are for the land parcel and the funds that will be needed to accomplish that.

Councilmember Lundeen commented that he believes there are a lot of community members that

have been waiting for the change of removing Penny Lane and having Richard Avenue go through the area in question. Mayor Wimmer agreed.

Mayor Wimmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:22 p.m.

There were no comments during the public hearing.

Mayor Wimmer closed the Public Hearing at 7:23 p.m.

Motion by Lundeen, second by Bergley to approve the request as presented. Motion carried.

## **K. Business Items**

### **City Administrator Don Lorsung**

#### **1. Ordinance No. 678 for Small Cell Moratorium of Wireless Telecommunications and Antennas in Public Right-of-Way**

Recent legislation has been passed that allow private entities to attach antennas onto public infrastructures. The ordinance will protect any entities that are financially responsible for the public infrastructure. This will be a one-year moratorium.

Motion by Lorinser, second by Lundeen to approve Ordinance 678. Motion carried.

### **Police Chief Gene Hill**

#### **2. Resolution 2017-226 for Accepting \$32,725.00 Safe and Sober Grant**

Motion by Bergley, second by Lundeen to approve the request as presented. Motion carried.

### **Finance Director Mike Betker**

#### **3. Adoption of Budget and Preliminary Levy**

##### **a. Resolution 2017-227 Setting the 2017 Final Budget and Levy Meeting**

##### **b. Resolution 2017-228 Approving the 2018 Preliminary Budget for the City of Isanti**

##### **c. Resolution 2017-229 Adopting the Proposed 2017 Tax Levy Collectible in 2018 for the City of Isanti**

Mayor Wimmer explained the 2018 Preliminary Budget is slightly higher than previously discussed due to an increase from the budgeted 10% to 26% in the health insurance rates by the insurance carrier. The increase is a reflection of the way insurers are pooling their customers.

Finance Director Mike Betker said even with this change, residents should still see tax savings.

Motion by Lundeen, second by Collison to approve all three resolutions as presented. Motion carried.

### **Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan**

#### **4. Resolution 2017-230 Authorizing Funding and Execution of the Municipal Advisory Service Agreement between the City of Isanti EDA and Northland Securities, Inc.**

Motion by Collison, second by Lorinser to approve the request as presented. Motion carried.

### **Community Development Director Ryan Kernosky**

#### **5. Resolution 2017-231 Initiating the Street Vacation for Penny Lane Southeast**

Motion by Lundeen, second by Bergley to approve the request as presented. Motion carried.

#### **6. Resolution 2017-232 Approving the Request from Brennan and Rebecca Cox for a Conditional Use Permit and Site Plan Review Application to Operate a Hobby Farm and Retreat Center on the Properties Legally Described in "Exhibit A"**

This has been reviewed and approved through the last Planning Commission meeting.

Motion by Lundeen, second by Collison to approve the request as presented. Motion carried.

**L. Approve Consent Agenda**

1. Consider Accounts Payable in the Amount of \$ 246,509.66 and Payroll in the amount of \$ 98,882.54
2. **Resolution 2017-233 Center Point Energy Safety Equipment Matching Grant Award**
3. **Resolution 2017-234 Accepting Renewal Quote for Phone Line Services Through Century Link**

Motion by Lundeen, second by Bergley to approve Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**M. Other Communications**

1. Draft Meeting Minutes for the August 15, 2017 Planning Commission Meeting

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Bergley, second by Lundeen. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeannifer Anderson  
Administrative Data Clerk