

**CITY OF ALTOONA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2008**

(I) Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Tom Meyer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. held in the Council Chambers at Altoona City Hall.

(II) Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Meyer led the Common Council and others in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(III) Roll Call

The City Clerk called the roll. Council Persons Brendan Pratt, Ray Henning, Colleen Weber, William Spangler and Dale Stuber were present. Also present: Mayor Tom Meyer, Attorney Scott Nicastro, City Administrator Michael Golat, Finance Director Jon Pfeilsticker, Police Chief and Fire Chief Todd Chaney, Consulting City Engineer Tim Marko and City Clerk Cindy Bauer.

Absent: Council Member Red Hanks.

(IV) Citizen Participation Period

Kandy Lane, 2512 Bartlett Avenue, commented on the proposed ambulance agreement with the City of Eau Claire. She asked why the public wasn't aware of this proposal. Lane said when making the decision, determine what is the most important thing when you are in need of an ambulance; it's not money, it's about saving lives.

There being no other Citizen Participation, motion by Henning/Weber to close Citizen Participation Period.

Motion carried.

(V) Approval of minutes.

Motion by Weber/Stuber to approve the minutes of the December 27, 2007 Regular Council Meeting.

Motion carried.

(VI) City Officers/Department Heads Report - none.

City Committee Reports – none.

(VII) Unfinished Business - none.

(VIII) New Business

(1) Consider City of Altoona snow removal policy at the Hobbs Sports Center.

City Administrator Mike Golat explained that at the December 27th Council Meeting, Council voted to discontinue removing the ice shaving from Hobbs.

Mike Vaughan from the Altoona Youth Hockey Association was present to address the Council on this issue. Vaughan was advised by the City Administrator of the decision by the Council to discontinue removing the ice shavings from Hobbs. Vaughan commended the council on saving money for the city; however, Vaughan felt it was important to have all information available on this specific issue. Vaughan commented on three issues regarding bringing the ice shavings to the front parking lot: 1) The zamboni is not an outside vehicle. 2) By exposing the zamboni to the public, vehicle traffic and pedestrian traffic would be a safety concern. 3) There would be added maintenance to keeping the zamboni clean. Vaughan agreed to find ways to save the city money. One suggestion would be reducing the frequency of removal of shavings. Vaughan felt by having a larger area to dump the shavings, this would reduce the number of times the shavings are removed. Vaughan commented on the agreement itself and made reference to sections of the agreement. Vaughan asked the city to reconsider the decision of removal of the ice shavings.

Weber asked if this was similar to what the City is doing for the school; creating partnership that's benefiting the city's taxpayers.

Henning said the school benefits all the taxpayers, the hockey association does not.

Spangler also commented on the leasing itself and asked why we are treating other entities differently in regards to removal of snow.

Golat commented that we were losing a lot of money prior to the hockey association taking over the leasing. Since they have taken over the leasing, City's operational cost has decreased, which benefits the taxpayers as a whole.

Pratt also felt it's a great benefit to the City leasing out the Hobbs to the hockey association and said if the hockey association is willing to help spread the cost and work with the City, then we should work something out.

Motion by Weber/Stuber to reconsider the action previously taken regarding the removal of ice shavings. Henning against. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Weber/Stuber to remove the ice shavings at Hobbs and work out an agreement with the hockey association to reduce the number of times the shavings are removed. Henning against. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(2) Consider ambulance agreement between the City of Eau Claire and the City of Altoona.

City Administrator Golat explained that last summer Ed Kassing, Eau Claire Fire Chief, approached the city and gave a presentation to the Council to explore the possibility of switching ambulance service from Gold Cross Ambulance to the Eau Claire Fire Department. Golat said they have had several meetings with Fire Chief Kassing, Gold Cross Ambulance Service, neighboring jurisdictions, and Altoona EMS responders as well. Golat said staff has a recommendation based on the meetings and previous discussion to proceed with the contract. Two primary considerations are the final cost of the user and level of service. Golat explained the costs and provision of services. Golat said that one way or the other, Altoona needs a type of ambulance service. Golat then explained the advantages of service. He commented that the First Responder Program will not change. The cost of the agreement will be \$10,000 each year; the recovery rate from the \$50 surcharge will more than cover the cost of the initial investment.

Ed Kassing was present to further explain the agreement and answer any questions Council Members had regarding the agreement. Council Members had questions regarding the upfront cost versus just getting the user fee. Kassing said their council was very adamant on a contract with a dollar amount given.

Fire Chief Todd Chaney commented on the benefit of the agreement.

Motion by Pratt/Stuber to accept the ambulance agreement between the City of Altoona and the City of Eau Claire. Roll call vote, 5-ayes, Pratt, Stuber, Henning, Spangler, Weber, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

(VIII)(3) Set Public Hearing Date for amending Chapter 19.52 – Parking and Loading Spaces.

City Administrator Golat explained that at the December 27th Council Meeting, the Council approved relaxing the parking requirements to accommodate an addition to the Golden Spike Bar. However, Golat explained that since the parking requirements are included in the zoning code, this action needs to be completed through a variance approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals or through an amendment to the zoning ordinance to relax the parking requirements for a specific area consistent with Chapter 19.68 of the Altoona Municipal Code. Golat said a variance isn't really appropriate in this case. Legal counsel recommends an ordinance amendment in the zoning code.

Staff recommends Council refer the downtown parking matter to be addressed by the Plan Commission at their February 11th meeting and schedule a public hearing before the Council at their February 14, 2008 Council meeting. City Staff prepared a map showing available parking in the downtown area. The map will be available at the Plan Commission and prior to the public hearing.

Jim Eckwright, owner of 400 Club, questioned the parking restrictions and if this will affect the other taverns in the City. Eckwright felt that all other taverns have had to abide by the current code; it should benefit the other taverns as well.

Motion by Spangler/Henning to set the public hearing date before the Council on February 14, 2008 and refer the item to the Plan Commission at their February 11, 2008 meeting. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(4) Consider Contract between the City and Short, Elliot, Hendrickson Inc, (SEH) to complete design engineering work related to Municipal Well No. 7, commercial roadway and utility extensions and the Hwy 12 Water Main Looping Project and also discuss/consider amending the 2008 capital budget to increase the budget by \$78,000 to complete the Hwy 12 Water Main Looping project.

Consulting City Engineer Tim Marko explained the engineering services for the following projects:

1. Preparing final plans and specifications, including permitting and bid services for Municipal Well No. 7 (\$51,000).
2. Preparing final plans and specifications, including permitting and bid services for commercial roadway and utility extensions associated with well work (\$28,000).
3. Preparing final plans and specifications, including permitting and bid services for the US Hwy 12 Water Main Looping to serve Windsor Forest (\$12,000). Golat felt the looping was necessary.

Golat explained that the money for the first two items is budgeted; however the 2008 capital budget will need to be amended to accommodate design and construction of the Hwy 12 Water Main Looping (total project cost \$78,000)

Consulting City Engineer Tim Marko explained the agreement. Marko updated the council on Well #7, and indicated that it has been tested and capped, and they have submitted samples for water quality analysis. Marko said the new well should achieve the 300 gallons a minute.

Golat mentioned that the road design on the Brown property does not have sidewalks. Weber asked if there should be some type of sidewalk or trail. Discussion followed.

Motion by Spangler/Pratt to approve the contract between the City and SEH to complete design engineering work related to Municipal Well No. 7, commercial roadway and utility extensions and the Hwy 12 Water Main Looping Project. Roll call vote 5-ayes, Spangler, Pratt, Weber, Henning, Stuber, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Motion by Spangler/Henning to amend the 2008 capital budget to increase the budget by \$78,000 to complete the Hwy 12 Water Main Looping project. Roll call vote, 5-ayes, Spangler, Henning, Stuber, Weber, Pratt, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

(VIII)(5) Consider approving Ordinance 1A-08 creating and adopting § 3.02 of the City Code: Tax Incremental Financing.

City Administrator Golat explained that Ordinance 1A-08 adopts all provisions of Chapter 66.1105 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and amendments which describes and defines matters related to tax increment laws. Golat indicated that this provision was recommended by the City's bond counsel.

Motion by Spangler/Pratt to approve Ordinance 1A-08 creating and adopting Chapter 3.02 of the City Code; Tax Incremental Financing. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(6) Consider approving Ordinance 1B-08 amending § 3.01.015 of the Altoona Municipal Code: Definitions, to delete the definition of "TIF".

City Administrator Golat explained that Ordinance 1B-08 amends Section 3.01.015 of the Altoona Municipal Code; Definitions, to delete the definition of "TIF". The reason for this amendment is because the definition was referenced in newly created Chapter 3.02 of the City Code.

Motion by Spangler/Stuber to approve Ordinance 1B-08 amending Section 3.01.015 of the Altoona Municipal Code; Definitions, to delete the definition of "TIF". **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(7) Set Public Hearing Date for rezoning the south 82 feet of lots 17 and 18, parcel number 201-2066-09 and 201-2066-10 located at the corner of 10th Street West and Lynn Avenue (behind Kwik Trip), from Residential to Commercial as submitted by Scott Teigen, CFO of Kwik Trip Inc.

City Administrator Golat explained that Council approved Ordinance 12B-07 at their December 13, 2007 Meeting to rezone the northern portions of parcels 201-2066-09 and 201-2066-10 from R-1 to Commercial. Kwik Trip is now requesting the remainder of the above mentioned parcels to be rezoned from R-1 to Commercial in order to accommodate their expansion. Recommended date of public hearing before the Common Council is Thursday, February 14, 2008 and referring the rezoning request to the Plan Commission at their February 11, 2008 meeting.

Motion by Spangler/Henning to set the public hearing date for rezoning the south 82 feet of lots 17 and 18, parcel number 201-2066-09 and 201-2066-10 to Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. and refer petition to the Plan Commission at their February 11, 2008 meeting for their recommendation. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(8) Consider approval of bartender licenses to Dustin Henning, Anne Hoffman, Amber Phelps, Pam Berg, and Stephanie Brantner. (Approved by the Altoona Police Department).

The bartender licenses have been approved by the Altoona Police Department.

Motion by Weber/Spangler to approve the bartender licenses to Dustin Henning, Anne Hoffman, Amber Phelps, Pam Berg, and Stephanie Brantner. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(9) Consider convening in closed session.

(VIII)(10) Convening in closed session.

Motion by Weber/ Spangler to convene in closed session at 7:19 p.m. pursuant to Wis. Stats 19.85 (1)(g) A. Schmidt Property Jurisdictional Offer and Wis. Stats 19.85 (1)(e) A. Magadance property purchase offer. Roll call vote, 5-ayes, Weber, Spangler, Pratt, Stuber, Henning, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

(VIII)(11) Reconvening in open session.

Motion by Spangler/Weber to reconvene in open session at 7:52 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Weber/Pratt to direct the City Administrator to continue negotiations on the Schmidt Property.

Motion carried.

Motion by Weber/Pratt to authorize the mayor to sign the purchase agreement with the Magadance property. Roll call vote, 5-ayes, Weber, Pratt, Spangler, Stuber, Henning, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

(IX) Miscellaneous Business and Communications.

The next joint meeting of the Chippewa Valley Cities will be held at the Durand House in Durand on Wednesday, January 30, 2008. Mayors, City Council Members, Administrators and Staff Members are invited to attend.

(X) Adjournment.

Motion by Weber/Henning to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by
Cindy Bauer, City Clerk