

CITY OF ALTOONA, WI
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 26, 2009

(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, Dale Stuber, William Spangler, Colleen Weber and Red Hanks were present. Also present: Mayor Tom Meyer, City Attorney John Behling, City Administrator Mike Golat, Park & Rec Coordinator Debra Goldbach, and City Clerk Cindy Bauer.

(IV) Citizen Participation Period

There being no Citizen Participation, motion by Spangler/Hanks to close Citizen Participation Period.
Motion carried.

(V) Approval of minutes.

Motion by Henning/Weber to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2009 Regular Council Meeting.
Motion carried.

(VI) City Officers/Department Heads Report

City Administrator Golat mentioned that there is a State Budget Hearing Friday Morning at 10 a.m. at Haas Fine Arts Center at the University. Golat said the Title Reports are complete for the property transactions at River Prairie.

City Committee Reports – none.

(VII) Unfinished Business

(VIII) New Business

(1) Consider agreement between the City of Altoona and the Chippewa Off Road Bike Association (CORBA).

City Administrator Golat explained that Chippewa Off Road Bikers Association (CORBA) is a volunteer organization established to promote mountain biking opportunities in the region. They have proposed an agreement for the Otter Creek area similar to the one they have with Eau Claire County at Lowes Creek Recreation Area. The agreement stipulates CORBA will build and maintain trails at Otter Creek in consideration of the City agreeing to keep the trails available for public use, specifically mountain biking. The term of the agreement is two years with the possibility of a one year extension. The Parks and Recreation Committee have reviewed this agreement and recommended approval. Golat mentioned that one issue that needs to be addressed if the City chooses to move forward with the agreement is that many of the trails are currently located on property owned by the State of Wisconsin. Golat has spoken with WisDOT regarding this issue and they have expressed an interest in providing the City a right of use for recreational purposes. WisDOT would like to see a trail layout plan prior to providing any formal approvals. Golat said there may also be one other private property owner that will need to be contacted if CORBA wants to locate trails on that property.

Don Nelson, President of CORBA was present to answer any questions Council Members had regarding the agreement.

Council Member Henning spoke in support of the CORBA organization and said he is aware of the job they did at Lowes Creek Park. Henning said people have mentioned that it's one of the best in the country.

Motion by Spangler/Henning to approve the Otter Creek Mountain Bike Trail Improvement and Maintenance Agreement with Chippewa Off Road Bikers Association. Golat noted that when the final trail layout is completed, he will bring it back to the Council for their review and will also confirm with the other affected property owners. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(2) Consider Field Use Agreement between the City of Altoona and Altoona Youth Softball and Baseball.

Park & Rec Coordinator Goldbach explained the contract between the City and Altoona Youth Softball and Baseball (AYSB) for priority field use during the 2009 softball and baseball season. Goldbach said AYSB expects the same level of field use as last year. Staff has completed an audit of costs related to the use of the fields by AYSB last year and the total direct cost to the City was \$6,620.20; this represents a small decrease from previous years. Goldbach said if AYSB rents the fields at the same rate as last year, \$3,500 in cash, \$750 in kind labor and materials, and \$150,000 per tournament plus \$10.00 per team, the City would fall approximately \$1,720.20 short of covering its direct costs. Therefore, staff recommended the contract be amended to increase the per team charge from \$10.00 to \$20.00. Goldbach said by reducing costs and assessing \$10 extra, this will make us closer to breaking even. Staff also recommended the dedicated restroom cleaners be replaced by maintenance staff. Golat said the Parks and Recreation Committee has reviewed the agreement and recommended approval.

Motion by Pratt/Weber to approve the field use agreement between the City and the Altoona Youth Softball and Baseball Association for the 2009 Season. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(3) Consider concession contract between Altoona Youth Softball and Baseball and the City of Altoona.

City Administrator Golat explained the contract between the City of Altoona and Altoona Youth Softball and Baseball. Golat said the contract allows AYSB to run the concessions at the 10th Street Park in consideration of payment to the City. The payment to be provided by AYSB is in the amount of \$150.00. All the terms of the contract are consistent with the 2008 contract with the exception that the Association will not be running the concessions at Cinder City Park as in the past. Golat said with this significant change he would like more discussion from the Council. Golat commented that the Association said they lost money last year on concessions, in addition to a theft in saleable goods. Golat said the Association would like to turn it around this year with 10th Street and also run their tournaments on weekends at Cinder City Park utilizing/renting the Lions Club cooler. Golat said Park & Rec Coordinator Goldbach has been working hard to determine the feasibility of the City running the concessions Monday thru Thursday. Golat said he also met with Ed Bohn today to get his views on concessions. Park & Rec Coordinator Goldbach explained the costs involved with the 10th street concession.

Motion by Spangler/Hanks to approve the 10th Street concession agreement with Altoona Youth Softball and Baseball for the 2009 season. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(4) Discuss/consider Agreement between the City of Altoona and the Altoona Wildcats Baseball Team.

Park & Rec Coordinator Goldbach explained that the Altoona Wildcats are an Altoona youth baseball team that does not play in the Altoona Youth Baseball and Softball league. The team is a "tournament" or "traveling" team that was formed upon the initiative of some of the players' parents. The Agreement between the Wildcats and the City specifies that the Wildcats may use the City fields for practices and games. The total number of estimated hours of use is 98 between March 23 and August 31, 2009. In consideration of field use the Wildcats organization will pay \$441.00 plus tournament costs of \$150.00 and \$20.00 per team for each tournament the Wildcats sponsors. This fee is consistent with the fees imposed for the AYSB teams based on estimated field use by each AYSB team. The Parks and Recreation Committee has reviewed the agreement and recommended approval.

Motion by Spangler/Henning to approve the contract between the City of Altoona and the Wildcats Traveling Baseball Team for use of the City fields for the 2009 season. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(5) Consider Agreement between the City of Altoona and the Santo's Altoona Traveling Baseball Team.

Park & Rec Coordinator Goldbach explained that the Santo's Traveling Baseball Team (the Team) is another Altoona youth baseball team that does not play in the Altoona Youth Baseball and Softball league. They would also like priority scheduling rights for the playing fields scheduled by the City for 2009. The Agreement specifies that the Team may use the City fields for practices and games. The total number of estimated hours of use is 60. In consideration of field use the Team will pay \$270.00 plus tournament costs of \$150.00 and \$20.00 per team for each tournament the team sponsors. This fee is consistent with the fees imposed for the AYSB teams and the Wildcats team based on estimated field use. The Parks and Recreation Committee have reviewed this agreement and recommended approval.

Motion by Spangler/Hanks to approve the contract between the City of Altoona and the Santo's Traveling Baseball Team for use of City-managed fields for the 2009 season. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(6) Consider approval of Ordinance 3B-09 amending Section 2.57.020 C. of the Altoona Municipal Code increasing the membership of the Parks and Recreation Committee from three citizen residents to five citizen residents.

Park & Rec Coordinator Goldbach explained that the Parks & Recreation Committee currently consists of the following 5 members: one Council representative, one member of the Altoona School Board, and three city residents. On several occasions Park and Recreation Coordinator Goldbach has had to cancel or reschedule meetings due to a lack of quorum. Therefore, staff recommended the number of Committee members be increased from five to seven. Specifically the number of city resident representatives be increased from three to five. The Parks and Recreation Committee have reviewed the change in membership and recommended approval.

Motion by Weber/Hanks to approve Ordinance 3B-09 amending Section 2.57.020 C. of the Altoona Municipal Code increasing the number of City residents to five making the Parks and Recreation Committee a total of seven members. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(7) Consider Resolution 3A-09 supporting the League of Wisconsin Municipalities' position of opposing proposed changes to Prevailing Wage Law.

City Administrator Golat explained Resolution 3A-09 supporting the League of Wisconsin Municipalities' position of opposing proposed changes to the Prevailing Wage Law. Golat said the Governor included the proposed changes in his budget bill. The Governor recommended lowering the threshold for public works projects subject to the prevailing wage rate from \$234,000 for multiple trade projects to \$2,000. The budget bill also eliminates the current multiplier, which increases the threshold annually. Golat said if this becomes law, many tools communities use to encourage development within a TIF district would make a private development within the TIF district subject to the prevailing wage law. This change makes TIF a much less effective tool for communities, and could have a direct impact on the River Prairie project.

Motion by Henning/Stuber to approve Resolution 3A-09 supporting the League of Wisconsin Municipalities' position of opposing proposed changes to Prevailing Wage Law. Hanks opposed. **Motion carried 5-1.**

(VIII)(8) Consider convening in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1)(g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. A. Schmidt Property Negotiations.

Motion by Weber/Spangler to convene in closed session at 6:45 p.m. pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1)(g) A. Schmidt Property negotiations. Roll call vote, 6-ayes, Weber, Spangler, Henning, Pratt, Hanks, Stuber, 0-nays. **Motion carried 6-0.**

(VIII)(9) Motion to reconvene to open session for the purpose of discussion on the matters entertained in closed session.

Motion by Spangler/Henning to reconvene to open session at 7:15 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Spangler/Henning to direct City Staff to continue negotiations with the Schmidt Property. **Motion carried.**

(IX) Miscellaneous Business and Communications

Stuber asked about the outcome of the compensation study. City Administrator Golat briefly commented on the results of the compensation study.

(X) Adjournment.

Motion by Hanks/Spangler to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by

Cindy Bauer,
City Clerk