

CITY OF ALTOONA, WI
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 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 Administrator Mike Golat, Finance Director Jon Pfeilsticker, Parks & Rec Debra Goldbach, and City Clerk Cindy Bauer. Police Chief and Fire Chief Todd Chaney arrived at 6:20 p.m.

(IV) Citizen Participation Period

Council Member Red Hanks commented that the Altoona High School, Altoona Middle School and Pedersen Elementary will each receive a \$250 award for efforts in Wisconsin's Movin' and Munchin' Schools initiative. The award recognizes exemplary efforts and commitment to the health and well-being of students by keeping students physically fit.

Council Member Hanks and Mayor Meyer both commented that they enjoyed the train ride on July 4th compliments of Union Pacific. Hanks commented that it was a unique trip and that the main purpose was to teach railroad safety.

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

(V) Approval of minutes.

Motion by Henning/Hanks to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2009 Regular Council Meeting. **Motion carried.**

(VI) City Officers/Department Heads Report

City Administrator Golat commented that the Bartlett Avenue project is in full swing and on schedule.

Golat mentioned that the Citizens Alliance for Strong Communities will be having a community forum on August 4. (Place to be determined). Representatives from the County, City of EC, City of Altoona, and the school districts will be invited to attend. The purpose of the forum is to discuss what happened to the state budget and the impact for next year's budget.

Golat commented on the latest news article regarding Eau Claire County facilities possibly moving to Altoona.

Park & Rec Coordinator Debra Goldbach updated the council on the rails program. Goldbach said Session 1 just ended with approximately 191 registrants. Session 2 started this week with over 200 registrants.

City Committee Reports – none.

(VII) Unfinished Business – none.

(VIII) New Business

(1) Discuss/consider special exemption for the Chippewa Valley Homebuilders Association to serve fermented malt beverages at Tenth Street Park (designated consumption area) during their picnic on August 12, 2009 and waiving the pavilion rental fee.

Park & Rec Coordinator Debra Goldbach explained that the Chippewa Valley Homebuilders

Association (CVHBA) donated their time and materials for a new pavilion at Highland Park. The CVHBA have scheduled a ribbon cutting ceremony at Highland Park on August 12, 2009 and Council Members and City Staff are invited to attend. Immediately following the ceremony, they will be having a picnic for their members at Tenth Street Park and they would like to serve fermented malt beverages to their members during the picnic. Karen Rockwell of the CVHBA was present to ask the Council for a one-time exemption to the alcohol prohibition and to waive the \$60 pavilion rental fee.

Motion by Spangler/Weber to approve a special exemption for the Chippewa Valley Homebuilders Association to serve fermented malt beverages at Tenth Street Park within a designated consumption area during their picnic on August 12, 2009 and to also waive the pavilion rental fee. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(2) Discuss/consider Ordinance 7A-09 amending Section 10.21.030 B. and Section 10.21.040 A. of the Altoona Municipal Code increasing the maximum width for double-width driveways from 22 feet to 24 feet and allowing unimproved parking areas within setbacks under certain circumstances.

City Administrator Golat explained that Ordinance 7A-09, amends Section 10.21.030 B and Section 10.21.040 A of the Altoona Municipal Code increasing the maximum width for double-width driveways from 22 feet to 24 feet and allowing unimproved parking areas within setbacks under certain circumstances. As you may recall, in 2008 the City Council approved Chapter 10.21 of Altoona Municipal Code to establish standards for parking within front and side yard setbacks. Specifically, the ordinance established standards for maximum driveway widths based on the number of parking spaces being accessed and further stipulated all driveway areas must be paved with an improved surface. The ordinance also prohibited parking in the front yard off of a driveway.

City Administrator Golat further explained that Ordinance 7A-09 modifies Chapter 10.21. This revision is based on feedback from builders who claim 24 feet is the standard in the industry for double width driveways and 24 feet is also the width requested by their customers. The other proposed revision allows those with existing unpaved driveways to maintain them as unpaved under certain circumstances. Golat said the paving exception is requested to allow those existing, usually older homes, with single width driveways and a maximum of one parking spot, to maintain unpaved driveways as long as no more than three vehicles are parked on the property and the driveway is well maintained with gravel. This modification to the ordinance is being requested in consideration of the financial burden that requiring paving could place on owners of older, lower value homes, usually on small lots.

Council Member Henning mentioned that he went on a tour with Building Inspector Velin and identified some of the problem areas. He felt Velin did a nice job amending the ordinance.

Council Member Pratt commented on existing eyesore facilities that should be addressed at some point. Pratt felt we should keep the ordinance as is.

Council Member Spangler commented that he doesn't like having an ordinance in the code book that the City doesn't enforce.

Motion by Henning/Hanks to approve Ordinance 7A-09 amending Section 10.21.030 B and Section 10.21.040 A of the Altoona Municipal Code increasing the maximum width for double-width driveways from 22 feet to 24 feet and allowing unimproved parking areas within setbacks under certain circumstances. Spangler asked if there could be a sunset provision giving property owners a certain timeline or when the property changes ownership. City Administrator Golat said we can always amend the ordinance again at a later date. Pratt against. **Motion carried 5-1.**

(VIII)(3) Discuss/consider Resolution 7A-09 amending the 2009 Capital Projects Fund budget, to fund replacement of two weather sirens in Altoona.

Police Chief Chaney explained that the City of Altoona's weather warning system consists of three sirens located in different areas of the City. One of the sirens was replaced in 2007 due to failure. Two older sirens remain, and one has recently failed and is currently not operating. Due to the age of the siren, parts are no longer available. Therefore, in order to continue to provide the citizens of Altoona with reliable notice in advance of dangerous weather conditions, the two older sirens are in need of replacement as soon as possible.

Resolution 7A-09 would allocate \$36,000 from the Property Tax Stabilization Fund to pay for replacement of two weather warning sirens and their installation.

Finance Director Pfeilsticker reviewed the City's financials to determine how to pay for the sirens and is recommending \$36,000 be transferred from the property tax stabilization fund to pay for the two sirens. The current balance in the property tax stabilization fund is \$276,000. This would allocate \$18,000 to replace each siren.

Motion by Spangler/Weber to approve Resolution 7A-09, amending the 2009 Capital Projects Fund budget, to fund replacement of two weather sirens in Altoona. Roll call vote, 6-ayes, Spangler, Weber, Pratt, Henning, Stuber, Hanks, 0-nays. **Motion carried 6-0.**

(VIII)(4) Consider approval of Bartender Licenses.

The City has received renewal and new bartender license applications for the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 from the following applicants: Mathias Shefchik, Rebecca Drum, Victoria Hagen, Gordon Kelley, Don Kjelstad, Thomas Nimmo, Jerald Olson, Robert Reidt, Jeffrey Knusalla, Amanda Lahner, Clayton Wallin, Stephanie Rislser, and Jerry Gordon. (Approved by the Altoona Police Department).

Motion by Spangler/Hanks to approve the renewal and new bartender licenses submitted by the applicants as listed above. **Motion carried.**

(IX) Miscellaneous Business and Communications

Golat commented that Eau Claire County is planning on doing an overlay on Spooner Avenue next year. The County will be responsible for 55% of the total project and the City will be responsible for 45% of the total project. Golat said the County will draft an agreement and present it to the City of Altoona.

(X) Adjournment.

Motion by Spangler/Henning to adjourn at 6:37 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by

Cindy Bauer,
City Clerk