

**CITY OF ALTOONA, WI**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 10, 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, William Spangler, Ray Henning, Dale Stuber, Colleen Weber, and Red Hanks were present. Also present: Mayor Tom Meyer, City Administrator Mike Golat, Finance Director Jon Pfeilsticker, City Engineer David Walter, and City Clerk Cindy Bauer.

**(IV) Citizen Participation Period**

Gary Puljas, 1304 Garfield Avenue, commented on the traffic accidents at the uncontrolled intersections throughout the City that have been happening the last few years. Puljas asked if more stop signs could be installed to better control the intersections.

Red Hanks representing the Altoona School Board expressed appreciation for the good job of the Bartlett Avenue Street Project.

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

**(V) Approval of minutes.**

Motion by Hanks/Henning to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2009 Regular Council Meeting. **Motion carried.**

**(VI) City Officers/Department Heads Report**

City Administrator Golat responded to Puljas' comment regarding the installation of more stop signs. Golat said a traffic study in the addition was done and at some point will be presented to the City. Golat said that basically you would put in a type of figuration called a weave for those types of neighborhoods. Golat said he would need direction from the Council if they chose to direct the City Engineer to look at the possibility of installing more stop signs. Council Member Henning suggested getting input from the Police Department where the majority of accidents have been occurring and the time frame of these accidents. Council Member Weber said they will be doing a safe routes program around the Bartlett Avenue/school area and feels with the cooperation of the School District and City this might help alleviate some of the problems.

City Administrator Golat mentioned that the City received plans from the Hockey Association regarding upcoming improvements in the Hobbs Sports Center. Golat said they will be putting in new permanent bleachers and a storage area for the High School in particular. Michael Vaughan was present to further explain the proposed plans. He said it will be a locker room/office (Two-story stacking room system, the lower level being the locker room for the high school and the upper level being an office for coaches and a conference room). Golat updated the council on the status of the hockey association possibly purchasing the Hobbs Sports Center. Golat also mentioned that Brad Windeshausen, owner of Whiskey Dicks is interested in renting and promoting the Hobbs Center in the summer for some of his events that he currently holds at his establishment.

Golat commented that the City recently received a complaint regarding the site plan of the Kwik Trip, particularly the location of the garbage shed building. The City also received a letter from the State awarding the City of Altoona a grant for the Stormwater pond project. Golat mentioned that the County is preparing a resolution urging the City of Eau Claire and the City of Altoona to look cooperatively at the River Prairie Site for a Municipal Justice Center.

**City Committee Reports** – none.

**(VII) Unfinished Business** – none.

**(VIII) New Business**

**(1) Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as is practical authorizing street and utility improvements and levying special assessments against benefited property for the 2009 Second Street East Street and Utility Improvement Project (Bartlett Avenue to the south dead end).**

Mayor Meyer opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. City Administrator Golat said the purpose of the public hearing is to consider input from interested parties and affected property owners regarding the Second Street East Street and Utility Improvement Project from Bartlett Avenue to the south dead end. The public hearing has been properly noticed. All affected property owners have been notified and have been provided a copy of their estimated assessment. The scope of the project includes replacement of water mains and services, sanitary sewer mains and services, curb and gutter, asphaltic pavement, manholes, inlets and other utility appurtenances and adjustments and lawn restoration. City Administrator Golat said the Final Resolution authorizing street and utility improvements, levying special assessments against benefited property and awarding the bid on the project will be on the September 24, 2009 Council Agenda.

City Engineer Walter said the assessment is based upon an estimate.

Matt Hennick, 1128 Daniels Avenue commented that he is thinking about moving out of the city in the next few months and asked how that would affect the payment of assessments. Finance Director Pfeilsticker explained the payment process.

Tina Dunn, 736 2<sup>nd</sup> Street East would like to know the date of construction. City Engineer Walter said the bids will be opened on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and Council approval on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The project could start as early as the following week and is expected to take approximately 5-6 weeks.

Motion by Spangler/Weber to close the public hearing at 6:19 p.m. **Motion carried.**

**(VIII)(2) Consider writing off uncollectible personal property taxes receivable from businesses no longer operating.**

Finance Director Pfeilsticker explained the current listing of delinquent personal property taxes due to the City of Altoona from City businesses. Although the total sum due is \$3,578.41 (as shown in detail on attached Exhibit "B"), the City of Altoona's portion of the receivables is \$1,003.18 (as shown on attached Exhibit "A"). Since these businesses are no longer in operation, and because Chapter 74.55(1), Wisconsin Statutes does not allow the City to seek recovery through civil action after 6 years, staff recommends the 1999-2003 delinquent personal property taxes receivable, in the amount of \$579.31, be written off the City's records of receivables.

Motion by Spangler/Hanks to authorize staff to write off as uncollectible the City's share of delinquent personal property taxes receivable for tax years 1999 through 2003, in the total amount of \$579.31. **Motion carried.**

**(VIII)(3) Consider Resolution 9A-09 amending 2009 General Fund budget to pay for engine repairs to Fire Vehicle #2.**

Finance Director Pfeilsticker explained that the engine of Fire Vehicle #2 recently incurred serious damage. The price to repair the engine approved by City Council at the August 27, 2009 meeting was \$17,060.00. Through re-allocation of other line items within the Fire Suppression budget, \$7,000.00 of the needed funds can be covered, leaving \$10,060.00 needing to be allocated from the General Fund's undesignated reserves. Resolution 9A-09 reallocates the needed \$10,060.00 from the General Fund undesignated reserves to Fire Suppression Equipment Maintenance.

Motion by Weber/Hanks to approve Resolution 9A-09 amending 2009 General Fund budget by \$10,060 to pay for engine repairs to Fire Vehicle #2. Roll call vote, 6-ayes, Weber, Hanks, Henning, Spangler, Pratt, Stuber, 0-nays. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**(VIII)(4) Consider Ordinance 9A-09, amending Chapter 9.64 of the Altoona Municipal Code, to add Section 9.64.015, Limited Bow Hunting Allowed on City Property, to allow designated bow hunting areas on city owned property for individuals that qualify for State of Wisconsin Class A, Long Term Class B or Class C disabled hunter permits.**

City Administrator Golat explained Ordinance 9A-09, amending Chapter 9.64 of the Altoona Municipal Code to add Section 9.64.015, Limited Bow Hunting Allowed on City Property, to allow designated bow hunting areas on city-owned property for individuals that qualify for State of Wisconsin Class A, Long Term Class B or Class C disabled hunter permits. Golat said there are administrative procedures for issuing permits drafted by staff along with a map designating the city property open for hunting. Golat said this item is being placed on the agenda following a request by a disabled hunter at the August 27, 2009 meeting to open city land to bow hunting for disabled hunters. The City has conducted a similar hunt in the past and it was a success. Golat said staff is suggesting a maximum of six permits be issued.

Motion by Spangler/Henning to approve Ordinance 9A-09, amending Chapter 9.64 of the Altoona Municipal Code, to add Section 9.64.015, Limited Bow Hunting Allowed on City Property, to allow designated bow hunting areas on city owned property for individuals that qualify for State of Wisconsin Class A, Long Term Class B or Class C disabled hunter permits. **Motion carried.**

**(VIII)(5) Consider Ordinance 9B-09 repealing and replacing Chapter 10.21 of the Altoona Municipal Code “Residential Yard Parking”.**

City Administrator Golat explained Ordinance 9B-09 repealing and replacing Chapter 10.21 of Altoona Municipal Code “Residential Yard “Parking”. The effect of the changes will be to add a sunset clause to the residential driveway paving requirement to allow property owners time to bring noncompliant driveway and parking areas into compliance with the ordinance. The revisions also allow the City Engineer to grant some latitude to the maximum impervious surface area provision. This amendment is for lots with challenging topography wherein it is not feasible to direct storm water to the rear of the property. Golat noted that this code was amended at the July 9, regular council meeting to allow unpaved residential driveways if the driveway is single-width, and, provided further, no more than three vehicles outside the garage may be parked on the property. However, the ordinance still requires any driveways wider than allowed (single width) to be paved. Golat said the attached modifications to Chapter 10.21 provide for a five year sunset provision for bringing nonconforming driveways into compliance.

Motion by Spangler/Pratt to approve Ordinance 9B-09 repealing and replacing Chapter 10.21 of the Altoona Municipal Code, adding a sunset clause to stipulate all nonconforming residential driveways shall be paved or otherwise restored within 5 years from the date of passage of the ordinance and further granting the City Engineer authority to exercise discretion in applying the impervious surface limitation. Hanks against. **Motion carried.**

**(VIII)(6) Consider approval of special charge for recycling for the 2009 Property Tax Bill.**

City Administrator Golat explained that as part of the City’s recycling agreement with Eau Claire County the City is required to pay its equitable share of the County’s recycling and clean sweep programs. This cost is covered by adding a charge to the annual tax bill of each property owner that owns single-family to four-plex units; the charge requires review and approval by the City Council each year. Golat said this has been the case for the past several years, the charge necessary for 2009 to cover costs, as determined by the County, will again be \$8.00 per residential dwelling unit. Vacant land, commercial property, and residential property with five or more dwelling units will continue to be exempt from the recycling charge. The money generated provides a match to State grant funds received by the County to administer the recycling program.

Motion by Henning/Hanks to approve the annual recycling charge of \$8.00 per residential dwelling unit for those properties with 1 to 4 dwelling units. **Motion carried.**

**(VIII)(7) Consider approval of bartender licenses to Jinnea Paulson and Jack McFadden. (Approved by the Altoona Police Department).**

The City has received bartender license applications from Jinnea Paulson and Jack McFadden. Police Chief Chaney has reviewed and recommends approval of the bartender applications.

Motion by Spangler/Weber to approve the bartender licenses as submitted by Jinnea Paulson and Jack McFadden. **Motion carried.**

**(IX) Miscellaneous Business and Communications**

Mayor Meyer commented that the City received a \$5,000 grant from the Office of Justice Assistance for surveillance equipment for the Police Department.

Clerk Bauer reminded Council Members that Board of Review will be taking place on Monday, September 14, 2009 from 4-6 p.m.

**(X) Adjournment.**

Motion by Spangler/Weber to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by  
Cindy Bauer, City Clerk