

CITY OF ALTOONA, WI
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 24, 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, Colleen Weber, and Red Hanks were present. Also present: Mayor Tom Meyer, City Administrator Mike Golat, City Engineer David Walter, and City Clerk Cindy Bauer.

Absent: Council Member William Spangler

(IV) Citizen Participation Period

Maurice McIntyre and Andrea Jones, representing Family Ties, talked briefly about costs involved for community activities they sponsor. They would like a yearly license or one fee for the year versus per event. They commented that the Recreation Center at 10th Street Park/Bartlett Avenue is hardly used. They are interested in using the Recreation Center for community activities. Family Ties would like to partner with the City for a teen center.

City Administrator Golat agreed with McIntyre that we do have a facility that could be utilized as a community/teen center.

Council Member Weber suggested drafting a contract with Family Ties similar to the other groups such as AYSB. Council Member Pratt said Family Ties are on the next Park and Recreation Committee meeting.

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

(V) Approval of minutes.

Motion by Hanks/Henning to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2009 Regular Council Meeting. **Motion carried.**

(VI) City Officers/Department Heads Report

Library Director Mary Vernau distributed information regarding the Library System Services/Benefits. Vernau will coordinate a joint meeting date with the Library Board and Council.

City Administrator Golat commented that the arbitrator found in the city's favor regarding the union contracts.

City Committee Reports – none.

(VII) Unfinished Business – none.

(VIII) New Business

(1) Consider approval of Resolution 9B-09 authorizing street and utility improvements, levying special assessments against benefited property and awarding the project bid for 2009 Second Street East Street and Utility Improvement Project (Bartlett Avenue to the south dead end).

City Administrator Golat explained that Wisconsin Statute 66.073(8)(c) requires the City Council to pass a Resolution approving the plans and specifications for a public project wherein all or part of the project will be assessed against benefited property owners. Golat said there was a public hearing held on the preliminary assessment roll before Council on September 10, 2009.

City Engineer Walter explained that the bids for the project were opened on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. Walter said the results were very good; bids were lower than what he estimated. The City received seven bids; the lowest bidder was from McCabe Construction, Inc. for \$138,340.64. City Engineer Walter recommended we go with McCabe Construction at a cost of \$138,340.64. Walter distributed the updated assessment roll which reflects the bid amount of \$138,340.64.

Motion by Weber/Henning to approve Resolution 9B-09 authorizing street and utility improvements, levying special assessments against benefited property and awarding the project bid for 2009 Second Street East Street and Utility Improvement Project to McCabe Construction, Inc. for \$138,340.64. Roll call vote, 5-ayes, Weber, Henning, Pratt, Stuber, Hanks, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

(VIII)(2) Consider awarding bid for South Willson Storm Pond Project.

City Administrator Golat explained that the City was authorized up to 1.9 million for the South Willson Storm Pond Project. This project is being funded through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Clean Water Loan Fund. Funding will be 50% loan to be paid back over 20 years and 50% forgivable loan (a grant). In light of the re-scoping of the project and not acquiring land, the cost of the project was reduced; the City received very favorable bids. City Engineer Walter explained that the South Willson Storm Pond Project bids were opened Wednesday, September 23, 2009. The City received four bids; lowest bidder was Haas Sons, Inc for \$614,713.94. Walter explained the project and the difference between the base bid amount and bid alternate #1. The intent of the project is to bring the City into compliance with the DNR requirement that the City remove 20% of its total suspended solids from its storm water discharged to area water bodies. Modeling shows this project will allow the City to surpass a 30% removal rate. Walter recommended awarding the base bid with the option of amending the contract and reserving the ability to accept the bid alternate if it's in the best interest of the city.

Motion by Weber/Pratt to award the bid for the South Willson Storm Pond Project to Haas Sons, Inc. and retain the option for the alternate site grading if it is found to be in favor of the City. Roll call vote, 5-ayes, Weber, Pratt, Hanks, Henning, Stuber, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

(VIII)(3) ITEM 3 - Discuss/consider approach on City engineering services. (Requested by Mayor Meyer).

City Administrator Golat explained that last year the City hired an in-house engineer to act as the City Engineer. This action was taken to save money on outside engineering services. Golat distributed a spreadsheet summarizing money spent on outside engineering for the period of 2003 – 2008 and year to date in 2009. Golat said the average spent on outside engineering services in 2003 – 2008 was \$369,103. And, year to date engineering services for outside engineering services in 2009 is \$51,115. The year-to-date engineering costs include costs for projects that were in progress prior to hiring Dave Walter. Those projects include Well # 7 and the East Loop Trail.

Council Members Pratt and Henning felt that the City should go out on a yearly bid for those types of services.

City Administrator Golat gave his opinion. Golat said as we move into the future, the City will still have a need for outside engineering services in two realms. First, the City will continue to need some support on an as-needed basis for those issues that come up which the City does not have the expertise or resources to address. Second the City will sometimes be required to have an outside engineering firm design and manage projects if the City's engineer is over loaded or lacks the expertise to design the project.

City Engineer Walter gave some background history when he was a consultant. He expressed his concern of the possible turnovers on a yearly basis.

Stuber suggested any engineering costs over \$10,000-\$15,000 go out for bids.

Motion by Stuber/Henning to set a limit of \$10,000 for engineer costs for going out for bids and retain Short Elliott Hendrickson for the smaller projects. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(4) ITEM 4 - Discuss/consider Ordinance 9C-09 amending Section 10.20.050 of the Altoona Municipal Code, "Parking prohibited during school hours", adding subsection J., the west side of Fourth Street West from Bartlett Avenue to 150 feet north toward Garfield Avenue.

City Engineer Walter explained that the Altoona School District has requested the above parking prohibition to aid movement of school buses during school hours. Buses currently travel south on 4th Street West to make a left turn onto Bartlett Avenue in order to queue in the bus loading area. In the past, cars have been parked on both sides of 4th Street West, which has narrowed the street to the point where buses have difficulty making the turn. Posting the west side of 4th Street West would provide additional space for the buses to turn. The School District has contacted the property owner on the northwest corner of the intersection, and he is in favor of the parking prohibition.

Henning suggesting that for the curbs that stick out, to paint them yellow for better visibility.

Motion by Weber/Hanks to approve Ordinance 9C-09 amending Section 10.20.050 of the Altoona Municipal Code, "Parking prohibited during school hours", adding subsection J., the west side of Fourth Street West from Bartlett Avenue to 150 feet north toward Garfield Avenue. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(5) Consider approval of bartender licenses to Scott Morgen, David Hoenigmann, and Roberta McCormick. (Approved by the Altoona Police Department).

The City has received bartender license applications from Scott Morgen, David Hoenigmann and Roberta McCormick that, if approved, would expire June 30, 2010. Police Chief Chaney has reviewed and recommends approval of the bartender applications.

Motion by Weber/Hanks to approve the bartender licenses as submitted above. **Motion carried.**

(IX) Miscellaneous Business and Communications

Mayor Meyer recognized September 28, 2009 as Family Day – A Day to eat dinner with your children in the City of Altoona.

Council Member Stuber asked the status of the court issue with the City of Eau Claire. Council Member Henning said the resolution didn't get in at the last county meeting. Henning said the resolution might be forthcoming at the next county board meeting.

(X) Adjournment.

Motion by Pratt/Hanks to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by
Cindy Bauer, City Clerk