

CITY OF ALTOONA, WI
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 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 William Spangler, Ray Henning, Dale Stuber, Colleen Weber, and Red Hanks were present. Also present: Mayor Tom Meyer, City Attorney John Behling, City Administrator Mike Golat, Finance Director Jon Pfeilsticker, Recreation Supervisor Debra Goldbach, and City Clerk Cindy Bauer.

Absent: Council Member Brendan Pratt.

(IV) Citizen Participation Period

Joe Hayden, 603 9th Street West, addressed a couple of issues: 1) The bathrooms at Hobbs. He said that in the past during Altoona Softball tournaments the bathrooms in Hobbs have been closed, thus leaving a long line at the other bathrooms near the concession stand. Hayden suggested that if the bathrooms are locked in the Hobbs Center, they should have extra port-a-potties outside. 2) The electrical outlets/posts within 10th Street Park are sticking up out of the ground. Hayden is concerned with safety. City Administrator Golat referred to the junction boxes/electrical system that the Lion's Club originally put in the park due in part to lights at Christmas.

Cheryl Meyer, 1011 Garfield Avenue, is concerned about the new manufactured home being put in on the corner of 4th Street East and Bartlett Avenue. She questioned the setbacks and the storm water runoff. Meyer said they built up the property around 2 feet above the ground level and the run off will potentially go in 1003 Garfield Avenue. City Administrator Golat responded that he did go out and look at the site. He will follow up with the setbacks.

Geraldine Baehr, 1003 Garfield Avenue, voiced her complaint and commented that the property next to her was flat land for many years, and with the new building, she felt that the water run off will be coming into her back yard.

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

(V) Approval of minutes.

Motion by Weber/Hanks to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2009 Regular Council Meeting. **Motion carried.**

(VI) City Officers/Department Heads Report - none

City Committee Reports – none.

(VII) Unfinished Business

(1) Consider disposal of fill in the southeast quadrant of River Prairie. (Tabled at the 11/12/09 Council Meeting).

City Administrator Golat explained that this item was tabled at the November 12, 2009 Council Meeting. The first order of business is a motion to remove from the table this agenda item to discuss/consider disposal of fill in the southeast quadrant of River Prairie.

Motion by Spangler/Henning to remove from the table discuss/consider disposal of fill in the southeast quadrant of River Prairie. **Motion carried.**

City Administrator Golat explained that at the November 12th meeting, Council directed staff to determine the cost of removing the fill and to also try to determine if the fill had any value at this time. Golat

said the City recently went out to bid for the South Willson Storm Water Pond construction. The bid included a lump sum bid item to remove 80,000 yards of fill from the site to be disposed of at a location to be determined by the contractor. The City received four bids for the project; the bids ranged in price from \$3.95 per yard to \$6.00 per yard. The average cost per square yard for removal is \$4.88 per yard. The estimate for removal of the fill in southeast quadrant is $\$4.86 \times 77,275$ cubic yards = \$377,102. Golat mentioned that Darrel Haas informed him that he reduced his bid by \$1.00 per yard hoping to find a place to sell a portion of the fill. Haas was not the successful bidder. City Administrator Golat said the City faces significant costs to prepare the southeast quadrant for development. If the site preparation is not completed by time of sale, the City will likely realize a lower price for the property. Therefore, Golat believed it is in the City's best interest to make the material available for disposal. Golat recommended getting the permitting process and grading plan established.

Motion by Henning/Hanks to approve the removal of fill if we have the opportunity to remove the fill at no cost to the City. Weber against. **Motion carried.**

(VIII) New Business

(1) Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as is practical) regarding the possible sale of the Hobbs Sports Center to the Altoona Youth Hockey Association.

Mayor Meyer opened the public hearing at 6:25 p.m. This item was requested by Council Person Henning and approved by Council at the November 12th Council meeting. The hearing has been noticed by posting posters at businesses in Altoona, by issuing a press release and by placing an ad in Sunday's paper.

Joe Hayden, 603 9th Street West, asked who was more interested in ownership, the City or Hockey Association? If the City was to sell the building, it should be open to the public. Hayden referred to a survey done in 1998 or 1999 by the Park & Recreation Board asking the public if the City should sell; roughly 85% said no at that time. Hayden felt that before this transaction occurs, there should be a list of all improvements, estimated costs of improvements and these amounts should be pre-approved by a lending institution.

Brian Henning, 904 Bartlett Avenue, asked how does the City sell the building surrounded by other land the City still owns. Henning commented that the Hockey Association didn't do everything they were supposed to do with their current lease. He said the power in the park comes through the Hobbs building; who will pay for the re-metering, who will pay for the lights for the softball fields, and will the Hockey Association pay taxes on the building if they buy it?

Gary Brenizer, 1375 Red Pine Drive, said that as past president of the Altoona Youth Hockey Association, they have looked at all possibilities regarding leasing or ownership. Brenizer gave some past history regarding their real intent and said there has been misinformation of their real intent. The continued focus is to improve an asset and provide a place of recreation for youth. Brenizer said at this time the Hockey Association have just a letter of intent; there are no details provided by either party.

Mike Magur, 1127 10th Street West, has been with the Hockey Association for about 15 years. Magur was also on the Parks & Recreation Committee for 8 years. Magur gave background history of the improvements and personnel at the Hobbs and the Hockey Association's role.

Melissa Richard, 3740 Mayer Road, Eau Claire, has been involved with the Hockey Association for 4 years. Richard has met wonderful people in the Hockey Association. She said the Association has replaced all the lights and updated the locker room in the Hobbs building. Richard is in support of the City selling the rink to the Hockey Association.

Ashley Krenz, 2411 Garfield Avenue, is a mom of three hockey players. She said her family is committed to the next 15 years at the rink; they are the future of the Hockey Association. Krenz felt it would be a great benefit to the city if they sell it to the Hockey Association.

Don & Kristen Dexter, 7410 Lakeview Drive, Eau Claire, expressed support of the Hockey Association and again reiterated the improvements made so far to the Hobbs.

Mike Vaughan, 2103 Moonlight Bay Drive, spoke at the last meeting, but said the following statement: Vaughan strongly believes that by the Altoona Youth Hockey Association owning the Hobbs building, it will make it easier for them to raise the money and support it for the long term.

Ethan Erickson, president of the Youth Hockey Association, appreciated the Council Members that took a tour of the Hobbs earlier this evening. Erickson felt the Hockey Association would be able to make the improvements at a quicker pace if owned by them.

Council Member Stuber commented that the Hockey Association stated that if they own the building it would be easier to borrow the money. Erickson said they have not formally said they would borrow money. They have been doing a good job of fund raising as needed for the specific improvements. To get some of those improvements done, possibly if their fund raising efforts run short, they might have to raise money outside of the fund raising to do those improvements. However, if they own the building and are not under the six years left on the lease to get those improvements done, then they may not have to go out and finance those improvements.

Council Member Spangler commented that the City might consider partnering with the Hockey Association to possibly finance the improvements with an agreement that the Hockey Association pay the debt. Spangler was wondering if the City was overlooking some opportunity to leverage some of the City's borrowing power and the Hockey Association's ability to raise funds and move forward with some of the opportunities in partnering with the Hockey Association.

Motion by Spangler/Henning to close public hearing at 6:57 p.m. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(2) Consider approval to apply for a low interest loan for the reconstruction of Well #1.

City Administrator Golat explained that the City completed preliminary plans and specifications for Well #1 this spring in anticipation of applying for an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant through the Department of Natural Resources Drinking Water Fund Loan Program. Golat said that while the City was not successful in acquiring a grant, the City does qualify for a low interest, 20 year Drinking Water Fund loan. Golat said the scope of the project is to bring Well #1 up to date into compliance with all applicable well construction standards. Currently the well may only be used on an emergency basis as the last resort when the City is not keeping up with our required demand. Golat said that while the City doesn't anticipate needing to use the well much, if at all, with construction of Well #7, the well is a good producer of quality water, and it certainly will be needed as the City continues to grow. Golat does not recommend abandoning the well but felt the decision centers more on the timing of bringing the well into compliance. Golat noted that the terms of the loan are 20 years at 2.668 % interest. Finance Director Pfeilsticker ran an amortization schedule on an anticipated loan of \$475,000, which resulted in annual payments of approximately \$30,000 on average. According to Pfeilsticker's analysis, even with this payment the Water utility would have a positive cash flow of over \$122,000 per year in 2011 and beyond if the discussed 3% rate increase is implemented in 2011.

Motion by Spangler/Henning to direct staff to apply for a low interest loan for the reconstruction of Well #1. Roll call vote, 5-ayes, Spangler, Henning, Stuber, Hanks, Weber, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

(VIII)(3) Consider approval of Resolution 11B-09 amending the 2009 Budget to recognize the City's operation of the Park & Recreation concession stand.

Recreation Supervisor Goldbach explained the concession stands at Cinder City Park.

Finance Director Pfeilsticker explained that Resolution 11B-09 recognizes the City operating the concession stand this summer. After labor and supplies, the concession stand realized \$3,602.84 profit. \$629.50 was used to replace the Recreation Department computer and the remaining \$2,973.34 was added to the recreation supplies line item.

Motion by Spangler/Weber to approve Resolution 11B-09 amending the 2009 Budget to recognize the City's operation of the Park & Recreation concession stand. Roll call vote, 5-ayes Spangler, Weber, Hanks, Henning, Stuber, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

(VIII)(4) Consider approval of Resolution 11C-09 amending the 2009 Budget regarding communication equipment replacement and police vehicle repair.

City Administrator Golat explained that Resolution 11C-09 is to recognize the cost for the new fire department radio repeater located at water tower #2 and repairs to Blaire Robinson's squad required as a result

of the vehicle being rammed during pursuit of a stolen vehicle. Both situations received insurance reimbursement from the City's insurance carrier, less deductible.

Motion by Spangler/Hanks to approve Resolution 11C-09 amending the 2009 Budget regarding communication equipment replacement and police vehicle repair. Roll call vote 5-ayes, Spangler, Hanks, Stuber, Henning, Weber, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

(VIII)(5) Consider agreement for audit services for 2009 with Johnson Block and Company.

City Administrator Golat explained the agreement between the City and Johnson Block and Company to provide the 2009 audit of the City of Altoona's financial records. Golat said Johnson Block has been the City's auditor for the past several years and has provided excellent service.

Pfeilsticker commented that he went out for bids for auditing services. Johnson Block was not the lowest bidder, however due to the relationship with the auditors, Pfeilsticker recommended approval of audit services for 2009 with Johnson Block and Company.

Motion by Henning/Spangler to approve the agreement between the City and Johnson Block and Company for Johnson Block to provide the 2009 audit of the City of Altoona's financial records and Company. Roll call vote 5-0, Henning, Spangler, Weber, Stuber, Hanks, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

(VIII)(6) Consider approval of Bartender Licenses to Nichole Taylor, Lindsey Taylor and Kurt Seidler. (Approved by the Altoona Police Department).

The City has received bartender license applications from Nichole Taylor, Lindsey Taylor and Kurt Seidler. Police Chief Chaney has reviewed and recommends approval of the bartender applications.

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

(IX) Miscellaneous Business and Communication

Mayor Meyer announced that the first day to circulate nomination papers for the April 6, 2010 Spring Election is Tuesday, December 1, 2009, and the final day for filing nominations papers in the Office of the Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2010.

City Administrator Golat told Council Members to look at the road in the new River's Edge Subdivision.

(X) Adjournment.

Motion by Spangler/Henning to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by
Cindy Bauer, City Clerk