

**CITY OF ALTOONA, WI**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 28, 2010**

**(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 Ray Henning, Dale Stuber, Colleen Weber, Red Hanks, and Brendan Pratt were present. Also present: Mayor Tom Meyer, City Attorney John Behling (arrived at 6:30 p.m.) City Administrator Mike Golat, Finance Director Jon Pfeilsticker, City Engineer Dave Walter, and City Clerk Cindy Bauer.

Absent: Council Member William Spangler

**(IV) Citizen Participation Period**

Council Member Hanks mentioned that he, along with City Administrator Golat, attended the Chippewa Valley Rally in Madison this week.

There being no citizen participation, motion by Henning/Hanks to close Citizen Participation Period.

**Motion carried.**

**(V) Approval of minutes.**

Motion by Henning/Weber to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2010 Regular Council Meeting.

**Motion carried.**

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

Police Chief Todd Chaney commented on the performance of the area agencies that were involved with the murder investigation of Theresa Still.

City Administrator Golat commented that the City's website is up and running. Golat said staff is still looking at a full rebuilt of the website and will have a proposal from Sitepro at a future Council Meeting.

Jon Pfeilsticker commented on the general obligation borrowing. Pfeilsticker said that based on the recommendation from Ehlers and Associates, the City went and reviewed the City's bond rating. In the past, the City of Altoona has gone through Moody's. They've given the City a rating of A3 (medium grade rating). This time the City went through Standard and Poors. They gave the City a rating of AA- (high grade rating). Pfeilsticker said that based on the bonds, this saved the City an average of 55 base points in our borrowing.

**City Committee Reports** – none.

**(VII) Unfinished Business** - none

**(VIII) New Business**

**(2) Consider approval of Resolution 1C-10 supporting the work and findings of the County Select Committee to Recommend Preferred Building Sites and committing City of Altoona resources to work collaboratively with Eau Claire County and the City of Eau Claire to determine the location for a County Justice Center that will best serve all Eau Claire County residents well into the future.**

City Administrator Golat explained Resolution 1C-10 supporting the work and findings of the County Select Committee to Recommend Preferred Building Sites and committing City of Altoona resources to work collaboratively with Eau Claire County and the City of Eau Claire to determine the location for a County Justice Center that will best serve all Eau Claire County residents. Golat said the resolution follows last week's presentation to the County Board by the Select Committee to Recommend Preferred Building Sites wherein the Committee recommended Altoona's River Prairie Site as their preferred location for the County Justice Center.

The Select Committee's recommendations were referred to three additional County standing committees for study and consideration. Golat said the resolution supports the findings of the select Committee and reiterates the City of Altoona's availability to participate in determining the best location for a County Justice Center. Golat said there are several issues that would need to be resolved for the Justice Center to ultimately be located in Altoona or elsewhere.

Motion by Henning/Pratt to approve Resolution 1C-10 supporting the work and findings of the County Select Committee to Recommend Preferred Building Sites and Committing City of Altoona Resources to work collaboratively with Eau Claire County and the City of Eau Claire to determine the location for a County Justice Center that will best serve all Eau Claire County residents. Council Member Weber felt this is not the type of development for Altoona. Weber against. **Motion carried 4-1.**

**(VIII)(3) Consider Amendment No. 1 to Owner/Engineer Agreement for Professional Services between Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH) and the City of Altoona for completing design, permitting, bidding and construction inspection services for the Well #1 Project.**

City Administrator Golat explained Amendment No. 1 to Owner/Engineer Agreement for Professional Services between Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH) and the City of Altoona for completing design, permitting, bidding and construction inspection services for the Well #1 Project. Golat said Council approved a contract with SEH to complete the preliminary plans and specifications for this project in spring 2009 when the City applied for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds through the State of Wisconsin Drinking Water Loan Fund. This contract amendment completes the engineering work and further provides construction services. Golat said the City was not successful in acquiring a grant, but as discussed with Council in November, the City qualified for a low interest, 20 year Drinking Water Fund loan, and Council directed staff to proceed with completion of the project. Golat explained that the scope of the project is to bring Well #1 up to date and into compliance with all applicable well construction standards. Currently the well is only permitted to be used on an emergency basis as the last resort when we are not keeping up with our required demand. Golat said the terms of the loan offered are excellent; 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. SEH will complete the design for an amount not to exceed \$25,000 and will complete construction engineering services for \$15,000. Golat mentioned there is a chance that there will be re-appropriation from other states of ARRA money that wasn't used. If that is the case, we will need to get the design done by March in order to put ourselves in that position to get some of that new appropriation.

Motion by Weber/Pratt to approve Amendment No. 1 to Owner/Engineer Agreement for Professional Services between Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH) and the City of Altoona for completing design, permitting, bidding and construction inspection services for the Well #1 Project for an amount not to exceed \$25,000 and complete construction engineering services for \$15,000. Roll call vote, 5-ayes, Weber, Pratt, Henning, Stuber, Hanks, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**(VIII)(4) Consider the feasibility of a cat licensing program in Altoona.**

City Administrator Golat explained that at the December 10, 2009 Council Meeting, Council Member Henning requested that Staff evaluate the feasibility of licensing cats. Staff has completed the analysis, and commented on the following: Eau Claire has a cat licensing program. Based on the American Veterinary Association (AVA) statistics, 32.4% of households own cats and there are 2.2 cats per household. Therefore, there is an estimated 17,643 cats in Eau Claire, but only 915 cat licenses are issued (5%). Since the dog licensing rates for Altoona and Eau Claire are similar, the analysis presumes cat licensing rates would be similar. Therefore, staff estimates in 2010 there would be 101 cat licenses issued which would raise \$1,270 in revenues compared to an estimated \$832 in expenses for a \$438 in estimated net revenue. Golat said staff is seeking direction regarding whether Council supports the licensing of cats. If so, then Staff will need to develop a licensing ordinance for consideration and amend the fee ordinance.

Council Member Hanks felt it was a waste of time discussing this issue and for only \$438 in revenue, it wasn't worth the revenue. Police Chief Chaney commented that from a Police Department perspective, handling cats the way his officers do now is problematic. If the City licenses cats there will be an increase in the amount of cats the officers have to handle. Chaney said officers have already been bitten twice by cats which have required hospitalization. Chaney did not think it was a good idea.

Motion by Weber/Pratt to not consider a cat licensing program in the City of Altoona. **Motion carried.**

**(VIII)(5) Consider approval of bartender license to Heather Burbank.**

The City has received a bartender license application from Heather Burbank which has been approved by the Altoona Police Department.

Motion by Weber/Hanks to approve the bartender license to Heather Burbank. **Motion carried.**

**(VIII)(1) Consider approval of Resolution 1B-10 Authorizing the Issuance and Awarding the Sale of \$3,085,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2010A.**

Sean Lentz from Ehlers & Associates, Inc. was present to explain the General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2010A. Lentz provided to the Council a summary of the bid results. Lentz explained that they received 9 bids; the winning bid was from W. Baird and Company with an interest rate of 1.15% (5 year debt). Lentz said the City was planning to borrow 3,085,000 but because of the lower interest rates due to the AA-rating from Standard and Poors, the borrowing only amounted to \$2,990,000. Lentz explained the existing debt service to the new debt service. Lentz indicated that the savings over the next couple of years will be around \$70,000. Lentz recommended approving the bid with W. Baird and Co.

Motion by Weber/Hanks to approve Resolution 1B-10 Authorizing the Issuance and Awarding the Sale of \$2,990,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2010A. Roll call vote, 5-ayes, Weber, Hanks, Stuber, Henning, Pratt, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**(VIII)(6) Consider convening in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats 19.85 (1)(c). A. City Administrator Performance and Contract Review.**

Motion by Hanks/Weber to convene in closed session at 6:49 p.m. pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1)(c) 1. City Administrator Performance and Contract Review. Roll call vote, 5-ayes, Hanks, Weber, Henning, Stuber, Pratt, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**(VIII)(7 Reconvening in Open Session.**

Motion by Hanks/Henning to reconvene in open session at 8:00 p.m. **Motion carried.**

No action reported out.

**(IX) Miscellaneous Business and Communication**

None.

**(X) Adjournment.**

Motion by Henning/Hanks to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by  
Cindy Bauer, City Clerk