

**CITY OF ALTOONA, WI**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 14, 2016**

**(I) Call Meeting to Order**

Mayor Brendan Pratt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. held in the Council Chambers at Altoona City Hall.

**(II) Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Pratt led the Common Council and others in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**(III) Roll Call**

City Clerk Cindy Bauer called the roll. Mayor Brendan Pratt, Council Persons Red Hanks, Andrew Schlafer, Ray Henning, Tim Sexton, and David Rowe were present. Also Present: Attorney Steve Weld, City Administrator Mike Golat, City Engineer/Director of Public Works Dave Walter, City Planner Joshua Clements, Police Sergeant Scott Kelley, Management Analyst Roy Atkinson, and City Clerk Cindy Bauer.

Absent: Council Person Dale Stuber

**(IV) Citizen Participation Period**

Matt Thompson, co-owner of the Potting Shed, 1717 Devney Drive, commented the Potting Shed has two flags flying on the south and north side of their property. Thompson explained that the Potting Shed is not clearly visible from Hwy 12; the flags indicate that the Potting Shed is open. Thompson said they have been using the flags since they purchased the Potting Shed from the Skelley's in 2014. Thompson is asking Council if he can continue flying the flags longer than the 60 days that City ordinance permits, and work on placing a permanent type sign next year.

City Administrator Golat said the property is hidden away from a main road and it doesn't have frontage along North Hillcrest Parkway which does have an impact on their business. Golat said the City has not received any complaints from neighboring property owners regarding the flags. Golat said proper procedure would be to amend the ordinance regulating temporary signs to allow as a conditional use upon review by the Plan Commission.

Motion by Schlafer/Rowe to close Citizen Participation Period. **Motion carried.**

**(V) Approval of minutes.**

Motion by Sexton/Rowe to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2016 Regular Council meeting. **Motion carried.**

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

Police Sergeant Kelley reported that they did a traffic detail with the State Patrol last Thursday over the Hwy 53 bypass and monitored speed violations.

Recreation Manager Goldbach commented on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July celebration. Goldbach said it was a good event with an estimated of 5,000-7,000 people in the park.

Walter mentioned that the tablets have arrived for Council Members to pick up at City Hall.

**City Committee Reports** - None.

**(VII) Unfinished business** – none.

**(VIII) New Business**

**(1) Discuss/consider removal of trees in Cinder City Park as requested by Council President Ray Henning. (Discussed at the June 27, 2016 Park & Rec meeting.)**

City Administrator Golat explained that during the Cinder City Days celebration two Red Pine trees fell in the area where the carnival was set up behind Bement Field, narrowly missing food vendors and vehicles. In

light of the near accident, Council President Henning, who was at the park at the time, has requested that Council consider once again evaluating the need to cut additional trees in the park. Golat noted that there are some dead trees in the northern section of the field. There are other areas within the park (east side) which might need to be looked at. Golat mentioned that there is money budgeted this year to put in an irrigation system in the northern park area.

Council Member Henning commented on the trees in Cinder City Park. Henning suggested removing some of the trees between the south field and Eau Claire County Highway Shop and add some additional parking. Henning encouraged Council members to go to Cinder City Park and take a closer look at the existing trees within the park. Henning said he has a money source willing to put up some new trees.

Council Member Sexton commented that the Park & Rec Committee discussed this item at its June meeting. The Park & Rec Committee recommended cleaning up some of the brush and dead trees but recommended that the other trees remain.

Mayor Pratt mentioned that if trees are removed then they should be replaced with new trees especially along the fence line. Pratt commented on the back field which can be used for other recreation programs. Once the City fixes up the back lot by planting grass and putting in an irrigation system, there will be more uses for that field.

Council Member Rowe would like to see a more comprehensive long term plan for the park. City Administrator Golat said we could get a forester to look at the trees in Cinder City Park.

Motion by Sexton/Hanks to direct staff to remove the dead and diseased trees in Cinder City Park and replace with newer trees to be determined after a comprehensive plan through the Park & Rec Committee.

**Motion carried.**

**(VIII)(2) Presentation regarding City of Altoona ordinances related to keeping of animals in the City; possible Council direction to staff to follow.**

City Administrator Golat explained that a recent review of City ordinances by staff and the city attorney has revealed that keeping certain animals for pets is not clearly prohibited by City Code. One section of Code, Chapter 6.04, Animals and fowl, implies that a variety of animals may be kept for pets, as long as they are kept in a sanitary condition. The ordinance specifically makes note of “animals and fowl” as well as “dog, cat, rabbit, skunk or similar animal kept as a pet.” Chapter 6.06 speaks directly to rules for keeping pigeons, while chapter 6.08.030 and 035 addresses noise and excrement issues related to keeping animals. Chapter 8.24, the Public Nuisance chapter, also establishes guidelines for assuring that animals do not become a nuisance (reference 8.24.020 C. G. and J. and 8.24.040 I. and J. City Administrator Golat noted that the R-1 zoning chapter, chapter 19.28 notes in 19.28 D. that general farming, dairying, and stock and poultry raising and feeding is not allowed, but the implication is that this provision relates to farm operations, not pets. Staff is requesting direction from Council related to whether the City Code should be updated to outright prohibit certain animals and clarify what animals are acceptable in specific districts.

Motion by Schlafer/Rowe to direct staff to draft an ordinance creating specific language regulating the circumstances under which animals may be kept in various districts. **Motion carried.**

**(VIII)(3) Discuss/consider mayoral appointment of John Steuding to the Altoona Housing Authority to fill the vacated position for a term ending April 2018.**

City Administrator Golat explained the letter of interest from John Steuding to serve on the Altoona Housing Authority Committee to fill the vacant position for a term ending in April 2018. Mayor Pratt recommends approval of appointment.

Motion by Henning/Schlafer to approve Mayoral Appointment of John Steuding as recommended by Mayor Pratt to the Altoona Housing Authority for a term ending April 2018. **Motion carried.**

**(VIII)(4) Discuss/consider approval of Bartender Licenses as listed on the agenda. (Approved by the Altoona Police Department).**

City Administrator Golat explained that the City has received new bartender license applications as listed on the agenda for the period of now through June 30, 2017. Police Chief James has reviewed and

recommends approval of the bartender applications as listed on the agenda.

Motion by Rowe/Hanks to approve the new bartender licenses as listed on the Council agenda. **Motion carried.**

**(VIII)(5) Discuss/consider convening in closed session pursuant to the following:**

**Wis. Stats 19.85 (1)(e) A. Purchase and/or sale of property,**

Motion by Hanks/Rowe to convene in closed session at 7:05 p.m. pursuant to Wis. Stats 19.85 (1)(e). A. Purchase and/or sale of property. Roll call vote, 5-ayes, Schlafer, Sexton, Hanks, Henning, Rowe, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**(VIII)(16) Motion to reconvene to Open Session.**

**Wis. Stats 19.85 (1)(e) A. Purchase and/or sale of property.**

Motion by Hanks/Henning to reconvene to open session at 9:05 p.m. Roll call vote, 5-ayes, Hanks, Henning, Rowe, Sexton, Schlafer, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

City Administrator Golat explained that the Council discussed in closed session several matters related to River Prairie Subdivision. No action at this time on the matter relating to a proposal for an apartment building within the northwest quadrant of River Prairie.

The other item is relating to an offer from Glen Clayton for construction of Ace Hardware in the southwest quadrant of River Prairie.

Motion by Henning/Hanks to approve an amendment to a Vacant Land Offer to Purchase Agreement dated July 30, 2015 and accepted August 19, 2015 to grant an extension to on or before August 15, 2016 to secure financing and remove all contingencies regarding his offer to purchase. Upon Buyer waiving all contingencies, Buyer agrees to close on or before August 30, 2016 for the purchase of a lot in the southwest quadrant in River Prairie by Glen Claytons and Assigns, LLC. Buyer agrees to commence construction on or before September 30, 2016. **Motion carried.**

**(IX) Miscellaneous Business and Communication.**

**(X) Adjournment.**

Motion by Schlafer/Hanks to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by Cindy Bauer, City Clerk