

City Council Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Pro Tem Vic Moen called the Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present were Margie Ritter, Mike Nelson, and Mayor Lynn O'Brien by Skype from Port Aransas, TX. Also in attendance were representatives from ICTV, Scenic Range Newspaper, and Jayson Newman and Glen Hodgson, City Engineers.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the November 20, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Ritter, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda: Motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Ritter to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Claims for Approval List, and Correspondence to include RAMS, DEED, Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board Minutes, Financial Report, Hill Annex State Park Working Committee Report, and Mediacom. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Forum – Initial Public Meeting – Mayor Pro Tem Vic Moen addressed the public and explained the Public Meeting process. Chris Hookland explained his situation with the 24.2% increase with his real estate taxes. Ritter explained the County's role in determining the taxes. Moen explained the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting and taxation and recommended he attend here in April. Terry Taylor addressed the Council with his concerns of increased taxes from LaPrairie and the Fuhrman Avenue Project. Joe and Karen Aalto also expressed their concerns for retired residence and the difficulty the increased taxes cause. Moen explained that the Council was working diligently on the budget to decrease the Proposed Levy and that a Work Session was being held following the meeting.

Additions to Agenda: Moen asked that Comprehensive Plan review be added under New Business-B.

Reports:

Maintenance – The rink lights are fixed and the gutters were scheduled to be done.

Attorney – None

Engineer – Jayson Newman, City Engineer, gave the Engineer's Report to include the speed study, bike trail planning, and the ISD 318 property, purchased in LaPrairie, list of development issues.

Mayor – None

Clerk – None

Council – Moen discussed the Hill Annex Mine State Park's future.

Committees:

Personnel – Ritter informed the Council of the two qualified applicants that were interviewed. She explained the process used during the interview from John Licke, City Attorney. She asked the Council for approval to offer the position of Clerk/ Treasurer to the most qualified applicant. Nelson made the motion to approve offering the position and Moen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ritter explained that Bill Hildreth, maintenance staff, has not had a raise in his pay for several years and requested an increase of \$1 an hour. She also said the Personnel Committee was considering changing the maintenance position, which was hired through Personnel Dynamics, to a City position. Ritter made the motion and Nelson seconded the motion to increase his wage by \$1 effective January 2018. Nelson commented that the Personnel Committee should develop a job review process for wages in the future for the benefit of the employee as well as the City. The motion carried unanimously.

The City has received three applicants for the rink attendant position. Mayor O'Brien requested that maintenance and Margie Ritter interview for this position.

Park/Recreation – None

Facilities/Equipment – None

Zoning – Ritter addressed the minutes from the last Zoning Meeting and explained the projects the committee was working on. The next meeting has been scheduled for December 13, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Technology – None

Utilities – Moen asked about the utilities budget outcome with Grand Rapids. Ritter explained where the committee was with this and Glen Hodgson, City Engineer, will address this with Grand Rapids.

GreenStep – Moen informed the Council that Ian Carlstrom, Chair, has given notice of his stepping down at the year end. He also explained the GreenStep best practices in regards to the Hoolihan property and ISD 318. He also mentioned the Solar Meeting held today in Grand Rapids and Glen Hodgson commented that it was well attended.

Old Business:

A. Proposed LEVY for 2018 – Initial Public Meeting – Moen explained how the Council was working to lower this LEVY and expressed his thanks to all who came to speak at the Public meeting. The goal for the Work Session to follow the meeting was to try and lower this amount if possible.

New Business:

A. Committee Assignment 2018 – Moen asked the Council to review the Assignments they were assigned in 2017. He asked if anyone desired changes to let him know prior to the first meeting in January. He also asked Mike Nelson if he would be willing to fill the positions vacated by Amy Thurm. Moen suggested that a new Committee, Economic Development, be added. He also asked Nelson to be on this committee. Mike Nelson accepted the positions.

B. Comprehensive Plan Review – Moen explained the need to review the Comprehensive Plan. Following discussion, it was decided to plan this for the 2nd meeting in February when Mayor O’Brien has returned.

Adjourn: The motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Ritter to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlana Hess, City Clerk

Vic Moen, Mayor Pro Tem