

May 15, 2017

Council Meeting Minutes

## City Council Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Lynn O'Brien called the Council Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present were Margie Ritter and Vic Moen. Also in attendance were representatives from ICTV, Scenic Range Newspaper, City Engineer Bob Beaver, and resident, Jeff Niemala.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the April 17, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Margie Ritter, seconded by Vic Moen. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion was made by Ritter and seconded by Moen to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Claims for Approval List, Treasurer's Report, and Correspondence to include the Greenway Joint Rec Assoc. minutes, DEED, The Ranger, RAMS, Arrowhead Procure, MAOSC, Cable Commission, Collaborative Opportunities Team Meeting minutes, LMC – Resolution Info., Senator Franken Staff Service Event, Firewise, and Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board. After answering financial questions, the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Forum:** Jeff Niemala explained the water situation at his home on Lorane Drive. Bob Beaver, City Engineer, had discussed this with Glen Hodgson, City Engineer, who had visited the site. There were two issues, the silt buildup and the ditch that was not completed, causing pooling of water on his property. Beaver recommended talking to our maintenance staff regarding removing some dirt to aid drainage. The City Engineers will consult with, Bill Hildreth, maintenance, and have a recommendation for the June 5 Council Meeting.

**Additions to Agenda:** The Mayor asked to remove from New Business – D. Resolution to make application to IRRRB after consulting with Robert Neururer, owner of RC's. The council approved.

### Reports:

**Maintenance** – The sign quotes were discussed. The Mayor and City Clerk will research the legalities of the overnight camping by reviewing our ordinances and possibility contacting our attorneys.

Our Emergency Siren has not been working. Vic Moen, who believes that the City needs to have a warning siren for the safety of the residents, contacted the County Emergency Manager.

Representatives from the County inspected the siren and determined it needed to be repaired or upgraded, which will be expensive. Moen has requested estimates for repair and has

researched for grants and other funding for financial help. During their visit to the City, the City Clerk was trained on CodeRED, the Emergency Telephone Network. The City Clerk will be available to help residents with this. It was suggested that this information be included in the next Newsletter.

**Attorney – None**

**Engineer –** Bob Beaver, City Engineer, reviewed the SEH reports submitted by City Engineer Glen Hodgson. SEH offered to work with our maintenance on Saylor Street, talked to Itasca County regarding monitoring the levels of the retention pond on LaPrairie Ave., proposed that they prepare and distribute a Request for Quotations for crack sealing, help with an informal meeting, sending out a survey to all property owners on the Lorane Drive and Martin Street regarding drainage, and develop a formal 5-year street overlay plan. Moen made a motion, seconded by Ritter for SEH to proceed. Motion carried unanimously.

Beaver also informed the Council on the progress of the proposed trail to Veteran Park. The Mn/DOT Traffic Engineer from Duluth will work with the City. There are DOT publications on pedestrian crossing and safety available at City Hall. Beaver proposed moving the City's radar sign to Highway 2 to collect speed data for a couple of weeks and coordinate with DOT.

Glen Hodgson continues to have contact with BNSF Railroad regarding the right-of-way for the bike trail and proposes to sell the City an extension of .836 acres. Hodgson will continue to work with them on this.

Mayor O'Brien and Glen Hodgson met with Get Fit Itasca on May 3 discussing the proposed trail. Get Fit Itasca had funding available to help with the project planning and the City Clerk invoiced them \$7000. SEH will proceed with trail project planning and keep the Council informed.

**Mayor –** The Mayor attended the Collaborative Opportunities Meeting and found it very beneficial and will be attending the next week's meeting.

**Clerk –** LaPrairie Leaf Pick-up Day was scheduled for Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Also, a resident called stating he was against using City funds to pay for Farmer's Market advertising.

**Council – None**

**Committees:**

**Personnel –** The City needs summer help for our summer programs including Archery. If anyone is interested contact the City Clerk or Personnel Dynamics. The new maintenance employee has worked out well.

**Park/Recreation** – The Park and Recreation Meeting was held May 9 and discussed the needs for the summer programs. They also discussed the request for the pine tree removal around the park. The committee recommended no removal of any trees. Mayor O’Brien explained that she had spoken to a logger who looked at the trees and explained that they could not thin the trees and that the fence would need to be removed and put back up. The cost to the City could be around \$15,000. The council will take the Park and Recreation Committee’s recommendation of no tree removal.

**Facilities/Equipment** – The truck box has rusted and in need of repair. The City Clerk will find the replacement dates for the truck and report back at the next meeting and Moen will research the possibility of repairing the box to determine how to proceed.

**Zoning** – The last Zoning Meeting was May 10. Margie Ritter, Zoning Chair, explained the discussion she had, along with the City Clerk, with John Licke, City Attorney, regarding rezoning. He cautioned on spot zoning and rezoning without knowing the potential buyers. The City would need to place greater restrictions on buffering for protection of the residential properties unnecessarily. He recommended having the property owners follow the procedure to rezone individually, which they declined at this time. The committee agreed to address rezoning, if needed, in the future.

**Technology** – None

**Utilities** – Margie Ritter and Mayor O’Brien met with Julie Kennedy and Karen Olson, from Grand Rapids Public Utilities, to discuss the LaPrairie Utilities. Grand Rapids Public Utilities had recently done a study and found that they were losing money doing the utility billing for the City of LaPrairie. Each city has their own ordinances. It was decided, at this meeting, to work together with the LaPrairie City Clerk and City Engineer to review the ordinances and discuss how to align them. Monthly meetings will be scheduled until the project is completed with the next meeting May24.

**GreenStep** - None

**Old Business:**

**A. Animal Ordinance** - Mayor O’Brien has been in contact with Scott Johnson, Police Chief for the Grand Rapids Police Department, regarding the dog pound. The City of LaPrairie must have an Animal Ordinance agreement to use the dog pound. There was discussion and review of the contracts for Grand Rapids, Coleraine, and Bovey. The Mayor will be in contact with Scott Johnson on why there are differences in the contracts. We will continue to discuss this at the next meeting.

**New Business:**

**A. Vacation hours** – The Mayor has requested Council Members to give the City Clerk their vacation plans for the summer. The Council approved to cancel the Council Meeting on Monday July 3, 2017 and reschedule if needed.

**B. Tax Forfeit land** – Mayor Lynn O’Brien has been working with the Itasca County Land Department on the tax forfeited property that the City has been using for the Firewise Brush Pile. The City can purchase this property for \$50,500. There was discussion on where to move the brush pile. This will be place on the next agenda.

**C. Resolution No. 15-2017-05 – Minnesota Joint Powers Agreement** – The State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreement with the City of LaPrairie and John Dimich, our City Attorney, needed to be updated with Mayor Lynn O’Brien’s signature. Moen made the motion to approve the Resolution with approval by roll call with Ritter, Moen, and O’Brien in favor. The motion carried.

**D. Resolution to Make application to IRRRB – Removed**

**E. LMC – Liability Coverage & Work Comp Audit** – The Clerk explained that the Annual Liability Insurance for the City of LaPrairie Renewal Application needed a Motion to Waive the Liability monetary limits established by Minnesota Statutes to extend the limits of the liability coverage from LMCT. Ritter made the motion to waive the limits and Moen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Clerk also explained that following the Workers’ Compensation Audit the City of LaPrairie received a credit of \$190.

**Adjourn:** The motion was made by Vic Moen and seconded by Margie Ritter to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Arlana Hess, City Clerk

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Lynn O’Brien, Mayor