

City of Tower
Regular Meeting
September 14, 2009
Monday @ 5:30 PM
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Tower City Council was called to order by Mayor Stephen Abrahamson.

Present: Abrahamson, Heinowski, Nevala
Absent: Hanson, Hiltunen
Also Present: Kotzian, Lamppa

Visitors: Stephanie Gubrud, Matt Bolf, Rolando Noyes, Bernie Zollar, Troy Swanson, Christina Hujanen, Jodi Summit, Polly McDonald, Sheldon Majerle, Steve Altenburg, John Jannick, Kevin Friebe

Motion by Heinowski supported by Nevala to approve the minutes of the last meeting as presented by the Clerk/Treasurer. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Nevala supported by Heinowski to accept the agenda as presented by the Mayor with the addition of: 8.5 County Road, 8.6 Asst. Ambulance Supervisor.

No public input.

Reports were received from the following departments: Ambulance, Fire, Maintenance, Blight, Police, and Clerk's Office. Ambulance Supervisor Zollar reported that an EMT is returning from leave and that the EMT refresher class has been set up for October 2009. Deputy Kevin Friebe gave the police report stating 31 calls for service had been received in the past month. Jill Yarick will be the new deputy assigned to Tower.

Hiltunen arrived at 5:35 pm.

Heinowski gave a report from the Tower Airport Commission. The pressure tank in the VanDeusen hangar needs to be moved and the Commission has agreed to allow the TS Historical Society to use the A & D Building.

Matt Bolf gave updates on the Harbor Project. The Finding of No Significant Impact was issued on August 24th and work on project permits has been started. The City is waiting for property appraisals in order to complete the Lakoskey land deal. An agreement is needed between the City and County on the County's involvement, payment schedule and amount of local match the County will need in hand before the project can begin. A meeting, with MnDOT, St. Louis County and the City, has been scheduled for September 22 to discuss all agreements needed for the project. Looking to start actual construction in early spring of 2010.

Planning and Zoning: No meeting, no report.

Safety Committee: No meeting, no report

TEDA: No report.

The Cathcart property is being appraised by Wayne Edwards.

Three quotes were received on reappraising the leased cabin sites. Quotes were as follows: 1. Culbert Realty \$3,500; 2. Dawn Cole \$2,200; 3. Wayne Edwards \$1,250.

Motion by Nevala supported by Heinowski to hire Wayne Edwards with a quoted of \$1,250 to reappraise the cabin sites. All yes. Motion carried.

A discussion was held on replacing the furnace at Hoodoo Point. Two quotes were received - one from Como for propane (\$2,806) and the other from Addy Heating for oil (\$3,200). The present furnace is oil and oil is also used to heat water.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Nevala to accept the oil furnace quote of \$3200. All yes. Motion carried.

Two applications had been received for the position of Assistant Ambulance Supervisor. The two applicants were Peter Wargowsky and Polly McDonald.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Heinowski to hire Polly McDonald as the Assistant Ambulance Supervisor. McDonald will start in this position effected Sept. 14, 2009. All yes. Motion carried.

A discussion was held on the St. Louis County School Board's restructuring plan. This plan known as Option D would close the Tower Soudan High School forcing students to travel 25 miles to attend school in a neighboring district. A copy of the full resolution is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hiltunen to adopt the Resolution in Opposition to ISD 2142 Restructuring Plan as presented. All yes Motion carried.

Clerk Kotzian reported on the new vote counting machine that the City received through a grant, value of \$4,500. The County will also provide training on the machine.

A discussion was held on the proposed budget and levy. Councilor Heinowski wants a second meeting of the month, for the next three months, to review budget items department by department.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Nevala to raise levy by 6% and have three budget review meetings. All yes. Motion carried.

A letter from Campground Manager, Stephanie Gubrud had been received, asking to exercise her one (1) year option to renew the existing Hoodoo Point Management Contract.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hiltunen to approve the one year extension.

All yes. Motion carried.

John Jammick of RLK reported on the North 3rd Street sewer project. Partial pay estimate #1 for \$90,074.96 for work through Sept 5th has been received. Jammick also reported on the camering of all private sewers.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Nevala to approve partial pay estimate #1 for \$90,074.96. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Nevala to approve the transfer of hangar lease #8 from William Ransom to Timothy Harty. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hiltunen to pay the bills. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Nevala to adjourn. Time: 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lamppa
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer