

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015 COLD SPRING CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayor Robert R. Thelen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The following members were found to be present: Mayor Robert R. Thelen and Council Members Fran Ramler, Jan Dingmann, Dave Heinen and Jayme Knapp. Others present: Kris Dockendorf, Jon Stueve, Brian Lintgen, Heidi Stalboerger, Chris Boucher, Jason Spoden, Christi Hoffman, Chad Vogt, Jason Blum, Amanda Blum, Brandi Canter, Julia Konop, Brenda Timm, Ginny Anderson, Jim Kraemer, Dan Steil, Mark Ostendorf, Lee Gabler, Isaac Schweer and Angie Mueller.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY HEINEN, SECONDED BY KNAPP, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE NOVEMBER 24, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes – November 10, 2015

MOTION WAS MADE BY DINGMANN, SECONDED BY HEINEN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2015 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

HEARING ON DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

Mayor Thelen opened the hearing at 6:32 p.m. Dockendorf stated that the delinquent utility bills are all on accounts that have been final billed and the owners have moved out and the nuisance bills are for lawn mowing. Mayor Thelen called three times for comments and after hearing none, the hearing was closed at 6:35 p.m. MOTION WAS MADE BY DINGMANN, SECONDED BY KNAPP, TO CERTIFY ASSESSMENTS FOR DELINQUENT UTILITY BILLS FOR THE FOLLOWING: PARCEL ID 48.29321.0000 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$619.62, 48.29773.0000 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$145.69, 48.29316.0140 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$743.17, 48.29144.0000 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$153.03, 48.29703.0250 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$386.32 AND 48.29401.0238 IN THE AMOUNT OF 295.07; FURTHERMORE, TO CERTIFY ASSESSMENTS FOR THE DELINQUENT BILLS FOR NUISANCE ABATEMENT TO PARCEL NO. 48.29787.0000 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$73.44 AND 48.29321.0000 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$227.03. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

SOLAR ENERGY PRESENTATION

Xcel Energy representatives Lee Gabler and Mark Ostendorf presented information to the Council on solar gardens. They stated that the program was created in 2013. The solar gardens must have a minimum of five subscribers and are limited to 1 megawatt. Subscribers pay a subscription fee to the solar garden operator and then receive a credit for the solar energy produced. They stated that solar garden operators typically have a 25 year term contract with subscribers that contain the payment terms, escalators, and ownership of renewable energy credits. Dan Steil from the EDA summarized the risks from the City's perspective which include the possibility of the subscriber having to pay the solar garden operator if the energy rate increases are less than the escalator in the contract, the possibility of the garden not producing any electricity, the possibility of the solar garden operator going bankrupt or selling their company during the 25 year contract period, and what occurs after the 25 year term expires. Gabler and Ostendorf stated that they could provide some assistance in vetting the solar garden operator/developer but the City would have to make the decision of which developer to contract with if they decide to subscribe to a solar garden.

CITY HALL REMODEL DISCUSSION

Dockendorf explained that the Planning Commission discussed remodeling City Hall at their meeting on November 18, 2015. The Planning Commission had provided a recommendation that they spearhead the remodeling project by meeting with the individual departments within City Hall to determine their needs and growth expectations. Mayor Thelen stated that he would like the Council to think about that recommendation and plan on voting on it at the next meeting. He stated that his goal would be to have a plan in place for remodeling by the end of 2016.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Appoint Hiring Committee for Public Works Technician IV

MOTION WAS MADE BY DINGMANN, SECONDED BY HEINEN, TO APPOINT FRAN RAMLER, KRIS DOCKENDORF, JON STUEVE, RON FUCHS AND PETE WEBER TO THE HIRING COMMITTEE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS TECHNICIAN IV POSITION. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

B. Purchase of Makeup Air Unit for Wastewater Plant

Stueve requested approval for the purchase of a make up air unit for the control building at the Wastewater Plant. He stated it will replace the current unit which was purchased in 1986 and is in poor condition.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DINGMANN, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A MAKE UP AIR UNIT FOR THE CONTROL BUILDING AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FROM ST. CLOUD REFRIGERATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$9,750 FROM LINE ITEM 14-70-72-6311. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

C. Nitrate Clinic

Stueve reported on the recent Nitrate Clinic that was hosted by the City. He stated that they tested approximately 40 water samples from area residents private wells and provided them with nitrate level results.

CITY ENGINEER REPORT

A. CSAH 2/Red River Avenue

Lintgen explained that a meeting is scheduled for November 30 to discuss power line relocation in the project area from Main Street to 1st Street North.

B. Wells

Lintgen stated the wetland delineation has been approved by the Corps of Engineers. He stated that one test well has been completed and the intact soil sample will be analyzed.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

A. Appointment of Float/Investigator Position

MOTION WAS MADE BY KNAPP, SECONDED BY HEINEN, TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JASON SPODEN TO THE FLOAT/INVESTIGATOR POSITION EFFECTIVE HIS FIRST SCHEDULED SHIFT AFTER JANUARY 1, 2016. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

B. Appointment of Chad Vogt to Full-Time Police Officer Position

MOTION WAS MADE BY KNAPP, SECONDED BY DINGMANN, TO APPROVE THE OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT TO CHAD VOGT FOR THE POSITION OF POLICE OFFICER, ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT OFFERED IN THE LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 24, 2015. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

C. Discussion of Requesting Donations for Canine Program

Chief Boucher stated that he would like to have two dogs on the force after Abby can no longer work. He stated that Abby is trained in narcotics detection and Riley is trained in both narcotics and tracking. He stated he would like to start fundraising now for the purchase of a dog to replace Abby since her retirement will likely be within the next two years. He stated he would like to purchase a dog trained in narcotics, tracking and apprehension. He stated that there are few departments with apprehension dogs and that it would provide a benefit to the entire area. The Council was supportive of requesting donations for the purchase of a dog to replace Abby once she is retired.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. Resolution for Business Park & Blue Heron Heights Revenues

Dockendorf explained that the resolution states that when lots in the Business Park and in Blue Heron Heights are sold, the revenue from those lot sales will go directly into the respective debt service funds for each of those developments. Mayor Thelen stated that this resolution is in accordance with developing a plan to reduce debt in both of those funds.

MOTION WAS MADE BY KNAPP, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2015-28, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING REVENUE FROM THE BUSINESS PARK AND BLUE HERON HEIGHTS PROPERTIES. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

LIST OF BILLS AND ADDITIONS

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY HEINEN, TO REVIEW AND ACCEPT THE PAYMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ACCORDING TO THE LIST TOTALING \$58,483.52 AND SUPPLEMENTAL LIST TOTALING \$22,253.82 PRESENTED BY CITY STAFF. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

ADJOURN

MOTION WAS MADE BY DINGMANN, SECONDED BY KNAPP, TO ADJOURN AT 8:07 P.M., SEEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

Robert R. Thelen, Mayor

Kris Dockendorf, Acting City Administrator