

## **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2014 COLD SPRING CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Mayor Doug Schmitz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The following City Council members were found to be present: Mayor Doug Schmitz and Council Members Fran Ramler, Jan Dingmann, Dave Stadther and Bob Thelen. Others present: Paul Hetland, Christi Hoffman, Kristen Stadther, Sarah Boucher, Eric Boucher, Chris Boucher, Jason Spoden, Shawn Thomes, Jamie Revermann, Craig Kritzeck, Dan Weber, Dave Heinen, April Ryan, Alex Svejkovsky and Angie Mueller.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION WAS MADE BY STADTHER, SECONDED BY DINGMANN, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE MARCH 26, 2014 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AS AMENDED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes – March 10, 2014

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY THELEN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2014 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT**

Fire Chief Dan Weber and First Assistant Chief Dave Heinen presented the Council with the Annual Report for 2013. Weber explained that the department responded to a total of 337 calls of which 282 were in the City of Cold Spring. He stated that there were 244 rescue calls and 38 fire calls. He stated that the department received \$1,900 in billing for calls, and \$670 for training reimbursements. He stated that the department came in under budget by \$13,362. He stated that they are planning to purchase a new pumper to replace the oldest one in the fleet which is 37 years old. He stated they will wait until FEMA grants are available to help with this purchase which is estimated to be \$400,000 to \$500,000. He also stated that the department is operating with 28 firefighters and would like to hire two additional firefighters to bring the member total back to 30.

MOTION WAS MADE BY THELEN, SECONDED BY STADTHER, TO AUTHORIZE THE START OF THE HIRING PROCESS FOR TWO FIREFIGHTERS. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT**

Interim Chief of Police Chris Boucher presented the Council with the Annual Report for 2013. He stated that there were a total of 4,099 calls and 2,074 were in the City of Cold Spring. He stated that this number is down from 2011 which is the last year the statistics were compiled. He explained he is getting pricing on the purchase for a new Tahoe squad to replace the 2011 Impala. He added that Abby, the canine is eight years old and will need to be replaced in the next two years. Chief Boucher stated that he attended the annual township meeting and that there were many residents that were supportive of keeping their current law enforcement services, although the township board had proposed reducing the budget to \$20,000 for this expense. He stated that the residents in the audience had requested that they instead budget an amount for law enforcement services provided by the City of Cold Spring, which was estimated to be \$58,460 for 2015, which the township officials did later approve. He added that a memo was provided from the Wakefield Township attorney listing several items within the current joint powers agreement that they would like to see changed including costs, daily logs and other items. Hetland stated that the City of Richmond has also requested to discuss their current contract too. The Council directed Hetland and Interim Chief Boucher to find out the specific issues for each contract beforehand and then to meet with each entity on their contract. The City Attorney stated that by finding out what they want to discuss ahead of time will likely make the actual meeting more productive.

### **ONE DAY GAMBLING LICENSE, BIG LAKE AQUATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

MOTION WAS MADE BY STADTHER, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO APPROVE FORM LG220 APPLICATION FOR EXEMPT PERMIT TO CONDUCT ONE-DAY GAMBLING FOR BIG LAKE AQUATIC ASSOCIATION INC. FOR PULL-TABS TO BE CONDUCTED JULY 26, 2014 AT THE COLD SPRING BREWING COMPANY DISTRIBUTION CENTER LOCATION; FURTHERMORE, TO WAIVE THE 30 DAY WAITING PERIOD FOR SAID PERMIT. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

**LIST OF BILLS AND ADDITIONS**

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY DINGMANN, TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ACCORDING TO THE LIST TOTALING \$67, 797.95 AND SUPPLEMENTAL LIST TOTALING \$41,459.45 PRESENTED BY CITY STAFF. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

**GENERAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Councilor Thelen asked if the City Attorney could provide an update on the status of a complaint file by an officer. Jovanovich stated that the complaint was file and that it was investigated. He stated that since Eric Johnson's status is not clear, as to whether he is an employee or not, it is unknown for right now what to do with it. He stated that if Johnson is hired the complaint will need to be dealt with. This discussion led into a question on how to move forward on the Eric Johnson matter. Jovanovich explained that there are four options available, including not hiring Johnson, hiring Johnson, start over with the hiring process, or revisit the finalists for the position. He stated that there would also be a fifth option which would be to simply wait and do nothing for the time being. Councilor Thelen stated that the Council should be sending a clear signal to the community that they have a course of action planned. Thelen made a motion to direct Paul Hetland and Tom Jovanovich along with Councilor Ramler, to set up the framework to start fresh and make a new selection. The motion failed for a lack of a second. Councilor Ramler stated that he would like to wait awhile since it's unknown where things are going at this point. There was support of waiting but not for an overly extended period of time. The Council agreed that they would ultimately be the ones to decide how to move forward and that employees for the City are the City's responsibility and would not pose any liability to the City of Richmond or Wakefield Township.

**ADJOURN**

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY THELEN, TO ADJOURN AT 7:48 P.M., SEEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

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Doug Schmitz, Mayor

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Paul Hetland, City Administrator