



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
January 3, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm.

Present: Mayor: Randy Gilbert; Council: Sam Rettinger, Sharon Henderson, Ben Goodwin, Ken Hammerschmidt

Staff Present: City Administrator: Steve Stahmer

Absent: none

APPROVE AGENDA

*A motion was made by Rettinger, seconded by Henderson, to approve the Agenda as presented.
Ayes: all.*

WORK SESSION ITEMS

City Council Member Applicant Interviews

Interview #1 – Jim Benson:

Mayor Gilbert welcomed the first candidate, Jim Benson, and stated that the Council would be conducting the interviews fairly informally.

The Council interviewed Benson.

In response to Council questions, Benson stated that he had previously served on the Long Lake City Council for a total of 6 years combined. He also stated that he was most proud of helping keep the City financially healthy and in investing in capital and infrastructure for the City's future. He stated that his concerns for the City included that downtown redevelopment is partially out of the City's control and that the City must be realistic given the difficulties of redevelopment.

Interview #2 – Don Chillstrom:

In response to questions from the Council, Chillstrom stated that he is very committed to the City. He feels that the City's parks need investment and is concerned about the businesses after the bypass opens. He believes the City provides strong public services and loves the small town character and the people of Long Lake. His goals for Long Lake would be to revitalize the City after the bypass and to reignite Buckhorn Days as a community festival.

Interview #3 – Liz Olson:

In response to the Council's questions, Olson stated that she has previously served on the Planning Commission for four years, one of those as chair. She also served on the City Council for four years and worked on a procedural manual for approximately six months as a part time employee. She stated that the City needs an experienced Council member to fill Ken Hammerschmidt's term over the next 12 months. She stated that she is fiscally conservative and thinks spending should be decreased.

Interview #4 – Romain “Butch” Loomis:

In response to the Council's questions, Loomis stated that he is very interested in the City and, in particular, the Fire Department and Public Works Department, as a former member of both. He stated he would prefer to see moderate annual increases in the budget and levy rather than holding spending flat for several years and then seeing one large increase. He is in favor of the hiring of the new full-time Fire Chief position. He also stated that he thinks the City is currently run very well, but believes Public Works may need more help in terms of staffing. He feels that the City should look ahead toward developing a fire district with neighboring jurisdictions.

The City Council discussed the relative merits of each candidate. The position will be appointed during the regular January 3, 2008, Council meeting. It was the consensus of the Council that the applicant pool was very strong across the board, and that it was a good sign to see this much interest in the position.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Gilbert adjourned the January 3, 2008, City Council work session at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Stahmer
City Administrator