



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
August 19, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gilbert at 7:35 pm.

Present: Mayor: Randy Gilbert; Council: Sharon Henderson, Ben Goodwin, and Jim Benson, Sam Rettinger

Staff Present: City Administrator: Steve Stahmer; Finance Director: Terry Post

Absent: None

APPROVE AGENDA

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2009 Budget Worksession

Stahmer stated that, during the last budget work session, Council and staff had identified two major pieces of information that could still impact the preliminary budget and levy. Those items were the Orono Police contract budget increase and the uncertainty surrounding Stahmer's employment as City Administrator given his recent job offer.

Stahmer noted that neither of these issues has been resolved yet. Staff expects to have more information from the City of Orono with regard to the Police budget following the August 21 Police Advisory meeting. Stahmer stated that Police Chief Farniok had indicated that the overall Police budget increase would be in the 4% range, but that Long Lake's portion of that increase had not been calculated. Long Lake's percentage could be higher or lower for 2009 depending upon changes in the formula factors that determine cost sharing (market value).

With regard to his own employment status, Stahmer stated that he had just begun discussions with the City of Rogers and that negotiations should be finished by August 26, at which time the Rogers City Council would vote on his employment contract.

It was the consensus of the Council that, given the lack of clarity on the above items, that a work session should be scheduled for September 2 to discuss the preliminary budget and levy prior to the September 2 regular City Council meeting.

Charitable Gambling Ordinance Discussion

Stahmer distributed information detailing how surrounding cities handle charitable gambling. In contrast to Long Lake's charitable gambling ordinance which requires that 75% of lawful purpose expenditures to be made within the City "trade area" (Long Lake or Orono), most other area cities require that 50% of net profits be spent within the trade area.

Stahmer noted that, based upon advice from the City Attorney, the ordinance should be rewritten so as not to limit charitable gambling to only those organizations within the City trade area. State statute no longer allows such a restriction by Cities.

It was the consensus of the Council that the ordinance be rewritten to allow organizations outside of the City trade area. The council discussed the 75% of lawful expenditures versus 50% of net profits distinction. No clear preference was stated.

Staff will draft the changes to be discussed and approved by Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Gilbert adjourned the August 12, 2008 City Council Work Session at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Stahmer
City Administrator