



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 3, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.

Present: Mayor: Randy Gilbert; Council: Sam Rettinger, Sharon Henderson, Brian Carpenter, and Liz Olson

Staff Present: Interim City Administrator: Terrance Post; Fire Chief: James Van Eyll; Public Works Director: Marv Wurzer; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of January 20, 2009 City Council Work Session
- B. Approve Minutes of January 20, 2009 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one appeared to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Fire Department Operations Year End Report

Fire Chief Van Eyll made a presentation to the Council which summarized Fire Department operations during the year 2008, discussed trends in fire service calls, reviewed Fire Department staffing levels, and included goals from both personnel and equipment perspectives for the coming year. During his presentation, Van Eyll responded to Council member questions regarding firefighter retirement recognition programs, status of apparatus items, the automatic aid process, and potential future staffing needs.

Proposal for Drilling Services from American Engineering Testing, Inc.

Post stated that at the last regular meeting, the City Council approved a Professional Engineering Services Agreement with Short Elliott Hendrickson supporting development of specifications through the bid process for the 2009 Trunk Highway 12 Water Main Replacement Project on the east end of town.

On previous construction projects, it has been the City's policy to contract directly with soil boring vendors to avoid City Engineer markup on these services if they were subcontracted by the City Engineer.

Staff recommends approval of the proposal from American Engineering Testing, Inc. for drilling services associated with the Trunk Highway 12 Water Main Replacement Project as contained in the scope and fee proposal document presented to the Council for consideration.

A motion was made by Henderson, seconded by Olson, to accept the proposal from American Engineering Testing, Inc. for drilling services per the proposal dated January 27, 2009 that details the scope of the services and associated fees of \$2,136.00 and to authorize its execution by the Interim City Administrator. Ayes: all.

Discussion Regarding Proceeding with Proposed Nelson Lakeside Stormwater Improvement Project

Post reported that at the January 20, 2009 City Council work session, City Engineer Short Elliott Hendrickson gave a PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of the proposed Stormwater Management Project both historically and visually with an emphasis on noting the potential project impact on Nelson Lakeside Park. After much discussion on this item, everyone was encouraged to walk the site noting the project limit stakes in preparation for taking action at the next City Council meeting to determine whether or not to proceed with this project in 2009. The City is facing a fairly short time horizon, as the expiration date for use of the grant funds awarded for the project has been extended to December 31, 2009. If it is the consensus of the Council to proceed with the project, staff would recommend direction be given to request SEH to prepare a Professional Services Agreement for specifications and bid development on this project to be considered at the February 17, 2009 regular Council meeting.

Post highlighted the portion of the proposed project relative to stabilizing the ravine and commented on the need to fortify the creek bank and bed in order to protect sanitary sewer lines. As the site currently stands, there is a risk the sewer lines will break or freeze as they continue to become exposed. The cost to stabilize the creek would likely be approximately \$200,000.

Council members discussed the proposal at length, with emphasis on the future appearance and usability of the floodplain area; the need for a maintenance plan to be in place before moving fully forward with project approval; future obligations the City would have relative to ditch/ravine restoration and water quality improvements should the project not proceed; and the benefits of the project if approved.

In particular, Council member Olson mentioned the idea of using the floodplain area proposed as a dog park, thereby creating an amenity. Council members were in agreement that a dog park area could be a positive use.

Donny Chillstrom, Park Board Chair, indicated he was not against the plan as it had been staked out on site, but believes a maintenance plan is essential. He stated the project would be good overall for the ditch area in particular.

It was the consensus of the Council that the project should proceed to the next step at this time.

A motion was made by Carpenter, seconded by Olson, to proceed with the Nelson Lakeside Stormwater Improvement Project and request SEH to prepare a Professional Services Agreement for consideration at the next Council meeting. Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Status of Park Board – Council member Henderson questioned the current status of the Park Board. Post responded that the Park Board technically only has one active member at this time, due to two terms having recently expired. Applications are currently being accepted for the two open positions, and the deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, February 13. Applicant interviews and appointments would be made at the next possible Council meeting.

List of Meeting Dates – Council member Carpenter thanked staff for the expanded list of meeting dates included on the Council meeting agenda.

Chamber Task Force Meeting – Council member Olson inquired as to how the Chamber Task Force meeting had proceeded. Council member Henderson responded there had been a good turnout. It was generally agreed future meetings should follow an agenda, and that meetings should be held weekly for now. The group overall was happy about the new signage Mn/DOT will be installing and hopes it will be in place by February 21. The meeting attendees were focusing on moving forward and how to market Long Lake and its businesses. There was some discussion about involving area towns in promotion efforts. Mayor Gilbert asked the viewing audience to keep bringing people to Long Lake and to talk highly of what Long Lake has to offer.

Meeting with Mn/DOT – Council member Henderson indicated she will be meeting with John Griffith of Mn/DOT to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding executed in 1996. A primary purpose of the meeting would be to go through the MOU to see what Mn/DOT had originally agreed to do, what had not been done, and what could be done in the future. She stated she would report back to the Council following the meeting. Mayor Gilbert suggested Council member Henderson might want to bring someone to the meeting with her as a witness to the discussion. Council member Olson expressed interest in joining Council member Henderson.

Snowball Open Tournament – Council member Carpenter asked if the Snowball Open had been a successful event. Donny Chillstrom, Orono Lions Club, stated that it had been a good day with 448 golfers participating. Proceeds from the on-ice golf tournament will benefit the R.E.D. (Read Every Day) Lions Project which encourages children in first grade to read every day in February. Children who do so receive gift certificates to book stores.

Buckhorn Days – Council member Olson asked if there were any plans yet for Buckhorn Days. Donny Chillstrom, Orono Lions Club, responded that Buckhorn Days would not be held this year due to lack of available funding; however, the annual Carp Fishing Contest will be held as usual.

Dog Park Idea for Nelson Lakeside Park – Responding to Council member Olson's idea mentioned earlier in the meeting relative to using a floodplain area in the park as a dedicated dog park, City Clerk Moeller stated she does receive phone calls asking about whether there are dog parks and also frisbee golf courses in town. Council member Olson noted that Wood Rill in Orono does currently have a dog park area.

Mayor's Coffee Meeting – Mayor Gilbert indicated he would be hosting a coffee meeting for anyone interested at Caribou Coffee on Saturday, February 14 beginning at 9:00 am.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Gilbert adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk