

CITY OF PELICAN RAPIDS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES-04-27-04

The City Council of the City of Pelican Rapids met in regular session at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, 04-27-04, in Council Chambers, City Hall, 315 N. Broadway. Mayor Wayne Runningen, Council Members Ben Woessner, Denise Magnusson, John E. Waller, III and Dave Gottenborg were present. Administrative Assistant Richard A. Jenson, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Glenys Ehlert, Street and Park Superintendent Tom Soberg, Police Chief Scott Fox, Police Officer Jeff Stadum, Trevor Steeves, Josh Steeves, Porfirio Diaz, Alex Abara, Fernando Diaz, Mike Ostbye and Rick Gail of the Pelican Rapids Press were also present.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Runningen.

Bridge Update, Transfer Station, Rental Housing were added to the agenda.

Police Officer Jeff Stadum said many students in 7th and 8th grade have approached him to ask about what they could do to get a Teen Center. He said by limiting the Center to younger students, the City would meet a need and help a good group of young people. Council agreed to gather information about a center and to authorize Economic Developer Skip Carpenter to check on possible grants for a center. Matter will be considered at the 05-10-04 City Council meeting.

Motion by Magnusson, seconded by Gottenborg to authorize a \$500 program donation to Experience Works as recommended by City Administrative Assistant Richard A. Jenson. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Magnusson, seconded by Waller to approve the 04-27-04 Accounts Payable Listing as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Assistant Richard A. Jenson requested authorization to purchase two radios for emergency operations at a cost of \$1428 from monies budgeted for emergency operations. Motion passed unanimously.

Jenson announced that Larson Peterson & Associates has been sold to Ulteig Corporation. Larson Peterson & Associates are the City's engineers. No staffing changes are anticipated.

Jenson explained one of the methods explored for financing the Public Works Garage is through the Economic Development Authority. Monte Eastvold, Northland Securities, recommended that the City finance the project through Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds. The General Fund would transfer money to the Water and Sewer Fund for the Street Department share of expenses. Motion by Waller, seconded by Magnusson to authorize Administrative Assistant Richard A. Jenson and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Glenys Ehlert to prepare documents for a bond sale to finance the Public Works Garage. Motion passed unanimously.

Josh Steeves and Porfirio Diaz gave a presentation requesting the City Council pass an ordinance allowing the use of powered scooters within Pelican Rapids. Steeves and Diaz provided Council Members with a list of Proposed Rules, Regulations and Common Courtesies and a two page list of names of people supporting the proposal. Police Chief Scott Fox said at the present time powered scooters cannot be licensed as a motor vehicle under state statute. However, they can be permitted to operate under City ordinance. Fox and Trevor Steeves will check on several matters. Jenson will check with the League of Minnesota Cities to check on other communities with similar ordinances. Council will reconsider at the 05-10-04 City Council meeting.

Fire Chief Trevor Steeves discussed training the fire department would like to conduct in the Airport House. Three exercises would be Search and Rescue, Rapid Intervention Team and Fire Behavior and Suspense Suppression. The training would begin in May and continue through the summer with the house burn scheduled for October. Mike Ostbye of Scambler Township requested the City check Scambler's Land Use Ordinance.

Motion by Magnusson, seconded by Gottenborg to authorize the Fire Department to use the airport house for training exercises. The possible burn will be considered at the 05-10-04 City Council meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Fire Chief Steeves will check on Land Use Ordinance and the inspection process that will be needed before a burn would be permitted.

Council Member Gottenborg asked what remains to be done with the Bridge Project regarding sidewalks and street lights. Jenson said the bridge rip rapping is done; sidewalks are being poured. Electric wires are run for the street lights. Gottenborg suggested that riverbank areas should not be paved but be cleaned up and left as green areas. Council Members Gottenborg and Woessner both said the City should make an effort to provide some improvements to the riverbank. Motion by Waller, seconded by Gottenborg to have the Park Board work with the Library to work on landscaping plans and investigate costs for improving the River Park in phases as needed. Motion passed unanimously.

Jenson reported that the Transfer Site bids came in a little high. Otter Tail County Solid Waste Officer Mike Hanan said they were reviewing the bids and eliminating some items. He hopes to have the revised project and bid accepted at the Otter Tail County Commissioners meeting on 05-04-04.

A resident has complained about the odor from the wastewater ponds. City has covered smaller anaerobic ponds and tried some very expensive chemicals that lasted for only a week and had no effect on the odor. Council Members said it is a problem, but there doesn't seem to be a

reasonable solution. They requested that Utilities Superintendent Brent E. Frazier check again to see if there are new products or possibilities.

Council Members requested an update on the Rental Housing Inspections. Jenson will check with Housing Inspector Lyle Nesvold.

Council Member Magnusson presented the After Action Review for State Wide Emergency Test conducted on Thursday, 04-22-04.

Mayor Runningen shared information promoting Pelican Rapids as part of the Bird Watcher's Digest. He said he attended the Mayor's Association last weekend in Fergus Falls. He reported that the JOBZ Minnesota has been very successful throughout the state with several companies moving back to Minnesota.

Council Member Magnusson reported on the recent Western Area Cities and Counties Cooperative meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. Economic Development Authority meeting was cancelled.

Glenys Ehlert, CMC
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer