CITY OF PELICAN RAPIDS COUNCIL MINUTES OF 05-14-01

The City Council of Pelican Rapids met in regular session on Monday, 05-14-01, at 6:00 p.m. in the Pelican Rapids Public Library meeting room. Mayor Wayne Runningen, Council Members Denise Magnusson, John Waller III, Paulette Nettestad and Dave Gottenborg were present. No one was absent.

Administrative Assistant Richard A. Jenson, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Glenys Ehlert, Street and Park Superintendent Vern Benson, Gary Peterson of Pelican Rapids Press, Ray Martin and City Attorney Scott Dirks were also present.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Runningen.

Added to the agenda: 14. Library Grant 15. Tent Meeting Request 16. 10th Ave SW

Motion by Waller, seconded by Magnusson to approve the minutes of 04-09-01, 04-23-01 and 04-25-01, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Waller, seconded by Magnusson to approve the 05-14-01 Accounts Payable Listing as presented with corrections and the following additions: Super Sucker, WWTF - $300. ERA Lab, WWTF, Lagoon, Water - $638; Braun Pump, WWTF, Lagoon, Sewer/Streets - $1189.65. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent of Streets and Parks Vern Benson presented his report.

Motion by Waller, seconded by Magnusson to approve hiring Brian Olson as Equipment Operator, effective 05-02-01, at $10.40 per hour per Public Works Department Pay Schedule. Motion passed unanimously.

Council discussed the Equipment Replacement Schedule and benefits of purchasing a Bobcat for the public works department. Council requested information on City's expenses for hired services. Council will consider at next meeting.

Mayor Runningen reported that he met with City Attorney Scott Dirks and Administrative Assistant Richard A. Jenson regarding the history of the Bottle Club License. It was originally designed for the veterans' clubs and a restaurant when the City had no other liquor on-sale available in the City.

City Attorney Scott Dirks said the Bottle Club License actually comes from the State of Minnesota. The City has the authority to approve the state license. It is an economical way to allow consumption of alcohol in a public place. The City would not have any ability to revoke the license although they could refuse to approve it at the next renewal date.

The question is whether the Council wants to approve another Bottle Club License. The Council could also change the ordinance to discontinue Bottle Club Licenses since the City permits On Sale Liquor.

License holders could be held to certain restrictions about where the drinks could be mixed. State law does not permit liquor to be in control of owner.

Motion by Nettestad, seconded by Waller to approve a Bottle Club License for Karen M. Reich at Ray J's Cafe. Voting yes: Council Members Nettestad, Waller and Magnusson. Voting no: Mayor Runningen and Council Member Gottenborg. Motion carried.

Motion by Nettestad, seconded by Magnusson to approve a Cigarette License for Karen M. Reich at Ray J's Café. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Waller, seconded by Magnusson to approve a License to Karen M. Reich to sell wine and strong beer for consumption on the premises at Ray J's Café. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Magnusson, seconded by Nettestad to approve a License to Paul Alan Evenson for an off-sale beer operation at Southtown C. Store, Inc. and a License to Rick James Loerzel for an off-sale beer operation at Holiday Station. Motion passed unanimously.

Police Chief Greg Ballard reviewed various items in the Police Department.

Council has received questions about 10th Ave. SW stop signs. Ballard said he feels there is more control for enforcement by keeping the signs. He recommends giving it some time. People who live on 10th Ave. SW reported that traffic is slowing.

Officer Scott Fox is representing the City on a panel discussion on domestic violence sponsored today by Sheila Wellstone for the office of U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone.

Utilities Superintendent Brent Frazier reported on activities in his departments. Frazier discussed increased problems with inflow and infiltration in the sewer system. Some of it is due to high ground water. He has received bids on the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) main lift pumps: Braun Pump and Controls in the amount of $15,000 for base bid to replace three pumps and W.W. Goetsch in the amount of $9,032.75 plus rails and some salvage.

Motion by Waller, seconded by Nettestad to approve project to replace three main lift pumps at the WWTF by W.W. Goetsch at the quoted price of $9,032.75. Motion passed unanimously.

Wind action is eroding dike around main pond and Frazier obtained a quote to add more riprap. He has received a quote from Egge Construction - $27,760. Council requested more information.

Council reviewed the Liquor Store Reports for 03-31-01 and 04-30-01.

Council reviewed the Clerk's Recap Sheet and Investment Schedule for 04-30-01.

Jenson reviewed Planning Commission meeting of 05-07-01.

Motion by Waller, seconded by Magnusson to approve variances as recommended by the Planning Commission. Council hereby grants a rear yard variance from the required 3-ft. to 2 ft. and a separation variance from the required 5-ft. to 4 ft. to permit Ralph Pederson to construct a 14 x 24 ft. garage at 28 3rd Ave. SE. Motion passed unanimously.

The Planning Commission Spring Tour is set for 05-22-01.

The Park Board has met to consider and approve a request from two business people, Robert Nessa and Steve Johnson, to use the Mill Pond Dam power house building as a small antique and sports card shop for the summer. Improvements to the interior will be accepted in lieu of rent this summer. If the shop is profitable this summer, the business will make a donation to the park.

Motion by Waller, seconded by Nettestad to approve use of the power house building as approved by the Park Board with the additional requirement of proof of liability insurance. Motion passed unanimously.

Library Grant Agreement with the State of Minnesota is in City Attorney Scott Dirks hands. Jenson recommends approval of agreement subject to review by Dirks.

Motion by Gottenborg, seconded by Waller to approve the Library Grant Agreement, subject to City Attorney Scott Dirks' approval. Motion passed unanimously.

Christian Tent Meeting is being planned for Triangle on Hwy. 108 East. The event is planned for Tuesday through Sunday, August 14th through 19th. Council is concerned about length of time, parking and noise in residential area. Council requested Dave Lysaker be asked to attend next meeting to discuss the event.

Mayor Runningen turned the meeting over to Acting Mayor Dave Gottenborg to discuss City Facilities. Gottenborg said it has always been the Council's intention to take the plan to the voters of Pelican Rapids for their approval.

Gottenborg reviewed both options to meet accessibility needs at City Hall.

Jenson clarified City Attorney Scott Dirks role in advising the Council regarding issues. Council's intent has not been to avoid a vote of the taxpayers.

A possibility is to rent a separate building for the police department for their services to be more accessible. Improving the bathrooms at the liquor store and at City Hall is important to downtown businesses. The combination of City Garage and Old Glendale building is working for City at present time.

Acting Mayor Gottenborg indicated he would have liked to negotiate a $350,000 price. At the same time, he would ask Lake Region to purchase the former Glendale building, which the City acquired when that company moved to larger quarters in the industrial park.

Council Member Nettestad said, "Looking at meeting budget now, looking at library expansion – this looks like a bigger step than we can take right now."

Council Member Waller said, "I agree with Paulette."

Council Member Magnusson said, "I feel this issue is not resolved."

Acting Mayor Gottenborg said he would like to have found bottom line for Lake Region Building.

Motion by Nettestad, seconded by Magnusson to drop negotiating with Lake Region Electric Cooperative.

Council discussed that project doesn't stand much chance if Council isn't comfortable with project. "We've talked about the Lake Region building for several years and in between we improved streets, added new street lighting and funded other projects," Gottenborg said. "We need to establish a commitment if we're going to continue negotiating. If we bring back a fair price, we need to know Council is willing to go ahead."

Voting yes: Council Members Nettestad, Magnusson and Waller. Voting no: Acting Mayor Gottenborg. Motion carried.

Facilities Committee will meet and review using existing building.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Glenys Ehlert
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer