

CITY OF PELICAN RAPIDS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 10-08-07

The City of Pelican Rapids City Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., Monday, 10-08-07, in Council Chambers, City Hall. Mayor Wayne Runningen, Council Members Ben Woessner, Richard Peterson and John E. Waller, III, were present. Council Member David Gottenborg was absent. Administrator Don Solga, Clerk-Treasurer Glenys Ehlert, Street and Park Superintendent Brian Olson, Library Director Annie Wrigg, Gene Miller of Gene Miller Engineering, Inc., Liquor Store Manager Bob Leslie and Kelley Gorman of the Pelican Rapids Press were also present.

Mayor Runningen called meeting to order.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Waller to approve the minutes of 09-10-07 and 09-25-07 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Council reviewed the Accounts Payable Listing of 10-08-07 and the Library September Bill Listing. Motion by Waller, seconded by Woessner to approve payment of the above accounts payable and bill listings. Motion passed unanimously.

Council reviewed the Police Department Report.

Administrator Don Solga presented a report prepared by Utilities Superintendent Brent E. Frazier about the water and wastewater departments. Solga and Frazier have contacted Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and expressed concerns about the City's need for Well No. 15 to be on line. Well 5A will be discussed at a meeting next week.

Street and Park Superintendent Brian Olson reported on activities in his department. He will be replacing a gate valve at the corner of 3rd Ave. SE and Broadway on 10-18-07 and this will result in the water being shut-off to that section of the city, starting about 2:00 p.m. Olson recommended that the City Council approve installation of new sidewalk at the Fire Hall. Motion by Peterson, seconded by Waller to authorize Kelley Funk Construction to replace the north and south portions of sidewalks by the new Fire Hall at an estimated cost of \$5261. This will be paid for out of City sidewalk funds. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Olson explained that the storm sewer behind Park Region Cooperative has been scheduled for replacement, and Park Region Cooperative decided to replace it prior to new construction. Administration Solga and Superintendent Olson recommended that the City Council agree to pay half of the \$7960 bill for replacing the storm sewer line behind Park Region Cooperative. Motion by Peterson, seconded by Waller to approve payment in the amount of \$3,980 for the storm drain project behind Park Region Cooperative at 120 S. Broadway. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Olson requested that the City Council appoint a committee to determine a street improvement project for 2008. Administrator Solga, Superintendent Olson and Council Member Peterson will meet and bring a recommendation back to Council.

Library Director Annie Wrigg presented report on the Library and presented new library board members. Motion by Peterson, seconded by Waller to approve appointment of Library Board Members Margaret Lee for the remainder of 2007 and a new three year term of 2008, 2009 and 2010 and Ruth Holmgren for the remainder of 2007. Motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Solga has requested Airport Hangar Engineering Proposal but he has not received it yet. It will be postponed until next council meeting.

Administrator Solga said he sent a letter to the State of Minnesota about the private development of the publicly owned airport. The letter from the State of Minnesota Department of Aeronautics indicated some confusion regarding the concept of developing private hangars with residential housing attached adjacent to the publicly owned airport. Council agreed to set up a meeting with the State of Minnesota Department of Aeronautics to review the proposal.

Liquor Store Manager Bob Leslie reported on the Liquor Store.

Clerk-Treasurer Glenys Ehlert presented the 09-30-07 financial reports.

Florencio Barragon did not provide the requested time line for his building improvement project. No action taken.

The State of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is requiring additional inspection work at the Old City Shop site, including development of a work plan to clean up the spill, plans and specs for the clean up through the contractor bid process. Motion by Waller, seconded by Peterson to approve the proposal and hire Terracon for \$2100 for the above project. Motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Don Solga recently attended a West Central Initiative workshop on the 2012 transportation enhancement grant. Regarding the Veteran's Memorial River Park project, he recommends that the City work on developing plans and specs for the 2010 grant that has been awarded to the City. He requested authorization to have Ulteig Engineering and KLJ develop proposals for the plans and specs for the project. City Council agreed.

Administrator Don Solga explained there is a State Safe Routes to School Grant and he would like to cooperate with the school on writing this grant application. He has met with School Superintendent Deb Wanek and Elementary School Principal Crystal Thorson and developed some ideas about safe routes to school.

Administrator Don Solga reviewed the improved traffic flow after the We Fest Festival dismissed in 2007. This was a result of the timing of the traffic lights, a change programmed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Solga would like to request that this change be

made for the period from June 1st to August 31st of each year, due to the increased traffic on Hwy. 59 during the summer months. City Council agreed.

Administrator Don Solga reviewed the concept of a Storm Water Utility Ordinance and Fee. This utility fee would permit the City to put some money away for storm water improvements. Mayor Runningen explained that when streets are reconstructed, then the City special levies the amount needed. Council indicated they will continue to budget for other repairs as part of the general fund.

Loretel Cablevision notified the City Council that cable customers will see a new fee on their November, 2007 billing statements called a Retransmission Fee. This fee is to help offset the cost of broadcasting local channels.

Motion by Waller, seconded by Peterson that the City Council will meet on Tuesday, November 13th at 5:30 p.m., instead of Monday, November 12th when Veteran's Day is observed. Motion passed unanimously.

The Economic Development Corporation (EDC) will be meeting on Thursday, 10-11-07, at the Library at 6:00 p.m. to hear a presentation about helping communities know and grow their retail customers from Ryan Pesch, regional extension educator with the University of Minnesota. The EDC is inviting community members, especially business owners to attend.

Legislative Commission to End Poverty will be touring the City of Pelican Rapids on Wednesday, October 24th and would like to meet with the Mayor and various groups.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Glenys Ehlert, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer