

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**April 9, 2008**

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Gerald Bauer  
Roll Call: Present – Council Members Schofield, Schoonover, Polzer, Weissinger, Lieffring, and Gould.  
A quorum was present. Administrator Gurney was also in attendance.

Due and proper notice of meeting was confirmed by the administrative staff.

Motion by Council Member Schofield, seconded by Council Member Weissinger to adopt the agenda as present. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment** – None.

**Scheduled Appearances:** Herb Schneider appeared regarding Fun Fest. He outlined a few entertainment changes to the fest and the overall event calendar. Most of the logistics would be the same as in the past including street closings, set-up in the park and activities. Discussion followed regarding costs of City staff for the event, community support, history of the event and previous charges. Herb discussed several changes he has made to the event to reduce or eliminate the need for City public works and police assistance. A discussion then followed over adequate policing of the event, liability and other events which occur at the same time which result in the need for additional policing including the softball tournament and the entertainment downtown. Mayor Bauer and Administrator Gurney will meet with Herb to discuss the event and charge for services and report back at the May Council Meeting.

**Administrator's Report:**

Administration-

Consideration of Resolution #08-04 Approving the Change in Dental Insurance Plans from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009. Administrator Gurney provided the background of the dental insurance the City provides, the benefit comparison between the two plans, and the cost savings of switching to the new plan. Resolution offered by Council Member Schoonover. Motion made to approve Resolution #08-04 by Council Member Lieffring, seconded by Council Member Gould. Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Community Development-

Consideration of contract renewal with 3-D Strategies to assist with economic development recruitment. Discussion followed regarding projects that have been completed and/or approved in the last year. Council also discussed involvement of staff and council members and the need to perhaps refocus on the downtown area. The Council also discussed the idea of offering an incentive to companies like 3-D who may be able to bring a business prospect to Durand. Administrator Gurney pointed out that in terms of recruitment, the City does not have vacant industrial land to market for development. Motion by Council Member Lieffring, seconded by Council Member Gould to not renew the annual contract with 3-D Strategies. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Finance-

Motion by Council Member Schoonover, seconded by Council Member Weissinger to approve the March Ambulance write-offs in the amount of \$1,687.68. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Public Safety-

*Police* – Administrator Gurney updated the Council on the use of an email notification system by the P.D. to provide better and faster response to residents and business owners of certain alerts or notices. The P.D. will again be able to provide staffing for Fun Fest without the need to hire additional help from outside of the City of Durand.

*Fire* – Fire Dept. has ordered a new hose tester as provided in the budget. The cost will be approximately \$1,800, which is less than what was budgeted. Representatives from the Department also recently attended the Fire Fighter’s Convention.

*Ambulance* – Three new recruits have been licensed and will be starting to ride-along. The Ambulance Service will need to purchase radios for the new EMTs at a cost of approximately \$1,100.00.

Public Works-

Consideration of hiring part-time summer public works help for mowing and park maintenance. The Public Works Committee recommended hiring back Don Klein and LaVerne Sabelko as well as offering the third position to Keith Boesel, with Ron Asher as the alternate in the event Mr. Boesel declines. Motion by Council Member Weissinger, seconded by Council Member Lieffring to accept the recommendation and offer the positions as stated. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Consideration of contracting with Cedar Corporation to provide design and related engineering services for 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East reconstruction project from Main to Prospect Street in 2009. The total project costs of the project, inclusive of water and sewer main replacement, would be approximately \$280,000.00. Administrator Gurney discussed the positives and potential cost savings of designing the project in 2008 and bidding along with the Riverwalk project for construction in 2009. City Engineer Jones agreed with the stated advantages and potential cost savings. The Public Works Committee recommended approval. Motion by Council Member Schofield, seconded by Council Member Lieffring to authorize Cedar Corporation to provide design and prepare bid documents for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East reconstruction project for a cost not to exceed \$15,000. Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes, 0 naves. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Schofield provided an update of repairs to the street sweeper as a result of an accident on the Hwy 10 bridge several weeks ago. Also, the dates of Spring Clean-up are scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> through April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Engineer’s Report:

Charlie Jones from Cedar Corporation was present to discuss the Chippewa Riverwalk Project. A second Public Input Meeting for the Riverwalk Project is being planned. Mr. Jones gave an update to the Council on the title work that is being done on property along the project corridor. Project components and a cost estimate of the Phase II portion of the project from 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue West westward were also discussed. A second public informational meeting with regulatory agency involvement is being planned for May. Mr. Jones had recently attended a workshop on the grant opportunities for waterfront projects and is nearly complete with the grant application for Phase II for submittal.

**Mayor’s Report:**

A meeting to discuss the yearly evaluation of Administrator Gurney will be scheduled by the Finance/Personnel Committee. A meeting is being scheduled with the Mayor Kropp and the City of Menomonie next week to discuss the community bike ride event scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup>, which is the Saturday morning of Fun Fest weekend. The day was chosen due to the fact that it is the National Trails Day and users will not be required to have a trail pass. Council Members were asked to look at their schedules for the regional League of Municipalities meeting scheduled in Eau Claire on June 5<sup>th</sup>. He encourage attendance at the meeting. Mayor Bauer acknowledged the Thank You Card relating to the announcement of the hotel project received from Marge Berger. A letter from Terry Mesch was on behalf of the Pepin County Economic Development Committee was received in support of the grant application for Phase II of the Riverwalk Project. Finally, the Council agreed to hold its reorganizational meeting at 6:30 am on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Administrator Gurney reviewed a benchmarking analysis with the Council which compares costs for City services and taxes with other similarly sized communities. This information will be the first part in a series to help identify the City’s comparables and then to evaluate information and services in more detail to improve overall operational and financial efficiency. Administrator Gurney also discussed several other initiatives including the State of Wisconsin’s Energy Independence Program which provides grant dollars to municipalities to promote alternative sources of energy and in the long run energy independence. Finally, Administrator Gurney discussed improvements to the Chippewa View Park. DIG had presented a

picture which represents an example of what they would like to see done with the Park. The Council also considered moving ahead with the improvements in 2008, instead of waiting until the Riverwalk Project in 2009. A Parks Board meeting will be scheduled in the near future to discuss the possible project and make a recommendation to the full Council.

**Previous Minutes:**

Motion by Council Member Schofield, seconded by Council Member Weissinger to approve the Council minutes from March 12<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Vouchers:**

Motion by Council Member Schoonover, seconded by Council Member Schofield to approve the vouchers as presented. Roll call vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Gould, seconded by Council Member Weissinger at 9:12 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Lance Gurney  
Administrator/Clerk