

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
August 14, 2008

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Gerald Bauer
Roll Call: Present – Council Members Gould, Schofield, Lieffring, Polzer, Weissinger, and Schoonover.
A quorum was present. Administrative Assistant Morgan was in attendance. Administrator Gurney arrived at 8:10 pm.

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

Request to move agenda item 8(D)1 down in the agenda between item number 11 and 12. Motion by Council Member Weissinger, seconded by Gould to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment – None.

Public Hearings:

Mayor Bauer called the public hearings to order for proposed Ordinance #489 to amend Section **13.1.40 Dog Defecation**, and Ordinance #490 to repeal Section **13.5.9 Present Where Food or Drink Sold** and recreate as **Locations Where Animals Prohibited**. The Council discussed the ordinances. In terms of the Dog Defecation Ordinance, signage would not be placed throughout the community. If a person wishes to call in a complaint, they will need to be prepared to write a statement as an eyewitness and sign. The exemptions to the “Locations Where Animals Prohibited” ordinance were reviewed by Mayor Bauer as well. Service pets would be excluded as well as events where approval was obtained by the appropriate authority beforehand. Seeing that no one was present to discuss the proposed ordinances, Mayor Bauer closed the public hearings.

Administrator’s Report:

Administration-

Consideration of approval of operator’s licenses. Assistant Morgan reviewed the applications and indicated all applicants had met the background investigation requirements. Motion by Council Member Polzer, seconded by Council Member Schofield to approve the operator licenses as submitted. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Consideration of request for Picnic License by St. Mary’s for Fall Festival. Motion by Council Member Weissinger, seconded by Council Member Gould to approve the license as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Consideration of request to close Laneville Avenue (County Rd F) from Lee Street to South Street on September 6th from 1 pm to 5 pm by Mary Van Stedum for a street dance event. Pepin County indicated that they would agree to closure if City okayed the request. The detour would need to have the appropriate signage and the City crew would return to Pepin County. Ms. Van Stedum would need to obtain a Dance Permit for the event. No parking will be posted on the west side of Jerry Avenue and the south side of Lee Street. Ms. Van Stedum would only need to notify those that are directly affected by the event and street closure. Motion by Council Member Lieffring, seconded by Council Member Gould to approve said request for street closing and dance. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Consideration of unanimous annexation petition by Curt Radle and Sharlene Dock to directly annex lands from the Town of Durand. This petition would result in the annexation of the remaining portion of the Rolling Greens Golf Course, which includes holes 7-9 and half of hole #6 as well as additional lands purchased with the golf course this year. The Town of Durand had been in contact with Council Member Schofield and indicated that they would like to be reimbursed for paving done on Schuh Road 2 years ago. The road was re-graded, re-ditched, and paved approximately 636 feet. The Council responded that they were not aware of the upcoming sale of the golf course or of the annexation, and therefore would not be willing to provide compensation to the Town for the project. Per State Statute, the City will need to pay the Town of Durand the equivalent of the town portion of the taxes for five years, estimated at

approximately \$960. Annexation Ordinance #491 was introduced by Council Member Weissinger. Motion by Council Member Schoonover, seconded by Council Member Gould to approve Annexation Ordinance #491 annexing lands from the Town of Durand by direct annexation. Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Finance-

Motion by Council Member Schofield, seconded by Council Member Lieffring to approve the July Ambulance write-offs in the amount of \$1,066.87. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Public Safety-

Police – Sergeant Silberhorn-Anderson responded to questions from Council on the status of several ongoing investigations including the flag at Chippewa View Park, the flower pot that was stolen from Main Street, and the Ryan’s Sport Shop robbery.

Fire – Consideration of Resolution #08-08 to approve the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Agreement. Chief Plummer was present to answer questions regarding the proposed MABAS Agreement. The Agreement would be with Dunn and Buffalo Counties as part of 72 divisions in Wisconsin. Each participating community would be asked to help out during a disaster and be responsible for the equipment and personnel. All 72 divisions would be available to help under this agreement. In a disaster, it would allow the Durand area more access to equipment in the event of a major disaster. A meeting will be held on the 21st. The resolution was introduced by Council Member Schoonover. Motion by Council Member Weissinger, seconded by Council Member Polzer to approve Resolution #08-08 adopting the MABAS Agreement. Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Chief Plummer also discussed the Department’s equipment and pending grant applications as it relates to the 2009 Budget and beyond.

Engineer’s Report:

Kevin Myer from Cedar Corporation was present to provide updates on the Chippewa River Enhancement Project, 2nd Avenue reconstruction project, and the mapping project currently underway. In terms of the River Enhancement project, the trail and enhancements would begin by May of 2009, which is still on schedule. Announcements on the Phase II grants have been somewhat delayed due to the flood response efforts of the State. The 2nd Avenue East reconstruction project is on schedule to be bid at the end of this year with construction slated for after Fun Fest next year. Also, progress on the Family Dollar store was discussed.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bauer briefed the Council on his recent conference attendance at a Governor’s Conference and the National Mayor’s Conference, both in Madison. He indicated that he recently had toured a Cobblestone Inn & Suites in Evansville and stayed overnight at the one in Clintonville. He found the rooms to be very clean and nice. The auction at Hardees is scheduled for Friday, August 29th. Pepin County and the School District will also be bringing items for sale. Mayor Bauer then reviewed a letter he had received about the condition of a home in town. The Council indicated that if a person has a health concern about a property, the County Health Department would need to be contacted and involved. Next, Mayor Bauer reviewed the recent music events in Durand, including the Blues on the Chippewa and the July Music in the Park/Safety Night Out events. He thanked Rob and Dan for a job well done with the Blues event and also DIG for their successful Music in the Park series. A discussion followed regarding the frequency of the Music in the Park events and perhaps doing a car show with some of them. Comments should be directed to DIG for consideration when planning next years events. Other ideas expressed were holding the event on specific days each month consistently and starting a little earlier. Finally, Mayor Bauer also discussed the grant applications that have been submitted for the second phase of the Riverwalk project. While recently attending conferences in Madison, he took the opportunity to meet with several officials to discuss the pending grant applications the City has submitted for the riverwalk enhancement project. He thanked both Representative Gronemus and Senator Vinehout for their assistance and for their tremendous staff support.

Public Safety-

Motion by Council Member Schoonover, seconded by Council Member Weissinger to go into closed session at 8:15 pm pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of “considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the City Council has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility” relative to interviewing and possibly hiring a new police officer to fill an upcoming vacancy. Administrator Gurney and Sergeant Silberhorn-Anderson were asked to remain. Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Motion to go into open session at 9:53 pm by Council Member Gould, seconded by Council Member Weissinger. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Council Member Schofield, seconded by Council Member Lieffring to conditionally offer the full time police officer position to Josh Larsen subject to the satisfactory completion of a psychological evaluation and background check. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Council Member Lieffring, seconded by Council Member Schofield to amend Section XXII of the Employee Handbook, HOURS OF WORK as submitted. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Council Member Polzer, seconded by Council Member Lieffring to approve the August and September Police Department schedules as presented by Administrator Gurney which consists of a rotating schedule of 5 days on and 3 days off for three officers. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Previous Minutes:

Motion by Council Member Schoonover, seconded by Council Member Schofield to approve the Council minutes from July 9th and July 23rd. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Vouchers:

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

Council Member Polzer asked that an ordinance and/or Employee Handbook amendment be considered that would allow the Oversight Committee to conduct the exit interview of any full-time employee who is leaving employment with the City of Durand. Administrator Gurney will review and provide a recommendation.

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Schofield, seconded by Council Member Gould at 10:10 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Lance Gurney
Administrator/Clerk