

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 10, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Gerald Bauer
Roll Call: Present – Council Member Schofield, Council Member Lieffring, Council Member Weissinger, Council Member Polzer, Council Member Gould and Council Member Schoonover. Administrator Gurney was also in attendance.

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

Motion by Council Member Weissinger, seconded by Council Member Lieffring to adopt the amended agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment – None.

Scheduled Appearances: None.

Appointments: Motion by Council Member Lieffring, seconded by Council Member Schofield to approve the appointment of Katherine Hall to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Administrator's Report:

Administration-

The Council considered proposals from two auditing firms for the 2008 Audit. Discussion followed regarding types of services provided and costs. Motion by Council Member Polzer, seconded by Council Member Lieffring to authorize Mayor Bauer to contact LarsonAllen to discuss the proposal submitted and costs. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The matter will be readdressed at the next Council Meeting.

Consideration of requests for operator's licenses. Five applications were received and backgrounds checks were conducted. Motion by Council Member Schofield, seconded by Council Member Gould to approve the operator's licenses as submitted. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Peggy Manor from the Pepin County Humane Society was present. In January of 2006, she had appeared to request an increase in the fees paid for animal impoundment and for a new contract. Although she has received the increase in fees, the shelter still has no contract with the City. Administrator Gurney had drafted a contract that was reviewed and found acceptable. Motion by Council Member Weissinger, seconded by Council Member Polzer to approve the contract with PCHS. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Council Member Gould, seconded by Council Member Weissinger to convene into closed session at 7:10 p.m. pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(e) Wis. Stats. for the purpose of discussing development negotiation updates for TID #3 and related economic development activity and pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c) Wis. Stats. for the purpose of discussing the sixth-month probationary review of Administrator Gurney. Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Council Member Gould, seconded by Council Member Lieffring to reconvene into open session at 8:17 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Bauer noted that no decisions were made as a part or result of the closed session at this time.

Community Development-

Administrator Gurney discussed the draft program parameters for a new downtown economic development tool called the Facade Enhancement Program. The program was modeled after two similar programs in Madison and Milwaukee with additional input from Main Street of Menomonie. The grant program would provide matching grants up to \$2,000 for certain façade enhancements including awnings, window lettering and historic signage. The Council voiced support for the draft program. The program specifics will be finalized and presented to the Community Development Community for input and recommendation to Council.

Finance-

Motion by Council Member Schoonover, seconded by Council Member Lieffring to approve the September Ambulance write-offs in the amount of \$1,316.22. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A resolution was offered by Council Member Weissinger, motion by Council Member Lieffring, seconded by Council Member Polzer to approve a budget amendment transferring \$2,000 from the swimming pool repair and maintenance account to the Tarrant Park capital outlay account for the purpose of installing of water services to the RV sites in Tarrant Park. Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried unanimously.

Park Board-

Discussion regarding incentive pay for pool staff for the Tarrant Park Pool. The incentive pay used to be provided for staff working the entire season which extended through the weekend of Labor Day. Discussion followed relating to the intended time frame and the advertised time frame which indicated the "entire season". Of the 17 staff, only 5 staff worked from the beginning to the closing of the pool. Motion by Council Member Schofield, seconded by Council Member Schoonover to pay the incentive to the 5 staff that worked the entire season. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Public Safety-

Police – the Department is down 1 additional part time officer again for a total of two.

Ambulance/Fire – The new ambulance will not arrive until October 30th.

The Public Safety Committee will next meet on Monday, October 15th.

Public Utilities-

Final revisions for the Cross Connection Program were discussed. Administrator Gurney explained that the proposal would now use Utility staff to conduct the assessment for services under 1 1/4 inches. However, larger services would require an independent inspection. The program was reviewed in full. Motion by Council Member Schofield, seconded by Council Member Gould to adopt the program as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

An advertisement for the hiring of a full-time utility operator position to fill a vacancy due to a pending retirement was reviewed. The decision to fill the position with a full-time employee versus other options was discussed. Administrator Gurney will move forward with the posting of the advertisement.

Consideration of the pending water tower lease for certain communications equipment by Alltel was discussed. Due to last minute changes, the matter was not ready for Council consideration, instead being referred to the Finance Committee.

Public Works-

Consideration of proposal to keep Forest Hill Cemetery mowing in-house. The Finance Committee had discussed the proposal. It was felt that if the mowing was brought in house and the existing equipment was utilized, the City could realize some potential cost savings by hiring a

third part-time employee in 2008 to assist with mowing and trimming responsibilities. Motion by Council Member Lieftring, seconded by Council Member Gould to keep the cemetery mowing in-house for 2008 versus bidding it out. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Zoning-

No report.

Engineer's Report:

No report.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bauer discussed an ongoing stormwater issue with the School District. The matter was referred to the Public Works Committee.

Mayor Bauer discussed an ongoing discussion with Mayor Kropp of Menomonie relating to an organized bicycle ride between Durand and Menomonie next year. It would be a one-day event.

Mayor Bauer discussed the idea of the City taking over ownership/control of the state highways through the City limits. It was an issue he discussed with several other communities last week at the League convention. The matter should be further discussed by the Public Works Committee.

Old Business:

Council Member Lieftring discussed the issue relating to assisting Reiland's with obtaining access to the property the city sold them. She had contacted Xcel recently and was expecting a return phone call.

Council Member Lieftring also brought up an issue brought up at the DIG meeting. They would like to have no parking on one side of Main Street for the dazzle parade. The matter is included on the agenda for the Safety Committee Meeting on Monday, October 15th.

Previous Minutes:

Motion by Council Member Weissinger, seconded by Council Member Lieftring to approve the Council minutes from September 12th. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Vouchers:

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

Other Business:

Administrator Gurney discussed Health Savings Account (HSA) health insurance plans with the Council. He is working on additional information and hopes to have a proposal ready for consideration within the next month.

Council Member Schoonover brought up the fact that several street lights are still not working throughout the city. Administrator Gurney indicated that Public Works Superintendent Poeschel had conducted a survey and found approximately 27 lights that were not working properly. He turned the information into Xcel and is waiting for a repair crew to be scheduled.

A complaint relating to old furniture and other debris being left in a resident's yard was discussed.

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Schoonover, seconded by Council Member Schofield at 10:03 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Lance Gurney
Administrator/Clerk