

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL - GOALS & OBJECTIVES MEETING**

**JUNE 4, 2013**

Mayor Jeff Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Kay McDaniel, Jean Soine, Donovan Mayer, and Gene Beavers. Also present were Renee Eckerly, City Administrator; Ron Mergen, Public Works Director; Bill Ludwig, Liquor Store Manager; Paul Wegner, Police Chief; Jennifer Welling Administrative Assistant; Chuck DeWolf, Bolton & Menk; and Paul Saffert, Bolton & Menk, Inc.

**Motion was made by Soine to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2013 Special City Council – Goals & Objectives meeting. Seconded by Beavers and unanimously carried.**

Thompson reviewed the list of items from the last meeting.

**Lake Ave. Minnie St. Intersection**

Traffic counts are being conducted at this intersection. Lake Ave. from the intersection to the bridge is planned to be re-constructed in 2014 or 2015 including installing a water main under the river. This is going to the June Public Works Committee meeting for a recommendation to Council.

**Compost Site**

SCORE funds can be utilized for tree plantings for up to a \$1,000.00 matching grant. Residents are requesting an increase in compost site hours availability. Mergen will approach the Hockey Association regarding extending the days/hours.

**Hwy. 23 Turn Back**

The highway has been turned over to the County.

**2014 Street Project**

The Preliminary Report will be presented to the Public Works Committee in June and then forward it to Council to set the Preliminary Assessment Public Hearing.

**Trail**

There is a Trail Board meeting next week. Punch list items and seeding corrections remain to be completed.

**Hwy. 23 Signage**

Eckerly has contacted MnDOT, but has not received a call back yet regarding the signage or landscaping.

**MPCA – Former Mid Town Service Station**

Mergen is still trying to set up a meeting with them.

**Waste Water Treatment Facility Re-Scoping Project**

The project is approximately 70-80% complete.

## **Ampe Park**

Improvements to the park are in a slow progression. This is going back to the Park & Tree Board this summer for improvements to start late fall or next year.

## **Gazebo Park**

The splash pad is the main focus for the Park & Tree Board this year.

Eckerly asked that two items be added to the list:

1. Credit Card Sales
2. Land Sales

## **Water System**

DeWolf distributed a handout and reviewed the project details. The Council discussed the following regarding the low pressure in the Project 55 addition (Carroll Court area):

- Dual pressure zones
- Options:
  - Booster pumps
  - Neighborhood station
  - New tower
  - City expansion/growth phase approach

Mayer stated that he initiated this to be on the agenda and expressed the following:

- His concern with the clear well
- If the plans and specifications are completed on the project and when the Council would see them
- Is this in the Water Comprehensive Plan
- He supports the clear well underground
- He does not support a 470,000 gallon reservoir
- The issues with the current water system is a direct result of the placement of the tank (at ground level)
- Build above ground tank does not solve the current problems
- There is initial cost savings, but in the long run it doesn't fix the problems

Saffert stated the reason it's being built above ground is that the Department of Health won't allow it to be underground due to setbacks.

Mayer questioned why the reservoir has increased in size. DeWolf stated that it increases the City's overall supply to the system.

Mergen presented 2 issues:

1. A second pressure zone would be driven by development to the south.
2. Growth to the North or West – there is no need for a second zone.

Mayer suggested doing a second zone now. Mergen stated that it is not feasible, why build a second zone when it's not needed.

Mayer doesn't understand why the City can't have an above ground storage facility work in this community. There was further discussion on an above versus below ground facility and the capacity.

There was some discussion on the setbacks needed to expand the facility and the possibility of purchasing additional land so that setbacks would not be an issue. It was noted that there is a balancing act of aesthetics versus capacity.

It was suggested to research this so that the City can get an entire overview for 10 years from now. Costs and available funding was discussed. There was some discussion on the MPCA benzene contamination.

The water pressure in Project 55 was discussed. This will be put back on the City Council's agenda.

### **Community Events**

National Night Out is tentatively being set for August 6, 2013. The Kids Fair had over 100 kids in attendance.

### **Zoning Ordinance**

Eckerly stated that this needs to be added as high so that quotes can be obtained to codify the ordinance.

### **Staffing**

Liquor Store – staffing is complete and good.

Police Department – staffing is good. Department is applying for a grant for a school officer which will not be just a 4 year program. Wegner would like to boost part-time staff with staff from other agencies.

Administration – this is on the Polices & Procedures Committee meeting agenda for tomorrow night.

### **Records Management**

The records management is still being reviewed.

### **RFP Building Inspector**

Eckerly reported:

- Wasmund has been very ill
- Talked to Gary Utsch to get help in cleaning up the Minnie Street properties
- The Planning Commission does not want to lose Gary Utsch
- Utsch is very loyal to Wasmund
- She has not had the time to put together the community piece for the RFP's

### **Minnie Street Properties**

It was reported:

- Cost approximately \$11,000.00 to clean the property up plus back taxes
- The conservator wants to move the property
- Photos of the property have been taken

## **Lake Ave./Minnie Street**

The Credit Union property was mentioned.

## **Staffing**

It was reported:

- That there is more work with less staff
- Workloads have increased
- Job descriptions have been revised
- Replace Lundgren's position
- Replace Alsum's position with a part-time 24 hour per week person
- Replacing both is less money than what Lundgren's salary was
- A temp is being proposed to be hired

## **Union**

Job descriptions are being re-evaluated. The staff will have a pay equity meeting on June 14, 2013. The pay equity study should be done by October; however, it should be done sooner than that.

## **Street Lights - Opportunity Park**

The Ad Hoc Enhancement Committee needs to meet on this.

## **RFP's**

The ERFPP Committee needs to meet.

## **Annexation**

Spooner has reviewed the existing Annexation Agreement and that the Agreement only covers the listed land; all other land is available to be annexed.

## **AIS**

Eckerly has talked to the Watershed District. The District has hired another part-time employee. The Township has given \$6,000.00 towards AIS inspections and will give up to \$10,000.00 if the City will give the same.

## **Litigation For MPCA**

Mergen has contacted MPCA, but has not heard anything back yet. Litigation has not been pursued to date.

## **Annexation Agreement**

It was stated that the Annexation Agreement stinks and how does the Council change it. It was stated that any changes to the Agreement would need Joint Planning Board approval and now there is 2 City representatives and 2 Township representatives. The at large position as not been filled to date. Both the City and Township are to bring 3 names to be considered for the open position.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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Renee Eckerly, City Administrator