

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

JULY 30, 2012

Mayor Jeff Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Jeff Bertram, Jean Soine, and Dennis Zimmerman. Gene Beavers was absent. Also present were Renee Eckerly, City Administrator; Ron Mergen, Public Works Director; Bill Ludwig, Liquor Store Manager; and Stephanie Hormann, Cable Coordinator.

Motion was made by Zimmerman to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2012 Special City Council - Goals & Objectives meeting. Seconded by Bertram and unanimously carried.

FEED CO. /LAKE AVE. NORTH

Eckerly gave a verbal report. The Council wants to ask Chuck DeWolf if the Feed Co. property would work for a short term fix for the intersection. Eckerly distributed the Lake Ave./Minnie Street intersection layout which was previously approved; however, Feed Co. was not an option to purchase then. Council would like as much information as they can get on extending Lake Ave. Council talked about polling the downtown businesses regarding closing Washburne Ave. and opening Lake Ave. Lake Ave. aesthetics is not inviting; as part of the road is a farm road.

It was suggested to make the following a high priority:

- Lake Ave.
 - Feed Co. – encourage them to speak
 - Industrial Park
 - Lake Ave. to Bridge
 - Ferche Development

MINNIE STREET BLIGHTED PROPERTY

Eckerly reported on the Schmidt and LaPlant properties and the status of such.

RENTAL ORDINANCE

Thompson explained the calls to staff and police officers regarding trash and vandalism. There are ordinances where after so many times the property owner is fined. The City would like to find out how it works; talking to the owners before the City approves an ordinance.

It was suggested to track the number of calls from rental properties. Have the police work with the tenants and landlords to improve the issues.

GENERAL DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT

The general aesthetics of the community was discussed. The letters sent from the City to the downtown business owners were too stern. The City Council would like encouraging letters and to recognize property owners who take care of their property. The City needs to

encourage people to come downtown. The Chamber of Commerce can assist to keep business properties looking nice. It was noted that the streets are being swept less and trees need to be trimmed. Mergen reported on money left in the Wellhead Grant that may be able to be used. It was suggested to have the Chamber of Commerce take care of encouraging the proper cleaning. It was further suggested to promote good looking properties; businesses and residential and add it to the Council agendas. The Public Works Department will select the properties.

SISTER CITY STATUS

Thompson has covered the dues to Sister City International Cultural Exchanges; where they network to help with education, arts, and economics. Paynesville, Liberia is in need of everything from water quality to waste disposal. The City has to sign documents to be a part of the organization. The dues are \$150.00 and Thompson will meet with the Chamber of Commerce in September about this.

HOW IS THE CITY GOING TO MARKET THE TOWN?

It was reported that the Visioning Group is working on this. Suggestions included:

- Digital is very important
- Trail needs to be marketed
- Use Explore Minnesota
- Contact Corner Drug to find out the status of the former grocery store building

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mergen reported that the Public Works Department is just covering its bases; however, struggling to get things completed. It is in the budget to hire a third part-time worker. In the winter there is not a need for an additional full-time person. It would be beneficial to hire one part-time person that is not restricted to 67 days per year.

LIQUOR STORE

Ludwig reported on signage along the Hwy. 23 Bypass.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON VOTER ID

The Council discussed whether to educate the community on it or not and the Council declined to get involved.

VACANT BUILDINGS/LOTS

It was suggested to create an inventory of buildings and lots that are available.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES LISTING

#54 – Reconstruction of Lake Ave. Bridge – Mergen reported that within 5 years this will have to be addressed.

#8 – Airport Taxiway Expansion – Mergen reported that there is a need to budget \$60,000.00 each year to have enough money if this is going to stay on the CIP. The Council would like to see data as to how many take offs and landings there are.

#57 – City Administrator’s Contract – High Priority – The Council would like this on a future Council agenda to discuss how to proceed.

Add – Contract Negotiations – City Hall Group.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Renee Eckerly, City Administrator