

CITY COUNCIL

7:00 P.M.

July 7, 2008

Present: Scott M. Johnson
David Gustafson
Pat Kelley
Steven Marolt
Amber Dow

Wayne Johnson, City Attorney

Also attending: Harold Koepp, Jack Swanson, Ken Hertz, Robert Kind, Tom Clifford,
Michael Guzzo, Forrest Johnson

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion Kelley, second Marolt to approve the Consent Agenda item 3 (minutes of June 16, 2008, Council Meeting; June 26, 2008 Special Council Meeting; and June 30, 2008, Special and Closed Council Meeting) THE MOTION CARRIED

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, & COMMUNICATIONS

Letter from Bernie Zupancich complementing City employees and Council members for their leadership in several happenings during the past months—the remodeling of the liquor lounge and move from the lounge to the ReUnion Hall and back again, the ATV rally, and the assistance in building the bridge at the golf course.

DEED ON THE ROAD – Motion Marolt, second Kelley to allow the City Administrator and any member of the Council to attend the July 21 “Deed on the Road” session in Duluth with usual expenses paid. THE MOTION CARRIED

COUNTY COMMISSIONER CLIFFORD addressed Council regarding improvements to Highway 61. He suggested communities join to approach Rep. Oberstar and the district engineer en masse regarding requests for improvements on Highway 61. Council was agreeable to doing this.

HERITAGE DAYS PARADE – Motion Kelley, second Dow to authorize Councilmember Gustafson and any other Councilmembers to use the City vehicle and city float in the Heritage Days Parade in Two Harbors July 21. THE MOTION CARRIED

DEPARTMENTS – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

RESIGNATION OF MARINA MANAGER – Motion Gustafson, second Marolt to accept the resignation of David Oltman as marina manager with regret and to authorize advertising for a replacement for the position. THE MOTION CARRIED

NUISANCE POLICY – Atty. Johnson stated the Code contained sufficient provisions regarding nuisance properties and just needed to be enforced. Most people have

complied in response to citations recently issued by the police department. One citation has been brought to his office for prosecution, Atty. Johnson said.

2008 ELECTION JUDGES – Motion Kelley, second Marolt to adopt Resolution 2008-#27, Approving Election Judges for the 2008 Minnesota State Primary (Tuesday, Spetember 9, 2008 from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.) and the General Election (Tuesday, November 4, 2008, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.)

Roll call vote: Member Gustafson – aye Member Dow – aye
 Member Kelley – aye Member Marolt – aye
 Mayor Johnson – aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED

ABOLISHMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION – Atty. Johnson stated in view of the fact the Utilities Commission did not have administrative staff and could not carry out all the statutory requirements of a regulatory commission, the Commission recommended abolishing the current commission and establishing a commission to serve in an advisory capacity instead. Council agreed if voters approved abolishing the current commission at the next general election, Council would establish an advisory utilities commission in its place.

Motion Kelley, second Dow to adopt Resolution 2008-#30, A Resolution to Place the Abolishment of the Public Utilities Commission on the Ballot for the General Election.

Roll call vote: Member Gustafson – aye Member Dow – aye
 Member Kelley – aye Member Marolt – aye
 Mayor Johnson – aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED

RESIGNATION OF DOGCATCHER – The current dogcatcher has verbally resigned. Member Kelley suggested delaying advertising for a replacement right away in order to allow time to determine what plans the humane society might have for hiring someone for our area. Council agreed to table the issue.

IRR GRANT FOR MARY MACDONALD – Motion Gustafson, second Marolt to adopt Resolution 2008-#29, Authorizing the City to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the State of Minnesota Through the Iron Range Resources Public Works (09) Infrastructure Grant Program for the Mary MacDonald Project in the amount of \$120,000 and Authorize the Mayor and the City Administrator to Sign the Grant Agreement.

Roll call vote: Member Gustafson – aye Member Dow – aye
 Member Kelley – aye Member Marolt – aye
 Mayor Johnson – aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED

CITY ATTORNEY - TRAINING REPORT – Atty. Johnson provided Council with a written report of the annual city attorney’s conference he had recently attended. He suggested if

the Council wanted detailed reports, it should develop guidelines on this for any person in the city who attended training sessions. Mayor Johnson commented that department heads who attended sessions presented an overview of these to their respective commissions.

MAYORAL TERM – Atty. Johnson reported recent legislation allowed the City to have a 4-year term for the office of mayor. Mayor Johnson and Council members Dow and Gustafson expressed support for continuing with a 2-year term. They felt a mayor who was doing a good job would be re-elected. Member Kelley suggested researching this issued with some other communities before making a decision. Former Mayor Robert Kind said he supported a 4-year term for mayor. Atty. Johnson stated about half of the small cities in the State now had 4-year terms. Council decided to TABLE the matter.

Atty. Johnson advised that when a city used a consent agenda, it should be made clear to the public what items were being voted on. Although the items are indicated on the printed agenda, Mayor Johnson agreed in the future he would verbally indicate what the items were on the consent agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Johnson reported he had signed a purchase order for a new squad car which had been approved for the 2008 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Member Kelley noted many street signs in the city needed replacing. This will be placed on the next Public Works Commission agenda. Member Gustafson asked that the matter of Mary MacDonald signs be placed on the next Council agenda.

CLAIMS – Motion Marolt, second Gustafson to approve payment of \$171,503.39 unpaid claims and \$377,397.64 paid claims as presented. THE MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was closed at 7:43 p.m. to discuss a matter of pending litigation.

The meeting returned to open session at 8:11 p.m.

Motion Marolt, second Kelley to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. THE MOTION CARRIED

Minutes taken by Betty Oslund

Scott M. Johnson, Mayor

Lana Fralich, City Administrator