

CITY COUNCIL

7:00 P.M.

November 17, 2008

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

Lana Fralich, City Administrator
Gerald Morris, Asst. City Atty.

Also present: Carlene Perfetto, Ron Jonson, Forrest Johnson

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion Kelley, second Gustafson to approve the Consent Agenda item 3 (minutes of November 3, 2008, regular Council Meeting and November 10, 2008, Special Council Meeting) and item 4 (Treasurer's Report for April 2008). THE MOTION CARRIED

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

Letter from Iron Range Resources stating they will provide a grant of up to \$12,500 to serve as the local match should the City be successful in obtaining a grant from the MPCA to assess four potential renewable energy projects in its industrial park.

Notice of a Comprehensive Immigration Reform meeting in Duluth November 13.

Letter from Tom Smith, dated November 12, 2008, asking the City to continue to act as trustee on his ICMA retirement account. Ms. Fralich stated the City was not obligated to remain as a trustee on this account and she and Mayor Johnson were recommending that the City not continue to act as trustee. Atty. Morris noted the City would have certain fiduciary responsibilities if it remained as trustee on the account. Council declined to take action to continue as trustee.

DEPARTMENTS – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

BAY AREA VINEYARD CHURCH LEASE ADDENDUM – Ms. Fralich reported the additional space the Vineyard Church wanted to lease was going to be used as part of the new handicap-accessible bathroom at Mary Mac.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION – Ms. Fralich presented Certificates of Election to Pat Kelley and Carlene Perfetto, elected for 4-year Council terms beginning January 5, 2009, and to Scott Johnson, elected for a 2-year term as Mayor beginning January 5, 2009.

CHIEF OF POLICE—LETTER RE: K-9 DOG - Police Chief Jonson was present regarding the suspension of the use of Officer Dow's K-9 dog and asking whether the Council and City Administrator would like the police department to pursue a new K-9 dog or not. He noted Officer Dow had been in the process of soliciting donations for a new dog. Discussion followed regarding some of the issues presented in the letter such as certification of the dog, cost to the city, training requirements and costs, liability and ownership issues if donations were used to purchase a dog, and whether or not the department needed a dog since they were able to use—without charge--dogs the County had for narcotics sniffing and tracking. Mayor Johnson noted there were many issues, including a policy for use of a dog, that needed to be addressed if the City decided to pursue a new dog for the department. He asked that Chief Jonson keep the Council informed regarding money-raising efforts to purchase a dog.

OLD BUSINESS

SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE FOR EMPLOYEES – Ms. Fralich explained the reasons she felt insurance offered by AFLAC was more beneficial to employees than that offered by Minnesota Benefit Association. She recommended the City allow AFLAC to meet with City employees. The employee would pay all costs for the supplemental insurance; the City would allow the cost as a payroll deduction.

Motion Gustafson, second Dow to allow AFLAC to meet with city employees to explain their program for supplemental insurance.

Discussion followed.

Motion Gustafson, second Dow to amend the motion by adding “and to authorize payroll deductions for any fulltime employee who elects to purchase supplemental insurance from AFLAC.” THE MOTION CARRIED

MARY MACDONALD REHABILITATION PROJECT – Ms. Fralich reported the County had offered its assistance to do the loading dock exterior drive area which would save the City \$60,000. It is hoped to have this completed by the end of this week in cooperation with the City's street department.

CLAIMS – Motion Gustafson, second Marolt to approve payment of \$45,380.95 unpaid claims and \$44,885.18 paid claims as presented. THE MOTION CARRIED

Motion Kelley, second Marolt to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. THE MOTION CARRIED

Scott M. Johnson, Mayor

Lana Fralich, City Administrator