

## CITY COUNCIL

7:00 P.M.

October 15, 2007

Present: Scott M. Johnson  
David Gustafson  
Pat Kelley  
Steve Marolt

Absent: James P. Kelly

Tom Smith, City Administrator  
Wayne Johnson, City Attorney

Also attending: Chris Mattila, Dale Johnson, Don Seipke, Dave Mealey, Marie Frey, Jack Swanson, Forrest Johnson

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

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion Kelley, second Marolt to approve the consent agenda item 2 (minutes of October 1 Council meeting). THE MOTION CARRIED

### PETITIONS, REQUESTS, & COMMUNICATIONS

LETTER OF RESIGNATION from James Kelly, resigning from the Council effective October 31, 2007.

Motion P. Kelley, second Marolt to accept the resignation of James Kelly from the City Council with regret and to wish him the best with his health endeavors.

Member Gustafson complemented Mr. Kelly on the work he had done as a member of the Council. He suggested tabling action on the letter of resignation for a month to see if Mr. Kelly's health had improved by that time. A vote was called on the motion.  
THE MOTION CARRIED Member Gustafson voted naye.

The open Council seat will be advertised with an application deadline of November 2.

LETTER FROM G. STEVENS RE: STORM WATER RUNOFF problem in the area of Shaw, dated October 8, 2007. The street superintendent has been in contact with the resident. Council directed the city administrator and the street superintendent to handle the matter.

### OLD BUSINESS

BELL CIRICLE PROPERTY LISTING AGREEMENT – Local realtors from Century 21 and Edina Realty were present regarding the listing agreement for the Bell Circle property, which expired October 9. Dale Johnson said the property had been marketed widely for about 4 months, but there had only been one inquiry and that was to purchase part of the land. He noted there appeared to be a discrepancy in the exact size of the parcel and said the parcel was overpriced based on current market conditions and that the city might not

want to sell at this time. He suggested the city determine the exact size of the property, whether or not they wanted to sell at this time, and an asking price.

Motion Kelly, second Marolt to have the Bell Circle property surveyed as a complete unit, to first ask the county if they would conduct the survey, and to authorize the city administrator to seek proposals to survey the property. THE MOTION CARRIED

Council agreed to wait until they had the results of the survey before they addressed the issue of a listing agreement.

DEPARTMENTS – CITY ATTORNEY – Atty. Johnson reported the details had been worked out on the lease with Wilderness Family Naturals for additional space at MacDonald Center. The lease allows for a 3 year option to renew.

Atty. Johnson reported the survey of the city shop road and area around the city shop had been completed and revealed there is a small piece of the city shop sitting on North Shore Mining Company land. The attorney will meet with the mining company to determine if will agree to convey that piece of land to the city.

OLD BUSINESS – GRANT WRITER – Member P. Kelley asked if that item could be tabled. Member Marolt, who had seconded the motion at the Oct. 1 meeting, agreed.

Mayor Johnson reported he and the city administrator had met with the state senate bonding committee last week. It became apparent regional projects have more of a chance for receiving funds than do those benefiting a single city. Silver Bay's list of priorities has been changed to reflect this. Mary Mac Center and the street department salt shed have been dropped from the list.

## NEW BUSINESS

SIREN WARNING SYSTEM – Mayor Johnson reported that he, the city administrator, the fire chief and the police chief had met to discuss a city warning system. Such a system would have 2 or 3 sirens and audible messages. The cost would be in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 range. Both chiefs felt there was a need for such a system. Contact has been made with both the county and Cleveland Cliffs Mining regarding funds for the project.

REQUEST FROM AIRPORT COMMISSION TO APPROVE AIRPORT MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR JOB DESCRIPTION – Member P. Kelley suggested the city attorney review these before Council took action on them.  
NEXT AGENDA

REQUEST TO APPROVE UP TO \$350 FOR TOM PORTER TO ATTEND AIRTAP CONFERENCE – Motion Gustafson, second Kelley to approve up to \$350 for expenses for Tom Porter, chair of the airport commission, to attend the AirTap Conference in Minneapolis October 15-16, 2007.

The airport commission originally approved use of the remaining \$220 of budgeted 2007 funds for the conference but was now recommending council approve expending up to \$350 for the conference. Member Kelley noted he had attended this conference two years

ago and although it had valuable information, it was geared more toward the technical aspect of the airport and was more suitable for someone connected with the day-to-day activities of the airport such as an airport manager. Council raised questions regarding what the exact cost of the conference and lodging were. A vote was called.

The Motion FAILED – Members Kelley and Marolt voted naye.

REQUEST TO CLOSE CITY OFFICE DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING – Motion Gustafson, second Marolt to authorize closing the City Office the day after Thanksgiving, November 23, with the understanding office staff will use vacation days or comp time that day.

THE MOTION CARRIED

Member Gustafson expressed his displeasure with the manner in which Council had discussed the grant writer/planner position in connection with elimination of the city administrator position. He felt the Council should have met in closed session. He said he would like to see an ethics policy set up for the Council.

Mayor Johnson announced a closed session to discuss a disciplinary matter. The meeting was closed at 7:43 p.m.

The meeting was reopened at 8:14 p.m.

Mayor Johnson announced the Council had held a closed session and had determined that no disciplinary action was necessary at this time.

CLAIMS – Motion Kelley, second Marolt to approve payment of \$93,558.40 paid claims and \$42,422.33 unpaid claims as presented. THE MOTION CARRIED

Motion Marolt, second Gustafson to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. THE MOTION CARRIED

Minutes taken by Betty Oslund

---

Scott M. Johnson, Mayor

---

Tom Smith, City Administrator