

CITY COUNCIL

7:00 P.M.

May 3, 2010

Present: Scott M. Johnson
David Gustafson
Carlene Perfetto
Joanne Johnson
Steven Marolt

Lana Fralich, City Administrator
Pete Morris, City Attorney
Matt Suoja, Lake County News Chronicle
Forest Johnson

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

Agenda – Exotic Pets was added to New Business. Motion by Marolt, second J Johnson to approve the agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

Consent Agenda – Motion by Perfetto, second Gustafson to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2010 Budget Workshop, the April 19, 2010 Regular Council meeting, and the February 2010 Financial Report. MOTION CARRIED.

PETITIONS, REQUESTS and COMMUNICATIONS

Letter of Commendation, JT Starkovich – The Council reviewed a letter commending Officer Starkovich on his dealings with a recent call.

ReUnion Hall Rental – The Council reviewed a request to rent the Hall at the \$50 minimum fee, for a benefit dinner on May 26. There was discussion about the Liquor Store Manager and the Liquor Commission making the decisions regarding renting of the Hall. Motion by Perfetto, second Marolt to rent the ReUnion Hall , at the \$50 minimum fee, for a benefit dinner on May 26. MOTION CARRIED. Motion by Perfetto, second J Johnson to authorize the Liquor Store manager to approve the rentals of the ReUnion Hall, and to report to the Liquor Commission about all rentals approved. MOTION CARRIED.

LMC Annual Conference – The Council reviewed information regarding the League of Minnesota Cities conference to be held June 23–25, in St. Cloud. The benefits of this conference was discussed, however, no one on the Council will be able to attend.

NE Services Cooperative – The Council reviewed information about a meeting on May 6 in Two Harbors, regarding funding for fiber optic lines to be put into certain locations within Lake County. Motion by Perfetto, second Marolt to authorize Councilperson Gustafson to attend the NE Services Cooperative meeting on May 6 in Two Harbors. MOTION CARRIED.

MediaCom Newsleaders Invitation – The Council reviewed an invitation from MediaCom, for the City to participate in a taping of a TV news segment entitled, 'Newsleaders'. Motion by J Johnson, second Gustafson to authorize Mayor Johnson and Fralich to participate, on behalf of the City, in a taping of 'Newsleaders', on May 25 in Hermantown. MOTION CARRIED.

NALC Stamp Out Hunger food drive – The Council reviewed a request from the United Way for a City Official to attend this food drive on May 5 at the West Duluth Super One store. Although there was a consensus that this is a worthy event, no one from the Council will be able to attend.

2010 Elections – The date for the primary elections will be Tuesday, August 10; there will be no City elections at the primary election. The general election will be on Tuesday, November 2, where the City will have the following offices up for election: 1 Mayoral 2-year term, 2 Council 4-year terms, and 1 special election Council 2-year term. Filing dates for these offices will be August 3-17. The City is looking for residents who would be willing to serve as election judges.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Business Subsidy Policy – The Council reviewed the current Business Subsidy Policy, established by Resolution 2004-19. It was noted that the current policy has a \$25,000 subsidy amount, and the current state statutes call for an amount of \$150,000. The Council reviewed an amended policy that changes the subsidy amount from \$25,000 to \$150,000. Motion by Gustafson, second Marolt to adopt Resolution 2010-25 adopting the Business Subsidy Policy and Criteria.

Member Marolt – aye

Member Johnson – aye

Member Gustafson – aye

Member Perfetto – aye

Mayor Johnson – aye

RESOLUTION 2010-25 was ADOPTED. 5 aye, 0 nay

Exchange Day – There was discussion about having an exchange day on May 22, where residents can place unwanted items on the boulevard for exchange, and that items must be removed by May 24, or they will be picked up and disposed of at resident's expense. Motion by J Johnson, second Perfetto to establish Saturday, May 22, as a City Exchange Day. MOTION CARRIED.

Hibbing Community College, donation of Police Vehicle – The Council reviewed a letter from the Police Chief asking that a police vehicle, previously placed on the surplus property list, be donated to the Hibbing Community College in exchange for \$2,500 credit in Police Officer Training. Motion by Marolt, second J Johnson to authorize to donate a 2002 Ford Crown Victoria police car, as is, to the Hibbing Community College in exchange for \$2,500 credit in Police Officer Training. MOTION CARRIED.

Seasonal Employment – A list of employees that are recommended by the Personnel Committee to fill the seasonal employment positions was presented to the Council for approval. The City will begin hiring these employees as early as May 4, 2010, with the date of hire for each individual to be determined by the department heads. Motion by J Johnson, second Marolt to approve the seasonal employment hiring list.
MOTION CARRIED.

Spectrum Health Planning/Zoning Applications – The Spectrum Health Assisted Living Center project, and its timeline, were discussed. A Public Hearing for a Variance, regarding a set back, and a Conditional Use Permit, for the memory unit as a rest home facility in an R2 zone, has been set for May 12. Because the City is the owner of the property, until such time as a development agreement is finalized, the City, as owner, must give approval for the Variance and Conditional Use application. Motion by Marolt, second Perfetto, that the City acknowledges and approves of the Variance and Conditional Use application by Spectrum Health for development of City land on Banks Boulevard and Bell Circle. MOTION CARRIED. If these applications are recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Council would consider them, and the development agreement, at the May 17 meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY – No other business was presented by the attorney.

OLD BUSINESS – No other old business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Exotic Pets – There was discussion about information, received by the City, that a resident of the City has a pet Boa Constrictor, and that a live rat, used as feed for the snake, has been seen running loose on the property. There was discussion about the City Code requirements regarding exotic pets, and about vermin as a nuisance, as they relate to this subject. It was noted that the City Administrator's office is already working with the resident and property owner about this issue. This issue was tabled.

Claims – Motion by Gustafson, second Perfetto to approve payment of \$104,264.10 paid claims, and \$17,195.46 in unpaid claims. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Marolt, second J Johnson to adjourn at 7:32p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Lance K Beachem

Scott M. Johnson, Mayor

Lana Fralich, City Administrator