

City of Tower
Regular City Council Meeting
December 14, 2009
Monday @ 5:30 PM
City Council Chambers

The regular city council meeting was called to order by Mayor Abrahamson.

Present: Abrahamson, Hanson, Heinowski, Hiltunen, Nevala
Absent: None
Also Present: Kotzian, Lamppa

Visitors: Rolando Noyes, Ann Flannigan, Jim Macomber, Dave Durrant, Steve Altenburg, Bob Dale, Kevin Friebe, Bernie Zollar, Matt Bolf, Christina Hujanen, Ron Abrahamson, Sr., Sheldon Majerle, Jodi Summit, Jane Sundeen

Motion by Hanson supported by Hiltunen to approve the minutes of last meeting. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hanson to approve the agenda with the following additions: 8.10 School Status, 8.11 Reorganization - Ethics, Raising the Bar 8.12 Easement 9.3 D'Erick's Liquor License, 9.5 Boat Launch, and 9.6 Walking Path. All yes. Motion carried.

Written reports were received from officers of the Fire Department, Ambulance Department, Maintenance Department, City Clerk, Police Department and Blight Department.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hiltunen to accept the officers written reports. All yes. Motion carried.

The Tower Airport Commission made recommendations to raise private hangar leases by 3 cents per square foot and raise the minimum hangar lease from \$290 to \$325 per year and keep the commercial rate the same.

Also discussed was the water system tank located in a private hangar and the storage of the City's snow removal equipment. The commission recommended storage of the snow removal equipment in the same private hangar as the water system for \$550 a month for three months.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hanson to lease the private hangar of Lee VanDeusen at the price of \$550 per month for a period of three months, January - March 2010. All yes. Motion carried.

Matt Bolf reported on Harbor progress. The Trunk Highway 135 plat has been filed with the County. The County turn back agreement was approved by the County on Dec 1, although the Comprehensive Agreement with county has not been finished yet. On property acquisition, the Lakoskey paper work has been finished with the closing to

occur sometime in the next week or two. Wet land permits are in progress and the boat launch site preliminary drawings need to be reviewed by council prior to January's meeting. Approval for utility work on the City's property along with the detour agreement between the City and MnDot need to be signed.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Nevala to approve the MnDot detour agreement. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hanson to approve a temporary easement for construction purposes over, under and across the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 32, Township 62 North, Range 15 West and Government Lot 3, Township 61 North, Range 15 West. This easement will expire on December 31, 2011. All yes. Motion carried.

Planning and Zoning: No meeting.

Safety Committee: No meeting.

TEDA: No meeting.

Two applications were received for the position of Emergency Management Director. A committee of Hiltunen and Abrahamson will interview the candidates and make their recommendation to the Council in January.

Motion by Hanson supported by Abrahamson to raise the private hangar leases from 10 cents per square foot to 13 cents per square foot and the minimum private hangar rate from \$290 to \$325 per year as recommended by the Airport Commission. All yes. Motion carried.

Clerk Kotzian gave an update on the City Hall furnace. The only quote received was from Heisel Brothers for \$33,500. They have been given the okay to proceed.

Motion by Nevala supported by Heinowski approve Pay Estimate #4 to Jola and Sopp for \$68, 504.03 for work completed from November 8 to November 21, 2009 and to make Jola & Sopp aware of the drainage problem at the intersection of North 3rd and Norway Street. All yes. Motion carried.

Mediation is being scheduled with both Local 1490 and Local #1.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Hanson to approve the new appraised numbers on the cabin sites as presented by Wayne Edwards of Ridgewood Appraisals. Yes. Hiltunen, Hanson, Heinowski, Abrahamson No. Nevala. Motion carried.

A discussion on the Cathcart property was held. A committee of Hanson and Nevala was formed to meet with the Cathcart group to see if they are interested in selling the property to the City or sell it in combination with the City's property.

The status of the Tower Soudan School was discussed. Heinowski stated that the City Council needs to be behind the school issue and get more active.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hanson to set up a task force to work on

education issues and to meet with area representatives. Task force members are Hanson, Heinowski and Nevala. Yes: Richard, Tom, and Nevala. No: Hiltunen, Abrahamson. Motion carried.

Members of the Tower Soudan Historical Society were present and requested that the City to let them use the Depot at no cost.

Hanson read the following statement:

Whereas: the Tower Soudan Historical Society has over the past two years donated thousands of hours in labor and tens of thousands of dollars to restore and preserve the engine and cars of the train.

And the TSHA has also helped acquire a security system for the historic area.

And through these efforts the City of Tower has also received a great deal of free advertising in newspapers, radio, television and the internet.

Whereas: The TSHA has provided education, entertainment and information to over 3000 visitors this last summer.

And Depot Days has attracted thousands of visitors.

And one project planned for this summer is to improve the electrical facilities at the park. We will also be completing the caboose and doing some work on the engine.

Whereas: The relationship between the City and the Society is solid and we feel that it will continue.

Therefore: I move that the City of Tower allow the Tower Soudan Historical Society to occupy the Depot for its museum and information center rent free.

Motion by Hanson supported by Heinowski to allow the TS Historical Society to occupy the Depot for it's museum and information center rent free. Yes. Hanson, Heinowski, No: Hiltunen, Nevala, Abrahamson. Motion failed.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Nevala to approve a temporary liquor license for the TRFA for the Fish Fest to be held at the Tower Civic Center on February 13, 2010. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Nevala supported by Hiltunen to approve the liquor license transfer from Carol Erickson to David Erickson at D'Erick's Liquor. All yes. Motion carried.

Heinowski requested that three articles from the League of MN Cities magazine be copied and given to the council. He also requested that ethics be added to the agenda for the reorganization meeting in January.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hanson to table the request to plow the Hoodoo Point walking trail until further information from the City engineer is received. All yes. Motion carried.

A budget discussion was followed by several motions.

Motion by Hanson supported by Heinowski to raise the levy 0%. Abstain: Heinowski. Yes: Hanson. No: Hiltunen, Nevala, Abrahamson. Motion failed.

Motion by Nevala supported by Heinowski to raise the levy 3%. Yes; Nevala,

Abrahamson. No: Hiltunen, Hanson, Heinowski. Motion failed.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Heinowski to raise the levy 6%. Yes: Hiltunen. No: Abrahamson, Nevala, Hanson, Heinowski. Motion failed.

Motion by Heinowski to raise the levy 3% with the understanding that all 3% can be used for school if necessary. Motion fails for lack of a second.

Motion by Abrahamson supported by Hiltunen to raise the levy by 4%. Yes: Abrahamson, Nevala, Hiltunen, No: Hanson, Heinowski. Motion carried.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hanson to pay the bills. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Nevala supported by Heinowski to adjourn. Time: 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lamppa
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer