

City Council Meeting  
Regular Meeting  
City of Tower  
April 8, 2019  
Monday @ 5:30PM  
Tower Civic Center

The regular meeting of the Tower City Council was called to order by Mayor Orlyn Kringstad.

Present: Abrahamson, Anderson, Beldo, and Kringstad

Absent: Fitton

Also Present: L Keith

Visitors: Barb Burgess, Diane Meehan, Richard Larmouth, Joan Broten, Dave Broten, Doug Workman, Sheldon Majerle, Dena Suihkonen, Jodi Summit, Steve Wilson, Terri Joki-Martin, Andy Peterson, Matt Bolf, Leon Anderson, Bob Pratt, Anthony Sikora, Rolf Anderson, Keith Spicer, Gretchen Niemiste, Donna Mosher, Dennis Passi, Kathy Siskar, Charlie Carlson, Victoria Meloche, Mike Raj, Michael Wood, Mary Shedd, Richard Hanson, Barbara Rinne, Adeline Broten, Harlan Broten, Terry Driscoll, Jeanne Discroll, Carol Burgess, Jack Burgess, Pat Helmberger, Mary Batanich, Marit Kringstad, Lynn Scott, Muriel Scott, Ron Abrahamson Sr., Carolyn Miner, Linda Haugen, Deb Setterberg, Dave Setterberg, Randy Semo, Tom Mesojedec, Lee Peterson, Bev Peterson, John Bassing, Greg Knutson, Devin Ceglar, Dale Horihan, Julie Horihan, Marshall Helmberger, Amy Hinkel, Dave Rose, Jeff Hill, Dan Nylund, Steve Altenburg, and Marjorie Miller.

A motion was made by Abrahamson and supported by Anderson to accept the agenda as amended with the additions of 9.6 City Accounting Software and 9.7 Standing Bear Marina Final Pay Estimate. The motion carried unanimously.

Greg Knutson and Devin Ceglar of Walker, Giroux, and Hahne presented the results and findings of the 2018 City of Tower Audit.

A motion was made by Beldo and supported by Abrahamson to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2019 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Anderson and supported by Beldo to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2019 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Input:

Public Input was received from Mary Shedd regarding posting of City Council Agenda's on the website and advertising for City Commission members.

Diane Meehan spoke about the transfer of Miss Tower Soudan Funds to the 4<sup>th</sup> of Jul Committee.

Steve Wilson spoke about why the agenda still has Mayor Misconduct included.

Correspondence:

A thank you was received from a patient recently transported by the Tower Ambulance.

The Department of Health report notified the City that the February 2019 THM Samples were within normal limits.

A motion was made by Abrahamson and supported by Beldo to accept the reports from officers, commissions, and committees as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Abrahamson and supported by Beldo to authorize Rachel Beldo to contact independent legal counsel to verify if the Grievance Committee has binding authority. Councilor Anderson dissented. Mayor Kringstad abstained. Councilors Beldo and Abrahamson assented. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Beldo and supported by Abrahamson to table the Grievance Committee Procedures until the April 29, 2019 City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Abrahamson and supported by Anderson to adopt the Public Input Policy as presented by the City Clerk Treasurer. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Policy can be obtained from the City Clerk Treasurer.

A motion was made by Abrahamson and supported by Beldo to resolve that **WHEREAS**, all Minnesota communities benefit from a sound, efficient, and adequately funded transportation system that offers diverse modes of travel; and **WHEREAS**, the integrity of Minnesota's transportation infrastructure is dependent upon long-term planning and ongoing maintenance, both of which require dedicated and sustainable revenue sources; and **WHEREAS**, current funding for roads, bridges, and transit systems across all government levels in Minnesota is inadequate, and this under-investment diminishes quality of life for Minnesota residents and hinders Minnesota's progress as a national business, economic, and civic leader; and **WHEREAS**, Minnesota's transportation system is failing to meet the capacity needs necessary to sustain population growth and promote economic development; and **WHEREAS**, many rural roads are not built to modern safety standards and are not meeting the needs of industries that depend on the ability to transport heavy loads; and **WHEREAS**, insufficient state funding has delayed regionally significant road construction and reconstruction projects across Minnesota; and **WHEREAS**, transportation infrastructure maintenance and improvement costs significantly contribute to rising property taxes; and **WHEREAS**, for every dollar spent on maintenance, a road authority – and therefore taxpayers – save seven dollars in repairs; and **WHEREAS**, Minnesota contains over 141,000 miles of roadway, and over 22,500 miles – or 16 percent--are owned and

maintained by Minnesota's 853 cities; and **WHEREAS**, almost 85 percent of all municipal streets are not eligible for dedicated Highway User Tax Distribution Fund dollars; and **WHEREAS**, the more than 700 Minnesota cities with populations below 5,000 are ineligible for dedicated Highway User Tax Distribution Fund dollars, but have benefitted from the creation of the Small Cities Assistance Account; and **WHEREAS**, city streets are a separate but integral piece of the network of roads supporting movement of people and goods; and **WHEREAS**, existing funding mechanisms, such as Municipal State Aid (MSA), property taxes, and special assessments, have limited applications, leaving cities under-equipped to address growing needs; and **WHEREAS**, city cost participation in state and county highway projects diverts resources from city-owned streets; and **WHEREAS**, maintenance costs increase as road systems age, and no city – large or small – is spending enough on roadway capital improvements to maintain a 50-year lifecycle; and **WHEREAS**, cities need greater resources, including an additional dedicated state funding source for transportation, and flexible policies to meet growing demands for street improvements and maintenance. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOWER** that this Council requests that the Minnesota Legislature pass and Governor Tim Walz sign a comprehensive and balanced transportation funding package that permanently increases dedicated funding for transportation; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOWER** that this Council defines a comprehensive and balanced transportation funding package as an initiative that permanently increases dedicated funding for state and local road and transit systems in Greater Minnesota and the Metropolitan Area. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOWER** that this Council requests an omnibus transportation funding bill that provides additional dedicated state funding for city streets, including funding that can be used for non-MSA city street maintenance, construction, and reconstruction. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Beldo and supported by Abrahamson to authorize the transfer from reserves to cover the cost of the Cities by the Lake in Duluth, Minnesota. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Abrahamson and supported by Anderson to table the establishment of Mayor's travel allowance. Councilors Abrahamson, Anderson, and Beldo assented. Mayor Kringstad abstained. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Abrahamson and supported by Anderson to raise the maximum paid on call wage to \$11.50. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Abrahamson and supported by Anderson to resolve that **Whereas**, The City of Tower wishes to construct a pathway on Minnesota Department of Transportation Right-Of-Way along trunk highways 135 and 169 to serve as maintenance access to City owned signs; and **Whereas**, The City requests to maintain the proposed pathway on Minnesota Department of Transportation Right-Of-Way, as per this Resolution's adoption; and **Whereas**, Authorization of the Resolution will be forwarded to proper parties of the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation for review and approval of a Limited Use Permit; and **Whereas**, The City Engineer has reviewed and recommended authorizing the Public Works Department to maintain the

proposed pathways. **Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, By the City Council of the City of Tower, Minnesota:**

1. That the City Engineer is hereby authorized to request a Limited Use Permit from the Minnesota Department of Transportation for construction of a maintenance pathway along Trunk Highways 135 and 169.
2. That the City of Tower agrees to accept future responsibility for all costs associated construction, maintenance or removal of the proposed pathway.

That all previously written and unwritten documents are hereby superseded and that this resolution shall become effective on the day it is adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Anderson and supported by Abrahamson to transfer from reserves \$7,500.00 to cover the cost of Clerkbooks Accounting Software. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Abrahamson and supported by Beldo to approve the Low Impact Final Pay Estimate for the Standing Bear Demolition project in the amount of \$13,639.25. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Beldo and supported by Abrahamson to dismiss the employee relations complaint against Orlyn Kringstad. Councilor Anderson voted present. Councilors Beldo and Abrahamson assented. Mayor Kringstad abstained. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Abrahamson and supported by Beldo to close the meeting pursuant to Statute 13D.05 to discuss employee misconduct allegations. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Abrahamson and supported by Beldo to re-open the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Abrahamson and supported by Beldo to pay all bills. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Abrahamson and supported by Beldo to adjourn. Time out was 9:04PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda K Keith  
City Clerk Treasurer