

City Council Meeting
Regular Meeting
City of Tower
May 9, 2016
Monday @ 5:30PM
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Tower City Council was called to order by Mayor Josh Carlson.

Present: Broten, Carlson, Dougherty, Hiltunen, and Matich

Absent: None

Also Present: L Keith

Visitors: Sheldon Majerle, Stephanie Carlson, Steve Altenburg, Tony Sikora, and Marshall Helmberger

A motion was made by Matich and supported by Dougherty to approve the minutes of the previous meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matich and supported by Hiltunen to accept the agenda as amended with addition of 9.9 publication of Minutes to the City's website, 9.10 legality of city employees serving on city commissions, and 9.11 First reading of Zoning Ordinance 82 zoning map amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: None

Correspondence:

Correspondence was received from the Saint Louis County Fair Board thanking the City of Tower for their donation.

Correspondence was received from Joan Broten's attorney Erik Honkanen regarding rezoning near Mill Point Plat.

A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Broten to accept the reports from officers as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matich and supported by Hiltunen to accept the reports from Commissions and Committees as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Hiltunen to authorize the Hoodoo Point Campground manager's to proceed with hiring Broten Construction to install a basketball court at the campground. Councilors Hiltunen, Dougherty, Matich

and Mayor Carlson assented. Councilor Broten abstained. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Hiltunen and supported by Matich to give the 2nd reading to the amending of Ordinance 82 zoning map and the rezoning of parcels identified as 080-0020-00030, 080-0020-00162, and 080-0020-00035. Councilors Dougherty, Hiltunen, and Matich and Mayor Carlson assented. Councilor Broten dissented. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Broten to set the pay for election judges at \$12.00 per hour. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Hiltunen and supported by Matich to resolve that **WHEREAS**, the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) was created in 1941 by the Minnesota legislature to provide a structure to promote economic development, assist local communities, townships and school districts within the Taconite Assistance Area (TAA) with needed infrastructure repairs, upgrades and job growth opportunities, and **WHEREAS**, the funds dedicated to the IRRRB are generated from iron ore and taconite mining operations in lieu of property taxes instead pay a production tax based on tons of ore produced and the industry is also exempt from the corporate franchise tax and instead pays an occupation tax, and **WHEREAS**, taconite production and occupation taxes are a major revenue source for counties, cities, towns, and school districts located in the "Taconite Assistance Area." The Taconite Assistance Area includes all or a portion of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Koochiching counties. Part of the revenue is also paid to the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB), a state agency that conducts a variety of operations in northeastern Minnesota, and **WHEREAS**, a recent audit of the IRRRB by the Minnesota Legislative Auditor has determined that the current structure of the board of the IRRRB may be subject to a challenge under the Minnesota constitution, and **WHEREAS**, Senate Majority Leader, Tom Bakk has authored Senate File # 3582 which effectively alters the structure of the nine member board of directors of the IRRRB to an advisory board structure and affords the Commissioner of the Agency authority to exercise fiduciary responsibility over utilization of the agency's annual budget that will require approval of the Governor of the State of Minnesota similar to all other agencies in the state, **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the City of Tower located in the Taconite Assistance Area, hereby emphatically endorses S.F. 3582 and stands united in our support to retain local control over the utilization of the taconite revenue entrusted to the IRRRB. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matich and supported by Dougherty to pursue adding a sidewalk around the perimeter of the Tower Civic Center. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Matich to request a transfer of \$35,000 of entitlement funds from the City of Roseau. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Hiltunen and supported by Dougherty to authorize the City of Tower to receive and deposit into a separate savings account funds for the Lake Vermilion Bike Trail Steering Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matich and supported by Hiltunen to resolve that WHEREAS, Gary Burgess, an individual who has cared deeply for this community is virtually embedded in the policies and guidelines of this community; and WHEREAS, Gary Burgess has lived for 60 years in Tower, during which time he has established a sincere advocacy for many of the topics and issues the City of Tower faced throughout the years; and WHEREAS, Gary Burgess has served on the Tower City Council and as the Mayor of Tower for years, WHEREAS, Gary was no stranger to City Hall and acted as Chairman of the Gundersen Trust for a number of years; and WHEREAS, it was with great disappointment and sadness that elected officials and City staff learned of Gary's passing at his home in Tower on Thursday, the 5th day of May 2016. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF TOWER, does hereby honor Gary W Burgess for his many years of civic participation, recognizing his tireless efforts on behalf of not only the City of Tower but the Gundersen Trust. The City Council of the City of Tower hereby declares May 5th as Gary Burgess day in the City of Tower. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matich and supported by Broten to give the 1st reading to the amendment of Ordinance 82 Zoning Map. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Matich to pay all bills. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matich and supported by Hiltunen to adjourn. Time out was 6:52PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda K Keith
City Clerk Treasurer