

City of Tower
May 11, 2009
Monday @ 5:30 PM
City Council Chambers

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

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

Visitors: Peter Wargowsky, Dale Moore, Ann Flannigan, William Macomber, John Jamnick, Matt Bolf, Christina Hujanen, Dave Sorenson, Shawn Anderson, Steve Altenburg, Jodi Summit, Sheldon Majerle

Motion by Nevala supported by Heinowski to accepted the agenda as presented.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Heinowski to approve the minutes of April 13, 2009 and April 14, 2009.

Public Input: None

Correspondence: None

Written reports were received from the Clerk/Treasurer, TEDA, Emergency Management, Police Department, Fire Dept, Ambulance Dept, Safety Report, and Maintenance Dept. No report from the Blight Officer.

Dave Sorenson, TEDA President, reported that TEDA had received a grant from the Crookston Center for Economic Development to work on a business marketing and retention plan for the City of Tower. He also stated that TEDA would be reviewing their priorities and discussing CDBG monies for downtown development at their next meeting, scheduled for May 12, 2009.

Motion by Heinowski supported Hanson to accept the reports as presented. All yes. Motion carried.

Tower Airport - No meeting, no report.

Matt Bolf, S.E.H., gave an update on the Harbor Project. The City has received a counter offer on the Lakoskey property; the State tax forfeit land has passed through two required board meetings and a deed will be sent to the City, which will take about six weeks; and the City has received the DEED for the DMIR property.

The EA has the first four signatures in place and is now at the Federal Highway Department. S.E.H. has been working on highway and bridge permits that will go to the DNR once the EA is complete. It will take about sixty days to get the permits back. Work on Highway 135 could possible start by late August.

Planning and Zoning did meet, no action required at this time.

Safety Committee - no meeting, no report.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Hanson, upon the recommendation of the ambulance supervisor, to extend EMT Valerie Lenci's leave of absence to September 1, 2009.

Kotzian informed the council that the City's insurance representative had been contacted about the possibility of a fire pit at the Mini Park. Loss Control from the LMC will be sending up a rep to look over the proposed site and then render an opinion.

There has been no word from Ken Hinkel on his plans for the Forestry Property since last fall when he stated he was still interested in the property.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hanson to give Ken Hinkel thirty (30) days to come up with a plan. All yes. Motion carried.

Shawn Anderson, Architectural Resources, gave an up date on the new heating system at the Fire Hall/Civic Center. The delay in getting the new heating system up and running was caused by MN Power. He also stated that the controls need to be updated and that the existing boiler has a crack. Mr. Anderson offered 2 options for the City to look at.

Option 1: Provide and install a new temperature control system, new thermostats and zone controller, wiring interlocked between electric and oil boiler, pump operation at a cost of \$4,440.00.

Option 2: To remove existing oil boiler and provide and install a high efficiency LP gas boiler, piping, and air eliminating devices at a cost of \$17,900.

Motion by Hanson supported by Hiltunen to go with Option 1 and to do it as soon as possible. All yes. Motion carried.

A discussion was held on vendor permits and event fees.

Motion by Hanson supported by Heinowski to charge a fee of \$200 for each event held in the City of Tower that has private vendors selling their wares. All yes. Motion carried.

John Jamnick, RLK, presented the new bids for Northstar 3rd Addition clearing and grubbing project. Bids were:

Ulland Brothers, Inc.	\$117,872.50
Mesabi Bituminous, Inc.	\$119,654.50
Utility Systems of America	\$123,940.25
KGM Contractors, Inc.	\$ 78,207.00
Low Impact Excavators	\$114,922.00

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hiltunen to accept the low bid from KGM of \$78,207.00. All yes. Motion carried.

The purchase of a new fire truck will be revisited when final cuts are made to

2009 budget.

A discussion on police protection was held. Sheriff Litman responded to three questions the council had which were: 1. What protection could the County provide during the 4 months it takes to put an office place? The County would provide coverage with their existing officers at an overtime rate. 2. What about extra coverage during festivities? Again, the County would cover on an hourly basis. 3. Car lettering and outfitting? During the four month waiting period, the car would be checked out and lettering added that would say something like "St. Louis County providing protection for the City of Tower".

The Council also reviewed the new Breitung Contract offered. The cost per year was \$103,000, with the addition of family insurance, which would require the City to pay 50% of the cost if an officer wanted family health and dental, was added and an open ended statement about paying for additional expenses. There is also no flexibility in Breitung contract.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Abrahamson to approve to contract police protection with St. Louis County. Yes. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Nevala supported by Hiltunen to approve the gambling premise permit resolution to conduct gambling outside at 410 Main Street in Tower on July 4, 2009. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Heinowski to approve the land easement between the City of Tower and Minnesota Power defined as the north 100 feet of the West 600 feet of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, Section 5, Township 61 North, Range 15 West and the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, Section 4, Township 61 North, Range 15 West, the center line of which is described as follows: commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 4; thence South 01 degrees 26 minutes 31 seconds East assigned bearing along the west line of said Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter 842.34 feet to the point of beginning; thence South 22 degrees 20 minutes 13 seconds East 550.73 feet to the south line of said Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter; and the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, Section 32, Township 62 North, Range 15 West, the center line of which is described as follows: commencing at the southeast corner of said Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter; thence North 89 degrees 54 minutes 34 seconds West assigned bearing along the south line of said Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter 325.01 feet to the point of beginning; thence North 22 degrees 20 minutes 13 second West 660.80 feet more or less to the centerline of the existing MP 32 transmission line. All yes. Motion carried.

One application for a summer youth worker has been received.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Nevala to allow the Mayor and Clerk to hire the summer youth workers. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Nevala to approve the transfer of Hangar Lease #24 from Ed Majerle to Arden Niemi contingent upon receiving a copy of the bill of sale. All yes. Motion carried.

Hanson spoke about trying to consolidate future meeting dates, trying to keep council meeting to minimum. Some discussion centered around scheduling a second regular meeting of the council, possible for the fourth Monday of each month.

A discussion on the responsibilities of TEDA was held.

Motion by Hanson supported by Heinowski that TEDA should be directed to be responsible for the following activities:

Plan, coordinate and direct the implementation of the City general plan with elected and appointed officials. Develop, organize and facilitate on-going comprehensive planning processes and procedures for current and long range needs to reach goals in the City general plan; ensure implementation and enforcement of planning and zoning ordinances; identify alternatives for converting policy ideas into action plans affecting City development, expansion and related programs.

Negotiates contracts between the City, private developers, and/or other governmental entities associated with major, high profile redevelopment projects.

Work with the Planning and Zoning Commission, to provide leadership, technical insight and recommendations related to planning, zoning, signs, subdivision ordinances and the City general plan.

Meet with the public, developers and contractors; discussing planning, zoning and development issues; interprets information in City ordinances pertaining to the department.

Meets with business, develop profiles; develops and maintains a positive relationship with businesses; and maintains communications to resolve business needs. Works with the local Chamber to provide support to existing businesses. Develop and nurture professional working relationships with business owners and managers and encourage them to locate or expand their operations in the City. Communicate with the Council on the status of businesses in the City.

Conduct public meeting and hearings as needed to solicit public response, provide explanation of policy and project options; educates the public through media, reports, public meetings and presentations.

Serve as a representative on state and local committees such as affordable housing and or other related activities to Community and Economic Development functions.

Oversees work procedures and inspects work in progress and upon completion.

Reports in person and/or to the City Council.

Performs related duties as assigned by the Council. Yes: Hanson, No: Heinowski, Hiltunen, Abrahamson, Nevala Motion failed.

Motion by Heinowski supported Hanson to present Hanson's motion to the TEDA Board for further discussion. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hanson to approve changes as presented to Miss TS Bylaws. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hiltunen to approve Airport Project 6918-16 Pay Estimate #3 for \$3,127.57. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Nevala to approve the temporary liquor licenses for the American Legion and Tower Firefighter's Relief Association. All yes. Motion carried.

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

Motion to Heinowski supported Hanson to adjourn. 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lamppa
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer