

City of Tower  
Regular Meeting  
March 16, 2009  
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: Lamppa

Visitors: Matt Bolf, Bernie Zollar, Josh Carlson, Sandra Edwards, John Jamnick, Jodi Summit, Rolando Noyes, Marshall Helmberger, Karl Rother, Mr. Edwards

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Nevala to accept the agenda as presented. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Hanson to approve the minutes of February 17, 2009 and March 2, 2009. Yes: Abrahamson, Hanson, Hiltunen, Nevala. No: Heinowski. Motion carried.

Public Input: None

Correspondence: None

Written reports were received from the Ambulance Department, Blight Officer, Police Department, and Maintenance Department. No written reports were received from the Fire Department or Emergency Management Director. Clerk's office to inform the Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director that written reports must be received prior to each regularly scheduled council meeting.

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

Tower Airport Commission: No meeting.

Historic Harbor: Matt Bolf gave an update on the environmental assessment meeting held in St. Paul. Final comments were to be in by Friday, March 13. Two of the three comments are back and Bolf will follow up on the third. After final signatures on the EA are received, the next step would be permits for highway construction.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hiltunen to authorize the mayor to sign planning documents prior to the completion of the environmental assessment. All yes.

On property acquisition: Bolf stated that the state tax forfeited property is still

being worked on and letters have been sent out to adjoining property owners for comments. Next, the issue goes to two consecutive St. Louis County Board meetings for approval. Someone from S.E.H. or the City will attend these board meetings.

The railroad property is still going through the system. A Quit Claim Deed has been asked for.

An offer letter has been sent to the Lakoskey family, waiting for a reply.

Bolf will be attending a meeting next week on ownership of the pilings in the East Two River.

Planning and Zoning: No meeting.

Safety Committee: No meeting.

TEDA: Hanson reported that they are working on a job description for a TEDA director.

The mayor presented the procedure for paying claims. Clerk's office to look into reducing the number of claims to be signed at each meeting. Heinowski would like to see a town meeting prior to each city council meeting and a bill paying session after the meeting.

Quotes from United Truck Body, for a new dump truck box, were reviewed. Clerk's office to get a recommendation from maintenance staff and bring this issue to the next budget meeting.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hanson to grant permission to Minnesota Power to begin clearing the newly agreed upon right-of way south of Tower, prior to executing a new easement. Clearing will take place in the NE-SE and NE-NE Section of 5-61-15 and the SE-SE of 32-62-15. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hanson supported by Heinowski to approve the Timberjay as the official newspaper. All yes. Motion carried.

Adding a "A Multi Pet Residence" to the existing Animal Control Ordinance was discussed.

Motion by Hanson supported by Heinowski to void Ordinance #20 and create a new Ordinance #20A with the addition of Multi Pet Residence language and give its first reading.

Motion by Hanson supported by Heinowski to postpone the motion until the next regularly scheduled council meeting in able to investigate fees and possibilities of limiting the number of Multi Pet Residences. All yes. Motion carried.

Abrahamson gave an update on the appraisal of the joint property, part owned by the City and a part owned by a private party. A closed session will be held to discuss strategy on the two parcels of land.

John Jammick gave an update on North Star Third Addition. As adjustments to the bid have been made, the contractor would like to meet with City. Also, a title opinion of the of the road through the cemetery has been received. Jammick will coordinate a meeting with the contractor and the City. This meeting would have two purposes; it would serve as a preconstruction meeting with the contractor and allow the engineer and city to determined the direction to take with the road through the cemetery property.

Appraisals have been received on the City/County land exchange. The appraisals will be reviewed by the Forestry Board.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Heinowski to approve rates 2009 Civic Center rates as presented. The rental fees are the same as 2008, with changes being made to the deposit fees. All yes. Motion carried,

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Nevala to pass on the water/sewer rate increases from the TBWWB to the consumer. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hanson to allow the Mayor to attend the 2009 MN Mayors Conference in Chaska on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Nevala to pledge \$1000 to the “Save our Pool Committee” subject to the budget committee’s approval. All yes. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Noyes gave a verbal report.

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

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hanson to adjourn: 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lamppa  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer