

City of Tower
Regular Meeting
May 14, 2012
Monday @ 5:30PM
City Council Chambers

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

Present: Abrahamson, Carlson, Dougherty, Hiltunen, and Nevala

Absent: None

Also Present: Lamppa and Keith

Visitors: Christina Hujanen, Jodi Summit, Greg Knutson (Walker, Giroux & Hahne), Bob Dale, Matt Tuchel, Polly McDonald, Paige Hinkel, Amy Hinkel, Tera Kultala, Randy Semo, Sheldon Majerle, Brenda Broten, Matt Bolf (SEH), and Kevin Friebe (Saint Louis County Sheriffs Office).

A motion was made by Carlson supported by Hiltunen to approve the minutes of the last meeting. All yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Hiltunen supported by Dougherty to accept the agenda as stated. All yes. The motion carried.

Public Input: None

Correspondence:

A letter was received from the Minnesota Department of Transportation regarding the vehicle noise signs that Mr. Mesojedic had inquired about at a previous meeting. The cost per sign is \$883.80. The council agreed to table the request until 2013 Budget proceedings commence.

Councilor Dougherty received communication from Dan Starr regarding the feeding of bears within the City of Tower. Mr. Starr wanted to alert the City that resident(s) are feeding bears creating a public safety problem and that it may become necessary for the Council to take more formal action if the problem persists.

Written reports were received from the Maintenance Department, Ambulance Department, Fire Department, Police Department, Ambulance Director, and Emergency Management Department.

A motion was made by Hiltunen and supported by Carlson to accept the reports from officers. All yes. Motion carried.

Tower Airport Commission - No commission meeting was held. Matt Bolf (SEH) reported that the runway reconstruction project needs to be started in 2012 to secure 95% federal funding. All repairs not related specifically to the runway will have only 90% federal funding.

Harbor Project – Matt Bolf (SEH) reported that a section of the road near Highways 135 & 169 intersection is in the process. The shoulder has been milled and the new shoulder will be widened and final paving to be done in a couple of weeks. Matt also stated that within the next week or two he would be setting up a meeting with the City to discuss the next phase of the harbor and what priority items can be completed with the funding we currently have available.

Main Street Sewer Project – Matt Bolf (SEH) started discussions with the Minnesota Department of Transportation regarding the repaving of main street that MN/DOT plans to complete in July 2013. At this time there is a possibility that the City of Tower will be coordinating a main street sewer revitalization project during the repaving of main street. Further meetings will be set to discuss the specifics of the project.

Planning and Zoning – A meeting of the board of adjustment was held on May 8, 2012. A variance request from Matt Lenci to build an addition on his house was approved.

TEDA – The meeting was postponed pending receipt of further information from SEH regarding the TEDA building reconstruction.

KGM Bid Proposal for the relocation of County Road 697 –

A motion was made by Hiltunen and supported by Dougherty to accept KGM's bid of \$197,804.35 contingent upon FAA grant approval. All yes. The motion carried.

Public Utility Policy

A motion was made by Carlson and supported by Dougherty to accept the Public Utility Policy as presented. All yes. The motion carried.

Police Contract – Councilors Carlson and Dougherty met again with Breitung to negotiate police protection for the City of Tower. Councilors Carlson and Dougherty feel that the negotiations are moving forward in a positive direction and at this time Breitung needs to establish a formal offer to be presented before the Breitung Board and Tower City Council.

2011 City of Tower Financial Statement Audit – Greg Knutson (Walker, Giroux, & Hahne) presented the highlights of the 2011 Audit. The City of Tower was given the Unqualified Opinion which is the most favorable rating that can be achieved and our single audit required for Federal Grants showed no instances of non compliance.

Ambulance Supervisor Resignation – A motion was made by Hiltunen and supported by Carlson to accept Ambulance Director Zollar's resignation that was effective April 30, 2012. All yes. The motion carried.

Miss Tower Soudan – After several attempts to advertise for candidates the City was unsuccessful in receiving the required number of candidates per the Queen Committee By Laws. A request was made to continue on with the festivities even though the City received one applicant. The City Council would like the request to be brought before the Miss T S Queen Committee for their recommendation before the Council made their decision.

New Ambulance Supervisor -

A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Hiltunen to approve Matt Tichel's application submitted for the Ambulance Supervisor Position. The office hours will be six hours worked on Monday and all additional hours will be worked at Matt's discretion. The compensation for the position will be \$1,300.00 per month. All yes. The motion carried.

Craig Larson Hangar Transfer

A motion was made by Hiltunen and supported by Nevala to approve Craig Larson's request to transfer the ownership of his airport hangar to Layton Humphrey contingent upon the City Clerk receiving the proper documentation and fees. All yes. The motion carried.

Ski-Trail

A motion was made by Carlson and supported by Nevala to adopt a resolution authorizing sponsorship of trails operated by Vermilion Outdoor Club so that we may continue to apply for and receive grant funding. All yes. The motion carried.

Close Poplar Street

A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Carlson to allow Randy Semo/Good Ol' Days to fence off a section of Poplar street adjacent to his property for 4th of July activities. All yes. The motion carried.

Hoodoo Pont Concessions

A motion was made by Carlson and supported by Dougherty to approve Randy Semo's/Good Ol' Days request to operate a concession trailer at the Hoodoo Point Campground. All yes. The motion carried. Mr. Semo was asked to contact the campground managers to create a written agreement outlining the details of the arrangement.

A motion was made by Carlson and supported by Dougherty to pay the bills. All yes. The motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Carlson and supported by Dougherty. Time 7:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted



Linda Keith
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer