

CITY OF TOWER
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 13, 2011
MONDAY @ 5:30 PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

Present: Abrahamson, Carlson, Dougherty, Hiltunen, Nevala
Absent: None
Also Present: Lamppa

Visitors: Greg Knutson, Ed Majerle, Dale Moore, Christina Hujanen, Jodi Summit, Kevin Friebe, Tom Suihkonen, Rolando Noyes, Sheldon Majerle, Nancy Larsen

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Carlson to approve the minutes of the last meeting. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Nevala supported by Carlson to accept the agenda with the addition of: 8.4 Fiber Agreement, 8.5 Emergency Management Director, 8.6 Harbor Bonding Bill, 9.7 PERA Fire Dept Pension, 9.8 Raise FD Pension from \$550 to \$600, and 9.9 D'Erick's Request. All yes. Motion carried.

Public Input: Dale Moore spoke on the issue of police protection and wants the council to pursue going back with Breitung Police Department.

Christina Hujanen requested the council to waive the Harbor Festival Fee.

Written reports were received from the Police Department, Ambulance Service, Maintenance Department, Project Manager, and Fire Chief.

Motion by Nevala supported by Dougherty to accept the reports from officers. All yes. Motion carried.

Matt Bolf gave the Harbor update - final pavement lift will be put down this fall, this week work will be done on sidewalks under the bridge; and in the next couple of weeks, railings, final columns and concrete on bridge deck will be done. Other issues concerning the permit to dredge the mouth of river, ski trail parking lot, and bonding bill request were discussed.

Motion by Nevala supported by Dougherty to pass a resolution in support of continued funding for a harbor facility and submit an application to the office of MN Management and Budget for the 2012 Capital Budget Bonding Bill. All yes. Motion carried.

Planning and Zoning: No meeting.

TEDA: At their last meeting, agreed to support the Charter School's use of the Powerain building.

Greg Knutson from Walker, Giroux and Hahne presented an overview of the 2010 audit. Overall the City is doing all right, on a scale of 1-10, he would give the City an 8.

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

Ed Majerle gave the Airport Commission report. He spoke about the road relocation project, MnDot inspection of the airport runway and cleaning of the airport fuel tank.

Motion by Dougherty supported by Nevala to hire Erik Bjorgo for summer help. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Nevala supported by Hiltunen to send the issue of subdivision fees to Planning & Zoning. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dougherty supported by Carlson to approve the agreement regarding the installation of underground fiber optic cable in the City of Tower as prepared by Andy Peterson, City Attorney. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Carlson supported by Hiltunen to set up a committee to interview candidates, that are on file in the Clerk's Office, for the positions of Emergency/Safety Management Director. Committee members include Dougherty, Nevala, and Lamppa. Salary is set at \$200/month. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Nevala to approve the annual report for the Community Business Partnership Grant Program. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Carlson supported by Nevala to rescind motion of May 31, 2011 creating the EMS Coordinator position. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dougherty supported by Carlson to create a committee of Hiltunen and Carlson to meet with the Ambulance Supervisor to discuss additional duties, an increase in wages and an additional Assistant Ambulance Supervisor. All yes. Motion carried.

A discussion on burning permits was held.

Motion by Dougherty supported by Hiltunen that all burning permits requested for running fires be denied until the area in question has been inspected by the Fire Chief and given his okay. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dougherty supported by Nevala to transfer \$10,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to the Street Department designating \$3,000 to supplies and \$7,000 to repair and maintenance. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Dougherty to allow PERA to do a cost analysis of the fire department pension in order to move forward with joining Pear's pension plan. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Nevala to approve an increase of \$50 per year for the Fire Fighter's pension, bringing the total pension amount to \$600/year. Yes: Hiltunen, Abrahamson, Nevala. Abstain: Dougherty, Carlson. Motion carried.

Motion by Nevala supported by Carlson to allow D'Ericks to use the City garage for the 4th of July activities. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Carlson supported by Dougherty pay the bills. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Nevala supported by Hiltunen to adjourn. Time: 7:40 P.M.