

City of Tower  
Regular Meeting  
February 12, 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, Dougherty, Hiltunen, and Nevala

Absent: Carlson

Also Present: Lamppa and Keith

Visitors: Christina Hujanen, Ed Majerle, Sheldon Majerle, Marshall Helmberger, Jodi Summit, Bernie Zollar, Phyllis Burgess, Matt Bolf (SEH), and Kevin Friebe (Saint Louis County Sheriff's Office).

A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Hiltunen to approve the minutes of the last meeting. All yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Hiltunen supported by Nevala to accept the agenda with the additions of 8.5 Spruce Street Sidewalk repairs, 9.4 Depot on the National Historic Register, and 9.5 Greenwood Townships Pubic Tennis Court Letter of Support Request. All yes. Motion carried.

Public Input: No public input was offered at this time.

Correspondence: A letter was received from Saint Louis County, Public Works Department regarding the Pine Street Bridge over the East Two Rivers. Saint Louis County has inspected the bridge and found it to be in poor condition. Saint Louis County recommends that the City of Tower process their own more thorough inspection and add to the City's long term plan the replacement or removal of the bridge. Load ratings will be conducted and appropriate signage will need to be posted.

Written reports were received from the Maintenance Department, Ambulance Department, Fire Department, and Police Department,

A motion was made by Nevala and supported by Dougherty to accept the reports from officers. All yes. The motion carried.

Councilor Carlson enters the meeting at 5:49PM.

Tower Airport Commission

Ed Majerle received a request to cut dead ash trees from the north side of the airport property. Ann Lamppa will check with Tower Soudan Insurance Agency regarding liability issues created

from a private party cutting trees on airport property. A motion was made by Nevala and supported by Dougherty to approve the trimming provided that the City has no liability. All yes. The motion Carried.

A meeting was held with Airport Commission Members and SEH regarding the road relocation. The final plans have been completed and approved by Saint Louis County. The next step in the road relocation process is for SEH to complete the bid package and start advertising. A record or drawing of the sewer line location would be helpful when digging and construction begins.

Ed Majerle has requested MN/DOT to install an Automated Weather Observing Station (AWOS) at the tower airport. There would be no cost to the city to install or maintain the AWOS unit. No information has been received in response from MN/DOT at this point.

At their last meeting airport commission has agreed to reduce itself from seven members to down to five members. A motion was made by Josh Carlson and supported by Dougherty to accept this change to the commission structure. All yes. Motion Carried.

Harbor Project – Matt Bolf reported that the Tower Harbor Project is not currently in the governor's bonding bill. It is up to our local representation to push for funding for the project. The IRRRB is still on target to release their funding for the Harbor Project.

Matt reports that no further communication has been received from KGM regarding the invoice KGM issued for costs related to the State Shutdown in the Summer of 2011.

Planning Zoning No meeting was held.

TEDA – A meeting was held on February 1, 2012 at which time the group requested additional time to make the decision whether to keep the Board active or revert all control back to the City Council. A decision regarding the future of the Board will be made at their next meeting. The TEDA board also met to discuss the "Power Rain" building and the plans for the Charter School to move in the building. TEDA has employed SEH to aid in the process of clearing the loan with the IRRRB and getting the Charter School into the building.

Ambulance Department - The Ambulance Group has met and developed the procedures and rules for the Paid On Call Program. The Ambulance Department has set the paid on call dates for 2012 to include Easter Sunday, Opening Fishing/Mother's Day Weekend, Father's Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day Weekend, Minnesota Deer Hunting Opener, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Hiltunen to approve the Paid On Call Schedule. All yes. The motion carried.

Solar Project – A motion was made by Hiltunen and approved by Dougherty to approve the Hometown Electric quote for \$14,837.00 for the installation of the 200 amp service at the depot. All yes. The motion carried.

Newspaper Bids – A motion was made by Carlson and supported by Dougherty to make the Timberjay the City's official newspaper. All yes. The motion carried.

Charter School – The Charter School would like to have TEDA allocate the levy proceeds of \$5,000.00 (approximately) to pay for the engineering and architectural fees needed for the design work to remodel the building. Mayor Abrahamson has requested that Dave Sorenson, TEDA President, call a special TEDA meeting to discuss the issue and then make a recommendation to the Council. There will be a special Council Meeting immediately following the TEDA meeting to review TEDA’s recommendations.

Spruce Street Sidewalk – A motion was made by Hiltunen and supported by Dougherty to accept the bid from Abe’s Masonry & Construction for \$15,390.00 to repair the sidewalks on Spruce Street between the alley and North Second Street. Ayes: Hiltunen, Dougherty, Nevala, and Carlson. Abstaining was Mayor Abrahamson. The motion carried.

Emergency Operation Plan – A draft copy of the Emergency Operation Plan was submitted by Bob Dale. The plan has been submitted to the State of Minnesota for review before final submission to the City Council.

Train Canopy Bid – A motion was made by Hiltunen and supported by Carlson to accept Hinkel Construction’s bid of \$11,400.00 to re-shingle the train canopy roof prior to the solar panel installation. All yes. The motion carried.

Community Garden – A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Nevala to allow the Tower Community Garden to have their grant funding run through the City accounts. All yes. Motion carried.

National Historic Register- Depot – The Tower Soudan Historical Society would like to request that we put the Train Depot on the National Historic Register. The Council would like to review the Historic Register analysis submitted previously. The council has decided to table their decision until the next Council Meeting.

The Greenwood Township Board has requested a letter of support from the City of Tower to build tennis courts. The Township is not requesting any funding from the City of Tower. A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Nevala authorizing Deputy Clerk Keith to draft and mail a letter supporting Greenwood Township’s efforts to build a tennis court. All yes. The motion carried.

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

Adjourn moved by Carlson and supported by Nevala. Time 6:47PM.