

City of Tower
Regular Meeting
February 17, 2009
Tuesday @ 5:30 PM
City Council Chambers

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

Present: Abrahamson, Heinowski, Hiltunen,

Also Present: Kotzian, Lamppa

Absent: Nevala, Hanson

Visitors: Matt Bolf, Christina Hujanen, Sandra Edwards, Marshall
Helmberger, Steve Altenburg, Rolando Noyes Robert and Pat
Tammen, Melanie Aldrich

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hiltunen to approve the minutes of January 12, 2009. All yes. Motion carried.

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

Public Input: Sandra Edwards spoke against getting rid of the police department.

Correspondences: A letter was received from Breitung Township, which states that they are against the expansion of the sewer ponds.

Richard Hanson arrived at 5:40 PM

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hiltunen to accept the reports from the following departments: Maintenance, Ambulance, Fire Department, and Police Department. No reports from the Blight Officer or Emergency Management. The Safety Committee did no meet.

Christina Hujanen asked the City to pay \$50 for prizes for the youth at the Fishing Contest.

Motion by Hiltunen seconded by Abrahamson to pay \$50 for youth prizes contingent upon legality of it. Yes: Hiltunen, Heinowski, Abrahamson. Abstain: Hanson Motion carried.

Hanson reported on the new power line and of local concerns that it was to cross a 25 to 30 acre white cedar grove. A request had been sent to MN Power asking them to reroute the power line. MN Power responded that they would reroute the line. Great River Energy also stated that they would stay out of the cedar area.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hanson to write a thank you letter to MN

Power, Great River Energy and St. Louis County for their quick response and alternate route for the power line and also request a walk through of the alternate route to make sure there is no problem with it.. All yes. Motion carried.

Matt Bolf gave several updates on the Harbor Project:

The right of way plat document needs to be changed to follow St. Louis County's right of way and when finished submitted to St. Louis County.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hiltunen to approve the committees recommendation on the right of way plat. All yes. Motion carried.

Comments on the railroad property were back and need two changes on the description. Cope and Bolf are taking care of this.

The City Attorney has finished the purchase agreement on the Lakoskey property, which will be sent to the Lakoskeys within the next week.

The State tax forfeited property is still at the state level.

There a few small pieces of land that St. Louis County still owns and they have indicated that they will turn them over to the City.

All revisions have been made on the EA and a meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26th in St. Paul to go over this.

Planning and Zoning did not meet.

Safety Committee did not meet.

Hanson gave the TEDA report. Great MN Housing has a pilot project for Neighborhood Revitalization which looks very promising for Tower. Also, Blandin and IRR have been contacted about possible funding for a Director's position. One third of the funding would need to come from the City.

The fire truck purchase will be brought up at the next budget meeting.

The appraisal for the City/County land exchange is done. The City will pay half the cost of this appraisal.

A letter from Breitung Township offered to drop the Police Contract rates back to the 2008 rates. This will be taken up at the next budget meeting.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hanson to sell hovercraft and rescue boat. All yes. Motion carried

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Hanson to approve the one year license extension for the sewer lift station with Ron Abrahamson, Sr. Yes: Hiltunen, Hanson, Heinowski. Abstain: Abrahamson. Motion carried.

A discussion on animal control and a multi pet license was held.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hanson to have the clerk draft a multi pet license agreement for animals with medical problems and present it at the next regular

council meeting. All yes. Motion carried.

Official newspaper bids. Tower News Bid legal .08333

Timberjay Big legal .10910

Tabled until the Clerk can get an answer if the City must accept the lowest bid.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Heinowski to authorize the Clerk and Mayor to make the decision once legal advise is received.

A letter had been sent to Breitung Township inviting them to the City Council Meeting to discuss the possible merger of fire departments. Breitung wrote back asking the City to come to their meeting on February 25th. A reply to Breitung is to state that someone will be there.

Marshall Helmberger asked for the Council's support in bringing a Farmer's Market to Tower. This would be set up in the Mini Park once a week during the season. The Council gave their support.

A discussion was held on recording meetings.

Motion by Hanson supported by Heinowski to record city council meetings. Yes: Hanson, Heinowski. No: Hiltunen, Abrahamson. Motion failed.

Vendor permits were tabled.

S.E.H. Airport Preliminary Engineering contract for road relocation was put on hold until Heinowski clarifies the need with the Airport Commission.

A new dump truck box will be brought up at the next budget meeting.

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

Motion by Hanson supported by Hiltunen to adjourn. Time: 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lamppa
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer