

City of Tower  
Regular Meeting  
April 13, 2009  
Monday @ 5:30 PM  
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: Hanson

Also Present: Kotzian, Lamppa

Visitors: Ross Litman, Jesse Anderson, Ron Abrahamson, Sr., Matt Bolf, Gabe and Megan Meehan, Jim Macomber, Ann Flannigan, Rolando Noyes, Jodi Summit, Steve Altenburg, Josh and Nikki Carlson, Sheldon Majerle, John Malovrh, John Jamnick

Motion by Heinowski supported by Nevala to accept the agenda as presented with the addition of Coach 81. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Nevala to approve the minutes of March 16<sup>th</sup>, March 24<sup>th</sup>. All yes. Motion carried.

Public Input: Gabe Meehan made a request to purchase a city lot north of the 3<sup>rd</sup> street alley; directly behind his property. This request will be sent to Planning and Zoning.

Correspondence: A letter was received from Ken Kube on electrical upgrades for the depot.

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

Ambulance Supervisor, Peter Wargowski, requested that Karel Winkelaar be placed on the ambulance roster effective April 1, 2009.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Heinowski to approve Karel Winkelaar as a new member of the ambulance service. All yes. Motion carried.

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

Reports from Commission and Committees:

Heinowski reported that Airport Commission requested the following: (1) a monthly report of income and expenditures for the airport be sent to Rick Worringer, (2) want Neil Amos to be appointed as the contact person for the airport, (3) the CIP be done themselves in the future instead of by S.E.H. because of the cost involved, and (4) resend the letter to St. Louis County requesting the relocation of a portion of Hoodoo Point

Road.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hiltunen to send a monthly list of airport revenue and expenditures to Rick Worringer. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hanson to appoint Neil Amos as the contact person for the airport. All yes. Motion carried.

Defer the request to have the Tower Airport Commission submit the CIP in the future and the road relocation to the next meeting.

Matt Bolf gave an up date on the E.A. and on property acquisition for the Harbor Project. Both are moving forward with results possible by the end of May.

He also reported on moving ahead with land ownership along the harbor, mapping out the snowmobile trail relocation, setting up a meeting with DNR Trails, and that they are preparing the DNR permits that go along with the road construction.

Hanson requested that a representative from TEDA attend the DNR trail meeting.

Heinowski requested that the City set up a cost spread sheet similar to the one presented by S.E.H. He also spoke about expenses, not included in contracts with S.E.H., over the land issues.

Planning and Zoning did not meet.

No Safety report. (Safety officer was called out of meeting for an ambulance run).

Hanson reported that TEDA is in the process of finding a director and that the job description is almost complete. He wanted to present a motion to reactivate the Tower Economic Development Authority. The Mayor did not allow Hanson to present the motion as it was not on the agenda and lacked any backup information. Hanson was told to bring it back to the next meeting as an agenda item.

Sheriff Ross Litman and Sheriff John Malvorh were present to answer any questions that the council or public may have on police protection that St. Louis County could offer. They would provide one full time officer, who would work 10 - 12 hour days, most county officers work 4 days on and 4 days off, for a cost of approximately \$81000. However, St. Louis County would look for guidance from the City when setting up the officer's schedule. All fines and forfeitures do come to the City and the City would be responsible for its own attorney. PERA reimbursement would also come to the city - approximately \$7,000 per year. Ordinance violations after hours are not defined as an emergency and would wait until officer was on duty. Events would that require more officers would be at an over time rate. The City would also have to pay for car expenses of approximately \$5,000 per year. This does not include the purchase of a new car when needed.

It would take the County about 3 to 4 months to set up an officer in Tower.

Hanson led a discussion on vendor fees/festival fees. A suggestion was made to charge \$200 per festival instead of charging individual vendors. Hanson is to come up with a definition of festival and bring this issue back to the next meeting.

The appraised value of the combined properties of the City's "old dump site" and the Charles Cathcart property is \$160,000. Heinowski, Abrahamson and Charles Cathcart have been talking on conjoining the properties and then selling them together. The minimum the Cathcart group would could accept for their portion of the property is \$100,000. The question came up "What would Cathcart property be worth by itself?" As there was no answer to this question the issue was tabled to gather further information.

Ken Kube has requested to put in a fire ring along with seating at the City's Mini-park. The maintenance staff will determine where it is to be placed and the office staff check on liability issues and how big can the fire ring be.

A discussion was held on the Northstar Third Addition clearing and grubbing project. John Jamnick, of RLK, stated that an April 2 preconstruction conference had been held and that Utility Systems of American will get started once road limits are lifted. However, USA wants to change the amount by approximately \$15,000.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hiltunen to reject all bids and rebid the project. All yes. Motion carried.

St. Louis County/City Land Swap - a meeting will be set up with the City's Forestry Board.

Motion by Nevala supported by Hiltunen to rebid repair and painting work to be done on Coach 81. Bids are due by 4:00 PM on May 8<sup>th</sup>. All yes. Motion carried.

No new information on the Fire Truck purchase.

The Clerk/Treasurer reported that their was no new loss in LGA.

The Mayor will select some available dates for negotiating with MAPE and get back to the council and clerk.

The airboat and rescue boat have both been sold. The airboat sold for \$5,000 and the rescue boat for \$999.

Multi Pet License was discussed.

Motion by Nevala supported Heinowski to reject any change to the present animal ordinance. Yes: Hiltunen, Abrahamson, Heinowski, Nevala No: Hanson Motion carried.

The request for an extension of leave for Valerie Lenci was tabled until the next meeting. (Ambulance Supervisor was called out of the meeting for an ambulance run.)

The Fire Chief made a recommendation to place Jesse Gornick on the fire department roster. He has passed the endurance test and has had his medical physical. Motion by Heinowski supported by Nevala to place Jesse Gornick on the Fire

Department subject to passing the medical physical. All yes. Motion carried.

The Veeder Root fuel tank monitor at the Tower Airport is not working. A repair quote of \$942.00 had been received from Range Petroleum.

Motion by Hiltunen supported by Heinowski have Range Petroleum repair the Veeder Root system at a cost of \$942.00. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Nevala to use the LMC handbook as our guide in setting policy. All yes. Motion carried.

A performance review on the Clerk/Treasurer was set for Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.

The Blight Ordinance/Officer will be discussed at the budget meeting.

Heinowski requested that the city office look at the Capital Improvement Budget in the LMC Handbook, Chapter 21.

A request was received from Pam Moraski to cancel her boathouse lease.

Motion by Nevala supported by Heinowski to cancel boathouse lease of Pam Moraski. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Heinowski supported by Hiltunen to have the city crew tear down the boathouse on lots 152 and 153 at Hoodoo Point. All yes. Motion carried.

Ken Kube's item "Business Park" was tabled as he was not present.

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

A tentative meeting with the Breitung Board has been set up for April 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM to discuss the police contract.

Motion by Abrahamson supported by Nevala to adjourn. Time: 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lamppa  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer