



CITY OF TOWER
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Tower City Hall

January 13, 2020

1. Call to Order

Orlyn Kringstad called the Tower City Council meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2. Roll Call

Present (in order of seating): Sheldon Majerle, Rachel Beldo, Orlyn Kringstad, Mary Shedd

Staff present: Clerk/Treasurer Victoria Ranua

Media: Tony Sikora (Tower News), Marshall Helmberger (Timberjay)

Others: Ronald Abrahamson, John Bassing, Matt Bolf (SEH, City Engineer), Dick Larmouth, Lee Peterson, David Setterberg, Deb Setterberg, Matt Tichel (TBWWB, Water Supervisor), Keith Nyman (Breitung Township, Police Officer)

3. Approval of Agenda

Majerle made a motion to accept the agenda. Motion second by Shedd. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Accept minutes of December 4, 2019 and December 9, 2019

Beldo made a motion to accept the minutes of December 4, 2019 Second by Majerle. Motion passed unanimously.

Majerle made a motion to accept the minutes of December 9, 2019 with adding that John Burgess is the airport manager in the roll call. Second by Shedd. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Input

Lee Peterson (Greenwood Township) expressed support for the Ambulance Commission's request the City Council to rescind and re-draft a sound agreement. Reminded the Council of the history of the City using the Ambulance Fund for non-Ambulance purposes and requested a detailed accounting of where that money was spent.

Dick Larmouth (Tower, resident and City Council applicant) stated that he supported the other Council applicant, Dave Setterberg. He will continue to support the community with his positions on the Tower Economic Development Authority and the Board of Directors for the Vermilion Country School.

6. Council vacancy – review of candidates, appointment

Majerle made a motion to appoint [Councilor] Steve Abrahamson's remaining term to David Setterberg which would run through the next City election. Motion passed unanimously.

Dave Setterberg took the Oath of Office as written in the City Charter.

7. Correspondences

The Council received the December 20, 2019 letter from the Minnesota Bureau of Mediation Services regarding the Teamster Local 320 withdrawing their status as exclusive representation for the Clerk/Treasurer position.

8. Consent Agenda

8.1 Letter of Support—Lake Vermilion Trail

8.2 Grant Application—Ski Trail; Resolution 2020-001

8.3 Request for funding—Website; Resolution 2020-002

8.4 American Tower / SEH lease review report

8.5 Final Plat Approval—Tower Harbor; Resolution 2020-003

Majerle made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Second by Shedd. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Review Reports from Departments, Authorities, Boards, Commissions, & Committees.

During the review of the Ambulance Commission report. Beldo noted the sense of lack of information by attendees due to not having basic information in writing. Beldo then made a motion to have the Clerk/Treasurer direct the Ambulance Director create a summary background information on the ambulance service by February 6, 2020. Second by Shedd. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Shedd to accept reports as presented. Second by Majerle. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Unfinished Business

10.1 Annual appointments and designations (aka annual reorganization); review draft Resolution 2020-00X

Council reviewed a draft of the annual appointments and designations. This draft included legal authority citations for various boards and appointments which deviated from past practice. The Clerk/Treasurer stated that several changes would be possible, but only if the City Ordinances are repealed or amended.

Beldo made a motion to request sealed bids for official newspaper. Second by Shedd. Motion passed unanimously.

10.2 Job opening—Maintenance Assistant application review process

Shedd made a motion to convene a hiring panel to evaluate the applicants for maintenance assistant and then bring a recommendation for hiring to the City Council. The panel should include at least one, if not both, current maintenance staff, a resident/citizen of Tower with at least a general understanding of duties, and a City Councilor. Panel would follow

guidance set forth in the Minnesota League of Cities and OPM guidance to conduct fair review. Second by Beldo.

Shedd made a motion that the hiring panel consist of Councilor Setterberg, Maintenance Working Foreman Tom Gorsma, Maintenance Assistant Ben Velchoff, and a resident. Second by Beldo. Motion passed unanimously.

11. New Business

11.1 Infrastructure – request to sponsor interim financing for TBWWB water plant upgrade.

Motion by Majerle to approve of apply for the Minneosta Rural Water Association interim financing of \$247,000 for the TBWWB water plant upgrade with the understanding that the TBWWB will be responsible for all fees, charges, and payments. Second by Shedd. Motion passed unanimously.

Ranua noted if the application is approved, she will come back with a resolution for the Council and agreement for TBWWB board.

11.2 Police Contract Review

Kringstad made a motion to accept the police contract increase for the cost of 2020 coverage by developing an amendment to existing Agreement. Second by Beldo. Motion passed unanimously.

Beldo made a motion to support the reduction in on-call coverage during February, March, and April. Second by Majerle. Motion passed, with Kringstad and Setterberg dissenting. After the vote, Beldo stated that her support was for a trial only.

Majerle made a motion to use the funds in the Charitable Gambling Fund for police services. Second by Setterberg. Motion passed unanimously.

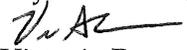
12. Pay the Bills

A motion was made by Beldo to pay the bill. Second by Majerle. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Majerle

Respectfully submitted,


Victoria Ranua
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by Council on:
January 27, 2020