

City of Tower
Regular Meeting
March 11, 2013
Monday @ 5:30PM
City Council Chambers

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

Present: Abrahamson, Carlson, Dougherty, Hiltunen, and Majerle.
Also Present: Lamma and Keith

Visitors: Sheldon Majerle, Steve Altenburg, Jodi Summit, Rick Worringer, Gary Ross, Charity Ross, Rolando Noyes, and Matt Bolf (SEH Engineering).

A motion was made by Carlson and supported by Hiltunen to approve the minutes of the last meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Carlson and supported by Majerle to accept the agenda as amended with the additions of 9.13 Approving New Firefighter, 6.14 Extending Firefighter Training Requirement, and 9.15 City Hall Fuel Oil Tank. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Input:

Charity Ross spoke briefly about a letter they would be directing to the Planning and Zoning Commission. They will be requesting to have their property located on Marina Drive rezoned as Harbor 2 rather than Open Space. No council action was taken at this time.

Correspondence:

Mayor Abrahamson reported that the Lake Vermilion Cultural Group has inquired about moving the former Episcopal Church from its current site to a site near the Tower Civic Center. No council was taken at this time.

Written reports were received from the Maintenance Department, Ambulance Department, Fire Department, and Police Department. No report received from Emergency Management.

A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Majerle to approve the reports from officers. The motion carried unanimously.

Tower Airport Commission – The airport commission would like to take advantage of the free LED Windsock Lighting Kit that MN/DOT is providing to all Minnesota airports. City Maintenance Staff will need to assist with the installation of the LED kit.

A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Majerle to authorize City Clerk-Treasurer Lamma to obtain bids from local contractors to replace the garage roof and repair the water damage inside the City Hall Building. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Hiltunen and supported by Carlson to give the 2nd reading of the Public Utility Policy. The motion carried unanimously. The Policy will be effective after its publication in the Timberjay Newspaper.

A motion was made by Carlson and supported by Dougherty to repeal Ordinance number twenty three (23) banning the use of exterior heating systems. The motion failed with Carlson and Dougherty assenting and Abrahamson, Hiltunen, and Majerle dissenting. The Council would like to review other exterior heating ordinances and their language before proceeding.

A motion was made by Hiltunen and supported by Majerle to authorize the City Clerk's Office to obtain a legal opinion from City Attorney, Andy Peterson regarding the City's authority to guarantee the Charter School TEDA Loan. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Hiltunen and supported by Majerle to accept and proceed with Short, Elliott, and Hendrickson's request to advertise and solicit bids for the Main Street Sewer Lateral Replacement Project. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Majerle to adopt a resolution that states:

Whereas, the City of Tower has completed Phase 1 of the new Harbor Facility at a cost of \$6,000,000.00, and

Whereas, the City of Tower will be proceeding with Phase II, the dredging and the construction of the docks and walkways at an estimated cost of \$980,000, and

Whereas, the City of Tower has \$372,000 available in a DEED Redevelopment Grant which expires in July 2013, and

Whereas, the City of Tower is committed to providing the necessary gap financing to complete Phase II of the Harbor Facility, and

Whereas, The City of Tower has identified this project as their number one priority,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the City of Tower hereby fully supports the Harbor Project and this funding request,

Be It Further Resolved, that the City of Tower authorizes the proper City Officials to submit and application to the office of the Commissioner of the IRRRB for \$350,000 to complete Phase II of the Harbor Project.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Carlson and supported by Abrahamson to allow the Harbor Fest Committee to utilize the City's electric vehicle during the 2013 Harbor Festival. The motion carried unanimously. The Harbor Fest Committee must designate and have approved a maximum of two drivers authorized to drive the city's Gem Car. The new electric City Maintenance Vehicle will be parked near the Civic Center for spectator viewing during the festivities.

A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Carlson to update the City's Snow Plowing Policy's priority schedule to be as follows:

A) Schools

B) City Facilities (i.e. City Hall, Ambulance Hall, Civic Center, etc.)

C) Side Streets & Alleys

D) Airport

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Carlson and supported by Dougherty to update the City's Snow Plowing Policy to state that on side streets vehicles must be moved every twenty four (24) hours. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Carlson to authorize the City Clerk Treasurer to move from the General Fund \$2,000.00 to the Ski Trail Fund, from the General Fund \$14,659.19 to close out the Hoodoo Point Trail Fund, and from the General Fund \$25,558.65 to close out the Residential Development Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Hiltunen and supported by Majerle to grant Saint Louis County permission to cross City Lands located in Sections 4 & 9, Township 61N, Range 15W for their timber sale operations. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Majerle and supported by Hiltunen to advertise for a new Deputy Clerk-Treasurer to work twenty (20) hours per week. Councilors Majerle and Hiltunen assented. Councilors Carlson and Dougherty and Mayor Abrahamson dissented. The motion failed.

A motion was made by Carlson and supported by Dougherty to advertise for a new Deputy Clerk-Treasurer to work thirty-five (35) hours per week. Councilors Carlson and Dougherty and Mayor Abrahamson assented. Councilors Hiltunen and Majerle dissented. The motion carried.

In an effort to encourage EMT response, a motion was made by Hiltunen and supported by Dougherty to authorize ambulance personnel to elect to have their monthly pension contribution amount paid to them rather than contributed to PERA. This change is effective December 1, 2012. Councilors Dougherty and Hiltunen and Mayor Abrahamson assented. Councilor Majerle dissented. Councilor Carlson abstained. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Hiltunen to accept Jason Picard's application to join the Tower Fire Department as recommended by Fire Chief Noyes. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Dougherty and supported by Carlson to accept the Tower Fire Department's recommendation to allow a three year extension to two firefighters to complete Firefighter I and Firefighter II classes. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilor Hiltunen and supported by Carlson to pay all bills. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Carlson and supported by Dougherty to adjourn. Time out was 7:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda K Keith".

Linda K Keith
Deputy Clerk Treasurer