

CITY OF ISLE COUNCIL MEETING

Regular Meeting Minutes – August 13th, 2019

At 6:00 pm the regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council members present: Mayor Rodney Schultz, Donald Dahlen, Robert Koelfgen, Monica Keding and Ginger Houle.

Other staff present were: Mark Reichel, Jason Minenko, Jamie Hubbell, Monica Weets, Damien Toven (Attorney) and Tim Ramerth (WSN Engineer).

Motion to approve the amended agenda by Houle, second by Dahlen. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. **Motion** to approve the July Regular meeting minutes by Dahlen and seconded by Koelfgen. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Houle made the **motion** to approve the July final claims totaling \$284,093.64 after a brief confirmation from Koelfgen regarding the total of the annual insurance payment for the League. Dahlen seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. **Motion** by Dahlen to approve the August month to date claims totaling \$59,482.08, was made with Houle seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Open Forum:

- a. Rick Behnke and Diane Neumeister submitted a request to council to increase traffic controls on Malone Island. Neumeister of 1440 White Cloud Drive was present to express her concerns for the speeding violations especially on Weekends and Holidays. Mayor Schultz requested Minenko to add 20 mile per hour signs before the bridge and on the far side of the inner island. Chief Reichel stated that he would check for a radar speed sign with the sheriff's department for rent for temporary speed monitoring.
- b. Amy Goplen request addressed under "Unfinished Business".
- c. State Representative Sondra Erickson stated that she met with Henry Remer per his request to discuss the water and sewer rates for the average residential property. Mayor Schultz assured Representative Erickson that the city-wide rates will be discussed during our 2020 budget work sessions and per the water and sewer infrastructure project.

Public Hearings, Requests and/or Complaints:

- a. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe submitted application for land acquisition to the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs to take 21 parcels in Holmberg Estates into trust. Mayor Schultz turned the floor over to City Attorney Toven, who advised the council to just review the application and the prepared impact statement summary presented to them. Then advised them to just make a motion to either approve the clerk to submit the impact statement as presented or approve to hire outside legal counsel to revise. Toven advised the council that given the emotions of the topic it would be best to not open the floor for discussion. Council agreed and Keding made the **Motion** to oppose the Land Acquisition application and to submit the impact statement as prepared by Clerk Hubbell with supporting correspondence from Mille Lacs County, Isle School District 473, Representative Erickson and Governor Walz. Houle seconded the motion. Five aye votes in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. (Full application of Fee to Trust and Impact Statement within August Council Packet).

Department Reports:

Public Works – Supervisor Minenko presented the monthly department report. Completed all street sweeping after Isle Days weekend. Building maintenance on Muni continue with sewer drain issues. Completed Soo Line trail cleaning and finished ditch mowing until last fall clearing. Mayor Schultz requested that Public works go through town to turn street signs and fix bent poles for weather and seasonal movement. Water and Sewer revenue totals for the month were \$48,563.01.

Police Department- Chief Reichel presented his report to council covering 219 incident call reports for the month. Summary of the calls for the month reviewed and highlighted for the council and public. Chief Reichel responded to Neumeister’s comments from earlier, stating that officers spend a lot of time on the island and that people always obey the law in their presence. Reichel stated that his officers monitor traffic speeds daily. He also stated that with their increased presence they have caught many teens and adults jumping from the Malone Bridge.

Liquor Store Operations- Manager Weets presented the Liquor Department report for July. Revenues were up \$14,734.50 from July 2018 and expenses were down by \$28,040.89 from 2018. Net effect for July was at a profit of \$12,987.92 with total revenue at \$128,666.24 and total expenses at \$115,678.32. July sales were extraordinary. July expenses were high due to the annual insurance payments and the quarterly unemployment payments, totaling over \$20K together. Beer sales are up 8% over last year and total off sale sales have increased 9.4%. Weets requested approval for Rowdy Cowboy Show for Labor Day weekend entertainment at \$850.00. Houle made the **motion** to approve with Keding seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Weets presented a maintenance agreement with SCR St. Cloud Refrigeration for Spring and Fall service maintenance agreements for the HVAC, Refrigeration, Plumbing and Ice machine. Council unanimously agreed that Weets should go with the Fall contract and see how it goes. \$1150.00 approved by all by verbal vote.

Fire Department- No Chiefs present, but submitted a request for a 60’ flag pole installation for the Fire Hall. Quote provided was \$7600.00 for the pole, install separate. Council suggested to table until September when a fire department chief/representative would be present to discuss the need for such a large pole.

Planning Commission – Houle reviewed the agenda items from the last meeting and announced the Public Hearing scheduled Monday September 9th, 2019 at 5:00PM for the Hunter Winfields variance application. Houle stated that there are still blight properties that are making slow progress. She also reminded the public that the commission is still short one member and recommended anyone interested to apply.

Airport Committee – Dahlen reported the minutes of the last Flying Club meeting and announced that the club changed its official name to Isle Airport Association. Their meeting mostly consisted of continued discussions about the south end properties and the trees presumed in the air easement space. They discussed installing a new private well at no cost to the city. And work they need to complete on the grass runway. Dahlen confirmed that all hangar and club leases were paid in full for the year. Clerk Hubbell requested council authorization to make the maintenance payment to the Association at \$700.00 now verses waiting until December. **Motion** by Houle, second by Dahlen to make full payment. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. “Unfinished Business” will continue tabled requests from June.

City Engineer –Tim Ramerth was present to discuss the follow up report for the finishing landscaping issues with the Malone Bridge. Ramerth stated that the required 70% growth standard has not yet been met and he would follow up with Redstone. Other than that last item the bridge project is completed and Bruce Cochran requested to close out the project upon his

last day with Mille Lacs County [August 23rd]. Clerk Hubbell has completed the final payments. Water tower report; no additional RFP will be needed, the tear down and scrap will be part of the total project. The final PER Preliminary Engineer Report has been approved by USDA Rural Development and the grant request is being sent to Washington DC for approval. State funds have been relinquished to other projects. The Mayor will be notified in a couple weeks if approved. The meeting with the State Park board went well and Ramerth will get the flow reports analyzed for capacity totals to determine if the ponds can sustain the park inflow.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Open forum request by Amy Goplen regarding Nancy Rizer-Schmidt property at the south end of the airport. Amy discussed the history of the airport use and the concerns for enforcing the air easement on her mother's property. Goplen felt that the club was harassing and trespassing on the property without the consent of the city. The City is the only named entity with the rights to enter this property to maintain the air space easement for the airport. Goplen pointed out concerns that she felt the council should be aware of on the existing airport lease agreement regarding; City responsible for snow removal, camping at the airport, violations of the lease agreement with subletting and making profit off of the city's property. She stated that the current lease states that there is to be no commercial use or advertising and Fradette violates that clause. The Flying club members are entering her mom's property and the neighbor's property after they have been repeatedly asked not to. Rizer-Schmidt has a No trespass- no contact order on the members of the flying club because of their constant harassing. Goplen addressed that the airport has cost the city money every year until the last two years. She encouraged the council to seriously consider what good the airport is doing for the city and if the city should even have an airport because it only benefits a private group of individuals.
- b. Flying Club [Airport Association] request permission to drill a new private well at the airport five (5) feet north of hangar #8 and in line with the east wall of the hangar. Depth is estimated at greater than 100 feet and the connection will be at a lateral branch along the west wall of the hangars. All maintenance and securing of the well will be at the Associations expense with member donations. **Motion** by Houle with second by Keding to approve well drilling at Club's total expense. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.
- c. Flying Club [Airport Association] submitted \$4000 quote by WSN Surveyor Chad Conner to complete the full air space air easement survey. Letter of support from Association member Daniel Johnson to urge council to allow this survey to be completed. Rizer-Schmidt stated that Kenneth Groth's property is not part of the original air easement and the line of trees on his property are incorporated with her trees and they have no rights to remove his trees or enter his property. Koelfgen asked Toven if the city is liable if there were to be another accident? Toven stated that it would be a "hypothetical claim of liability" and it would depend on actual circumstances. Mayor Schultz asked who will be paying for the survey? Moenkhaus responded with that it was undetermined as of yet. Schultz stated then the survey should be tabled until payment is determined. Dahlen made a **motion** to approve the survey if the Flying Club can come up with the full amount of the quote, no additional expense to the city. Keding second. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Council granted WSN permission to complete the air easement survey and to identify any/all air space easement obstructions.

- d. Motion requested for council to open the thirty (30) day review and public comment for the final draft of the City Comprehensive Plan. Public hearing to follow comment period on October 7th, 2019 at 5:00PM during the regular Planning Commission Meeting. **Motion** by Houle, second by Dahlen to open comment period and set public hearing date. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

New Business:

- a. Donations presented for approval by Resolution 2019-07A \$500 Mille Lacs Drift Skippers to Pass thru to Isle Days Kid’s Rodeo. \$2000 Donor “Name withheld” for Police Department Equipment reserve fund. \$2500 CenterPoint Energy for Police Department Equipment Grant. \$500 McQuoids Inn for Police Department. \$100 Tracy Madsen for Fire Department. \$5600 in total donations approved my **motion** from Houle, second by Keding. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Clerk’s Report:

- a. Request to set date and time for 2020 Liquor Department budget work session. **Motion** by Houle to set the meeting for August 28th, 2019 at 6:00PM. Second by Dahlen. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.
- b. 2020 Census Reporting – Clerk Hubbell expressed how important it is for everyone to complete the census completely and accurately for the best funding opportunities.

Financials:

- a. General Fund balance: \$1,271,247.64 Liquor Fund balance: \$87,376.75

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 7:28 P.M. by Houle, second by Keding. Next regular meeting, September 10th, 2019. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Dated on this 13th day of August, 2019
 APPROVED on this 10th day of September, 2019

 Rodney Schultz - Mayor

ATTEST:

 Jamie Hubbell, MCMC Clerk-Treasurer

CERTIFIED BY VOTE:

Motion _____

Second _____

AYE		NAY
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donald Dahlen	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ginger Houle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monica Keding	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Koelfgen	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rodney Schultz	<input type="checkbox"/>

