

**Minutes for a Regular Meeting  
of the Winthrop City Council  
Monday, March 7th, 2011**

A regular meeting of the Winthrop City Council was called to order at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 7th, 2011, in the City Council Chambers of City Hall for the purposes of conducting the business of the city.

- I. CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Trebelhorn at 7:00 p.m.
- II. ROLL CALL** Council members Ed Pelletier, Colleen Dietz, Lyle Muth and Pete Machaiek were present. Guests included Mark Erickson, Don Lannoye, Mike Trebesch, Joe Ziegler, Mike Mattison and Bruce Froehlich, Barb Johnson, Pat Bartels, Todd Lohman, Julie and John Widbeck and Ellen Anderson.

- III. GuidePoint Pharmacy Tax Abatement Public Hearing** – Mayor Trebelhorn opened the public hearing for the proposed GuidePoint Pharmacy Tax Abatement. No one present gave testimony for or against the abatement. The hearing was closed by Mayor Trebelhorn and the council was called back into session.

Motion Pelletier, second Machaiek to approve the tax abatement for GuidePoint Pharmacy. The motion was passed on a unanimous vote.

Barb Johnson spoke briefly to the council about an upcoming DFL Caucus meeting in LeSeuer.

- IV. ESTABLISH AGENDA** – Motion Machaiek, second Muth to establish agenda as presented. Passed on a voice vote.

**V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- a.** Motion Muth second Machaiek to approve the consent agenda. Passed on a voice vote.

**VI. NEW BUSIENSS**

- a. Disc Golf for the City Park** - Julie Widbeck told the council about an opportunity to put a none-hole disc golf course in the city park. It would be a relatively inexpensive (\$3,000) project and provide fun for people of all ages and skill levels. It might be possible to have hole sponsors to offset the cost. Julie and Mark are going to talk and bring more information to the council at the next meeting.
- b. Wellhead Protection Public Hearing Date** – Motion Dietz, second Pelletier to set Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. for a public hearing on the city's wellhead protection application renewal permit to the state of Minnesota. Passed on a voice vote.
- c. DNR Grant for Community Trees** – Erickson informed the council of a grant opportunity from the DNR to purchase an plant up to 200 new trees in Winthrop to prepare for the Emerald Ash Borer. Mark Schnobridge from Hutchinson would write the grant and his fee would be paid from the proceeds of the grant. Motion Pelletier, second Dietz to move forward with the grant application process. Passed on a voice

vote.

- d. **Police Chief Salary Range** – Erickson informed the council that the police committee had interviewed the four internal candidates and was ready to make an offer but wanted to know from the council what the salary range should be. Motion Pelletier, second Muth to set the salary range for the new police chief at \$45-\$60,000. Passed on a voice vote.
- e. **Eagles Landing Liquor License** – Todd and Deb Lohman presented themselves to the council as the new owners of Eagles Landing Bar and Grill. Erickson said they were applying for a liquor license and had met all of the insurance requirements but needed to pass a background check for the license could be issued. Motion Pelletier, second Machaiek to approve the liquor license for the Lohman’s contingent on them passing a background check. Passed on a voice vote.

**VII. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**a. LEGAL REPORT**

Don presented a Memorandum of Understanding from the police chief’s union to the council regarding the city agreeing to move all of retiring police chief Bruce Froehlich’s unused Paid Time Off and Sick Leave to a Health Care Savings Plan so it could be used to pay for his health insurance needs after he retires. Other towns have done the same thing. Motion Pelletier, second Dietz to approve the MOU on the chief’s PTO and Sick Leave with the Union. Passed on a voice vote. Lannoye said there was no decision yet on the Bartels assessment and the easement hearing should be held within the next two weeks.

**b. WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT**

Supt Ziegler informed the council that Well #3 is currently offline with an apparent electrical problem. He is going to wait until spring to pull the well and find the problem. In the meantime the city is being served by wells #2 and #4. Another second water curb stop along Highway was replaced and the problem could happen again with other stops in the future.

- c. **CABLE COMMISSION** – Erickson informed the council the Cable Commission has voted to protect their franchise rights at Mediacom goes to private ownership. The commission will need to approve the transfer of ownership to Mediacom CEO Rocco Commisso.
- d. **MISCELLANEOUS** – Erickson provided a short fiber project update to the council. The first joint powers board meeting will be held Thursday, Mach 10<sup>th</sup> in Winthrop.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk-Administrator