

**Minutes for a Regular Meeting
Of the Winthrop City Council
Monday May 5th, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Winthrop City Council was called to order at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 5th, 2014 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** Council members Rob Edwards, Pete Machaiek, Ed Pelletier and Colleen Dietz were present. City Administrator Mark Erickson, City Attorney Don Lannoye, Mike Mattison, Gordy Grack, Mark Santleman, Jessica Wiborg, Jenny Hazelton, Ken Vanderhaar and Oscar Olson were also present
- III. **OPEN PUBLIC FORUM**
 - a. Mark Santleman questioned whether the city had authority to sale a G.O. bond without a vote. City Attorney Don Lannoye informed him that a G.O. Tax Abatement bond does not need a public vote.
- IV. **ESTABLISH AGENDA**
 - a. Motion Edwards second Dietz to add Honor Guard House, City Council Tour to the agenda and approve as presented. Passed on a voice vote.
- V. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**
 - a. Motion Dietz, second Edwards to approve the consent agenda as presented. Passed on a voice vote.
- VI. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**
- VII. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **2013 Audit** – City Auditor Ken Vanderhaar presented the 2013 audit to the council. He commented that overall the city added to their reserve from 2012. The garbage fund has shown a turn around and should be out of the red in a year or two. Water, sewer and electric funds were all positive. Motion Pelletier, second Edwards to approve the 2013 audit as presented. Passed on a voice vote.
 - b. **Declare property excess** – Motion Dietz, second Pelletier to approve the presented list of city property as excess so it could be sold on the city wide garage sale. Passed on a voice vote.
 - c. **Hire Summer Help** – Erickson said he would like to advertise for part time summer help in the park. It would pay up to \$10 an hour and average about 20 hours a week. There is money in the budget for the

hire. Motion Edwards, second Dietz to advertise for summer help and come back to the city in June with a recommendation. Passed on a voice vote.

- d. Temporary Beer licenses** – Erickson said all the paper work was in place for temporary beer licenses for Farm City Fun Fest and the slow pitch softball league and he was recommending they be approved. Motion Edwards, second Dietz to approve the temporary beer licenses for FCFF and slow pitch softball. Passed on a voice vote.
- e. Pay loader Bids** – City Supt. Gordy Grack presented bids from three companies for a new pay loader. The lowest bid is for the John Deere 624K at \$140,525. There are funds available to pay for the pay loader. It comes with a seven year warranty. In 25 years of use the old pay loader has 6,200 hours. Motion Edwards, second Pelletier to accept the John Deere bid of \$140,525. Passed on a voice vote.
- f. Electrical Upgrades** – UFC no longer needs the power pole and transformer box moved for their gas station upgrade but there is a need to upgrade the wire with new jacketed wire to improve reliability. The council asked Erickson to get estimates from Quades for the necessary upgrades including an option to move the pole and the transformer box.
- g. Honor Guard use of former Miller Plumbing Office** – Erickson said the Honor Guard was interested in using the old Miller Plumbing office for a meeting place. They would clean it in exchange for rent and have their own insurance for contents as well as pay for electricity. Motion Dietz, second Pelletier to allow the Honor Guard to use the building under the conditions outlined. Passed on a voice vote.
- h. Annual City Inspection Tour** – After discussion it was decided to have the city inspection tour on Sunday, June 1st at 6 p.m. and meet in front of city hall. Erickson will line up the bus transportation.

VIII. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

a. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Erickson gave the council an update on the former drug store. He indicated that Winthrop Opportunities no longer wanted to purchase the building and it would remain under city ownership. He gave the council an update on the switch over to have landlords have their tenants utility bills in their names if they do not want to sign a contract saying they will pay their tenants bill if they leave owing the city money. He said only two or three are resisting. More than 40 have signed the contracts. He informed the council that the county has decided they will no longer bill the cities for their per capita dues for SEDCO. The county wants to reorganize SEDCO and have the county appoint members instead of city councils. He informed the council that M.R. Paving will be repaving the driveway apron in front of the ambulance garage this summer.

b. LEGAL

City Attorney Don Lannoye informed the council he is working with the police union contract and has sent a letter to the union representative a couple of weeks ago. He added that he handled the closing of the drugstore and Miller property for the city. He suggested he could look into the legality of selling the G.O. Bond without a public vote but the RS Fiber JPB already has such an opinion and the council didn't feel it was necessary.

c. ELECTRICAL

MMPA Board Rep Pete Machaiek said that GFW students will be touring the Faribault Energy park in the coming days.

d. POLICE REPORT

Chief Johnson said the department took part in the ECFE bike event recently and gave away helmets. The cost of those helmets was split by the school and the department. She said she is in the process of hiring a new full time officer and is down to three candidates. She is having a background check done on one of the candidates and may have a recommendation by the June council meetings.

- e. RS FIBER UPDATE** – Erickson said the fiber project is moving ahead. All ten city council and 17 of 21 townships have voted to move forward with the bonding process. The fiber cooperative board continues to work toward financing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk-Treasurer