

**Minutes for a Regular Meeting  
Of the Winthrop City Council  
Monday, June 3rd, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Winthrop City Council was called to order at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 3rd, 2013 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 7:04 p.m.
- II. **ROLL** Council members Jessica Wiborg, Rob Edwards, Lyle Muth, Colleen Dietz and Pete Machaiek were present. Mark Erickson, Don Lannoye, Mike Mattison and Gordy Grack were also present.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
  - a. Motion Edwards, and a second by Dietz approve the current agenda. Passed on a voice vote.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**
  - a. Motion Muth, and a second by Edwards to approve the consent agenda as presented. Passed on a voice vote.
- V. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. **Complaints about cats in the city** – Erickson said he has received several calls about cats loose in the city and was asked to bring the matter to the city council. The city does not license cats, choosing not to several years ago. Police generally leave cats alone because there is no way to identify them. It was decided not to take action but to urge cat owners to keep their cats on their own property.
  - b. **Crop Production Variance** – Crop Production is asking for a setback variance for a storage facility they would like to build. A hearing held and no one objected to the variance. The Planning Commission was recommending the variance be granted. Motion Edwards, second Machaiek to approve the variance request (resolution 20130603-01). Passed on a unanimous vote.
  - c. **Historical Society Request** – City Attorney Don Lannoye said he researched the Historical Society’s request for funding from the city and found that while the city can provide funds for the purpose of preserving historical items and documents, they cannot provide funds for rent. Since the Society has already indicated the money will be used to pay rent the appropriation is questionable. Erickson reported the Society is not interested in the house on the corner of Highway 19 and Carver. Mayor Trebelhorn said we did say come to use with a plan

for the future and right now the council really can't do anything. Edwards said the council's hands are tied by state statute.

- d. **Main Street Parking** – Erickson said further investigation by I&S Group estimates the total potential expense of a parking lot on Main Street at between \$150,000 and \$180,000. The figure could be high or low depending on what needs to be done with utilities in the alley. The council decided it was just too expensive and did not take action.
- e. **Snow Blower Bids** – Two bids were received for the 1984 John Deere Snow Blower. Motion Edwards, second Dietz to accept the bid of \$750.00 from Bob Nielsen of Green Isle. Passed on a voice vote.
- f. **City Hall Entry Way** – The Entry Way Planning Committee did not all meet but consensus is that the current entry way should be taken down so a new one can be planned. Motion Edwards, second Dietz to have the entry way to city hall removed. Passed on a voice vote.

## **VII. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

### **a. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Erickson reminded the council that the annual inspection tour was set for Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in front of city hall.

### **b. CITY LEGAL REPORT**

Lannoye gave an update on the house on Redwood that had been condemned. The building inspector says work is progressing but a building permit has yet been turned in. The house is not habitable at this time. He will continue to be in contact with the building inspector and the city may have to resort to prosecution if the matter is not taken care of. He informed the council that a ruling by the supreme court may change the way police are allowed to collect evidence for suspected DUI drivers. It may be that law enforcement will need to get a search warrant before they can make the suspect submit to a breathalyzer test.

### **c. ELECTRIC REPORT**

Gordy Grack said the price of LED street lights has come down to \$500 and he would plans to put more up. Machaiek said the MMPA annual meeting is in July in Chaska and that Elk River wants to become an MMPA members. He added the wind farm deal west of Winthrop is 50/50 at this time whether MMPA is involved and that the LeSueur energy plant is under construction.

### **d. MISCELLANEOUS**

Erickson provided the council an update on the fiber project and reminded everyone of the municipalities meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>. The mayor read a thank you from the Garden Club for the golf cart to water the flowers they put out.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk-Administrator