

**Minutes for a Regular Meeting
Of the Winthrop City Council
Monday, August 5th, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Winthrop City Council was called to order at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 5th, 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 7:01 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, Gordy Grack, Tim Penney, Phil Klenk, Doug Hanson, Diane Fredin, Barb Pagel, Rob Gleason, Ron Hanson, Dave Kruger, Mike Keane, Karen Johnson, Barb Ahlbrecht, Jeff Seahoffer and Travis Vorwerk were also present.

- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
 - a.** Motion Edwards, and a second by Dietz to add Fire Department and Ambulance signs and approve the current agenda. Passed on a voice vote.

- IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**
 - a.** Motion Edwards, and a second by Machaiek to add a \$1,668.99 Belek Tree Service bill and approve the consent agenda as presented. Passed on a voice vote.

- V. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- VI. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Tim Penny from Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund** – Penny gave the council and update on the investment the Initiative Fund has made in Sibley County over the years and thanked them for their annual donation to the organization. He introduced Dave Kruger and the newest board member to the foundation. Dave lives in Arlington and works for AgStar. Kruger introduced himself and pointed to the fiber project as a good project for the area.
 - b. Phil Klenk and Mike Keane from GFW school board** – Klenk and Keane expressed an interest in working with the city to identify areas the city and school district could work together. Trebelhorn suggested setting up a committee with reps from the three towns and the school district to meet twice a year to find areas of common interest. He suggested the committee have an initial life of five years to allow it time to come up with results. Keane and Klenk said they liked the idea and would discuss it with the GFW School Board. Erickson will talk to

the city administrators in Gibbon and Fairfax to see what they think of the idea.

- c. **Winthrop Historical Society** – Members of the historical said told the council their request two months previous for funding was rejected. They presented a budget that shows they need about \$7,000 to purchase equipment and meet expenses. They are asking for the city's help again. Trebelhorn asked how they could increase their memberships. Lannoye reviewed his opinion regarding funding and said the current request (with the possible exception of snow removal) would meet the criteria. Wiborg asked what kind of fund raising the group had. Diane Fredin said they have a fund raiser twice a year and it hasn't been very successful. Trebelhorn said a committee should meet with the group and bring back a plan or recommendations. Muth said he thought the city should be involved with the historical society because we need to have events in our city remembered. Wiborg said she thought it was the society's responsibility not the city's. Muth said he didn't agree with that. Erickson Dietz and Muth volunteered to be on a committee to meet with the historical society and come back with a recommendation for the 2014 budget.
- d. **Softball Field Improvements** – Jeff Seahoffer, Brian Magnuson and Travis Vorwerk outlined plans to the council to expand the second softball field and make it more useable. Additional fencing would be required. The booster club has given \$1,500 toward the effort. With the improved field, additional games and tournaments could be held in Winthrop. The addition of a permanent outfield fence would not interfere with Farm City Fun Fest activities. Erickson said they had talked to a fencing company and he thought all the improvements, along with shifting the infield, could be accomplished for less than \$20,000. Motion Edwards, second Wiborg to move forward with bids for the improvements. Passed on a voice vote.
- e. **2014 Tree Bids** – Erickson presented two bids for tree services for 2014. Motion Edward, second Machaiek to accept the Belek Tree Service bid. Passed on a voice vote.
- f. **Updating Electrical Ordinance** – Lannoye updated the council on recommended changes to the electrical ordinance. There are duplications in the ordinance and outdated items. Motion Machaiek, second Wiborg to have the first reading of the ordinance.
- g. **Certify Past Due Accounts to County Taxes** – Erickson explained that the electrical ordinance allowed the city to certify past due accounts to county taxes by October 1st of each year. Two accounts have been identified to certify to taxes. The owner of the property would receive notice of the city's intent and be allowed an opportunity to present their case to the Utility Commission (City Council). Erickson added that action was needed tonight to meet the October 1st deadline of certification. Motion Edwards, second Dietz to send the

letters to the property owners with a copy of the ordinance used to certify the amount to taxes. Passed on a voice vote.

- h. Faye Swenson House** – Erickson said the Faye Swenson house (corner of Hennepin and 8th Avenue) has gone back to the county for taxes and it appears the city will have an opportunity to purchase the house. He said the EDA is interested in gaining ownership of the home in order to find a person or couple who would like to own the property. It might be possible to get the house into the housing rehab program. The county will not be ready to sell the property to the city until something this fall. Council members indicated they would be interested in purchasing the house from the county.
- i. Fire Departments and Ambulance Sign** – Erickson said the fire and ambulance departments want to put a new metal sign in the brick sign façade in front of the old fire hall at a cost of \$2,000. The money would come from each department. Motion Edwards, second Dietz to allow the departments to purchase the sign.
- j. New City Hall Entry Way** – Only two of the original three options for a new entry way are viable as the glass option doesn't work because the temperature inside the entry way would be more than 100 degrees according to a glass contractors. Option 3, at a cost of \$18,000 would require a new front door with the existing front door being moved inside the building and a sliding window installed on the counter to act as a wind break. Option 1, at a cost of \$27,000, would basically reconstruct the former entry way, moving the door to the south and putting on a slanted roof that would allow the front façade of the building to be seen more easily. Erickson said that staff does not like option 3 because it chops up the inside of front office and puts a wall between city personnel and the public. Motion Edwards, second Muth to approve option 3. It passed on a 3-2 vote. Motion carried.
- k. Street Improvement Work Session** – It was decided that Monday, August 12th with a back-up date of August 14th would work for a street improvement work session.

VII. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

a. LEGAL REPORT

Lannoye recommended that the city approve a resolution to appoint a specific person for all data practices requests. Motion Machaiek, second Wiborg to approve the resolutions appointing the city administrator as the contact for all data practices requests. Passed on a voice vote.

b. WATER AND SEWER REPORT

Erickson said the city recently replaced three bad water valves and that well #3 has been put back in service.

c. POLICE REPORT

Chief Johnson said she originally brought an updated pursuit policy to the council back in April. Motion Edwards, second Dietz to approve the police pursuit policy as presented. Passed on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk-Administrator