

Councilpersons:
 First Ward: Gallenberger, Gibson
 Second Ward: Schmidt, Hiers
 Third Ward: Meurer, Bricher

Mayor: John Meisch
 City Attny: Peter Ekstrand
 City Adm: David Schmidt
 City Clerk: Susan Schamaun

Date: July 06, 2010

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Wabasha was held on Tuesday, July 06, 2010 and was called to order at 7:00 pm by Council President Steve Schmidt.

Roll call found Councilpersons Gallenberger, Hiers, Bricher, Meurer and Council President Schmidt present. Councilperson Gibson arrived at 7:10. Mayor Meisch was absent.

Jon Lineweaver, Rollin Hall, and Richard Fuller were present.

Council President Schmidt called for citizen comments.

Mr. Richard Fuller, 1211 Rustic Lane East, came forward and stated he had suggestions for the City to save money. He distributed an article from the Wall Street Journal as well as a current listing of City employee salaries. He felt there were three areas the City could save money, City government, Port Authority, and the National Eagle Center. He stated he felt the true unemployment rate is about 16% and felt, in his opinion, it is not going to get better. He also felt the Council should meet 2, 3, or 4 times a month. Further, he felt City employees should have a 4-day work week and then the following year drop it to a 3-day work week with employees paying for their health insurance. He also stated he felt the City should hire an economic management firm so they could identify tasks that could be eliminated or simplified. He felt 4 positions should be cut immediately which would save about \$2M with benefits. He stated he felt Council should lease laptop computers and all City services should be leased. He felt the City should book their hours which would help protect against class action suits.

Council President Schmidt thanked Mr. Fuller for his suggestions and called for any other citizen comments.

Mr. Rollin Hall, 1417 River Drive South, came forward and stated he wanted to compliment and commend the Council for exploring the possibility of hiring a professional financial planner. With revenues down and the expectation of services growing, having the assistance of a professional financial planner can offer needed help in areas of generating revenue and managing expenses. He stated the true cost of delaying decisions and creating alternative scenarios for costly projects such as street repairs are all the jobs of a professional financial planner. He stated as Council faces tough financial decisions in the future, this information can be extremely important. He stated he spent a career in personal financial planning and knows the benefits of good planning and again complimented the Council in its decision to look into this type of service.

Councilpersons Meurer and Hiers moved to approve the following consent agenda: Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Gibson, Hiers, Bricher, Meurer, Gallenberger, and Schmidt
Nays: None

Approved the June 01, 2010 Regular meeting minutes and June 29, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes.
 Approved Resolution appointing 2010 Election Judges.
 Approved Wabasha-Kellogg Area Chamber's Application for Exempt Permit for Raffle for Septoberfest.
 Approved the following warrants as presented:

Mayors	General Fund	\$2,860.38
Legal	"	\$2,150.00
Debt Service Funds	"	\$5,055.28
Engineering	"	\$1,669.74
Elections	"	\$503.16
Fire Dept.	"	\$1,156.38
Police	"	\$2,407.95
Ambulance	"	\$3,131.70
Park	"	\$2,257.51
Pool	"	\$1,938.45
Streets	"	\$4,411.99
Planning & Zoning	"	\$193.15
Emergency Management	"	\$10.42
Summer Rec Reimb & Uniforms	"	\$3,868.85
Fireworks Insurance	"	\$525.00
	"	
Total		\$32,139.96

5.2 Liquid Jungle Presentation – Mr. Brian Cane – Cancelled.

5.2 Financial Plan – Mr. Mike Bubany of David Drown Associates – Mr. Mike Bubany thanked Council for inviting him to come and make his financial planning presentation. He gave a powerpoint presentation which outlined David Drown Associates financial plan model which is done graphically which they feel is easy to read

and understand. He stated the first step would be to do a Comparable Analysis of the community compared to Cities of similar size in Southeast Minnesota and across the State. He showed a Comparable Analysis for the City of Elgin as an example. He stated they look at the tax base of the City as well as look at revenues from LGA as well as what has been levied. He stated this shows strengths and weaknesses of the City. They also look at the median household income of the community. They look at cash versus expenditures and also water/sewer funds. Sometimes capital financial plans are not designed to tell you all the things you can do but sometimes they are designed to tell you what you can afford to do. In reference to street projects, Cities can do a phased approach where the City would not identify specific streets but would differentiate by using Phase I, Phase II etc. and apply a budget so current and future Councils could use the plan according to the budget and then identify streets for the current year and project. He stated their fee is a flat fee of \$5,000 plus expenses. They provide a PDF report as well as paper copies and if any changes need to be made, they will come in and make the updates and changes and typically there is no fee involved.

5.3 Assessment to Taxes for Unpaid Tow Fee – Police Chief Kruger explained this unpaid tow fee is in connection to a nuisance violation that was previously approved by Council. In doing the clean up of the property, a red Buick Century vehicle was towed and the responsible party has not paid the tow fee. Police Chief Kruger stated he is requesting to have the unpaid tow fee assessed to taxes for this property.

Councilpersons Gibson and Gallenberger moved to approve Resolution # For Assessment of Unpaid Tow Charges: Adopted unanimously.

**STATE OF MINNESOTA,
COUNTY OF WABASHA,
CITY OF WABASHA**

RESOLUTION # 765

RESOLUTION FOR ASSESSMENT OF UNPAID TOW CHARGES

WHEREAS, pursuant to proper notice duly given as required by law, the City of Wabasha City Council has met, heard, and passed upon all objections to the proposed for unpaid charge for towing fee; and **WHEREAS**, the amounts of bad debt have been minimized through diligent collection efforts by staff. **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. Such proposed assessment for unpaid charges, a copy of which is hereby attached as Exhibit 1 and made a part hereof, is hereby accepted and shall constitute the assessments against the lands named herein.
2. Such assessment shall be payable over a period of one year on or before the first Monday in January.
3. The owner of the property so assessed may, at any time prior to certification of the assessment to the County Auditor, pay the whole of the assessment on such property, to the City Clerk/ Treasurer.
4. The clerk shall forthwith transmit a certified copy of this assessment role to the County Auditor to be extended on the proper tax lists of the county and such Assessments shall be collected and paid over in the same manner as property taxes.

Assessment Listing	Parcel Description	Service	Amount
Name	Address		
Cassandra Peterson	318 Second St. W R27.00270.00	Tow Bill	\$96.18

Adopted by the City Council on this 6th day of July, 2010.

Mayor John Meisch

Date

Susan Schamaun, City Clerk

Date

5.4 Police Request To Purchase In-Car Camera – Police Chief Kruger explained the Police Department received a grant from the Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, to purchase in-car cameras. He stated they applied for four cameras and were awarded two. He stated they would like to purchase a third in-car camera which would cost approximately \$4,000.00 and further stated they have money in their drug fund for this purchase. He stated the drug fund is funded with monies from vehicle forfeitures and the money in this fund can only be used for drug enforcement items such as in-car cameras and surveillance equipment, etc. Police Chief Kruger stated the in-car cameras has been proven to improve officer safety, cut court costs, and can also protect cities from law suits.

Councilperson Bricher stated the in-car cameras are a way of documenting what actually happens during an incident in case there is a dispute later.

Police Chief Kruger thanked City Administrator, David Schmidt, and City Planner, Molly Patterson-Lundgren, for helping write the grant.

Attorney Peter Ekstrand stated the in-car cameras can be very helpful for both sides in prosecuting cases. Further he stated the cameras will help in certain cases and will hurt in certain cases.

Council approved the Police Department purchasing a third in-car camera.

8.1 Donations - Council President Schmidt announced the American Legion Post #50 donated \$2,000.00 towards the Summer Rec Program.

Roundtable

Councilperson Gibson asked for a Big Jo Limited Grand Eagles Hotel Project update. David Schmidt stated he did not have any new information. Councilperson Gallenberger stated since the July 1st financial deadline was missed for the project, it is a dead contract.

Mr. Jon Lineweaver, 330 Lawrence Boulevard East, came forward and stated the Port Authority has been working on this project for some time and also stated that according to Mr. Bob Deike, the contract does not need to be terminated by either party. He stated it could be terminated but is not mandatory to be terminated. He stated he doesn't understand why Council would want to terminate the contract when there may be an opportunity in these dire times for Mr. Marcou to get the financing. He stated there has been no other party that has come forward to propose a project. He stated until something happens, he felt Council should just let it ride.

Councilperson Gallenberger stated she felt one of the reasons nothing else has been pursued is because it has been tied up in a contract. She stated Council hasn't gone out to do anything else because Council is unable to and nobody has approached Council because we are under contract.

Mr. Lineweaver stated anybody that has an interest would approach Council presumably not knowing there is a contract and also stated that he doesn't believe having a contract in place is precluding any other developer that may have an interest to come in and approach Council.

Council President Schmidt stated that if this project would move forward it would have very big tax increases and the City needs every tax payer it can get. The City needs to come up with a lot of money in the coming years for street projects.

Councilperson Gibson stated the City could generate revenue from this property with options like running a civic center, etc. but the bottom line is there are options.

City Attorney Peter Ekstrand concurred with Mr. Lineweaver and stated the City is not required to terminate the contract and then there is still the option for Mr. Marcou to develop if he comes up with the financing and Council approves it.

Councilperson Gibson stated she would like David Schmidt to look into grants or funding for a civic center or community oriented type building that could generate revenue.

Councilperson Gallenberger thanked Mr. Lineweaver for the information as she did not realize the contract did not have to be terminated.

Councilperson Gallenberger stated Council had a special meeting on June 29th to discuss street projects and reported Council elected not to pursue resurfacing streets due to a late timeline and the City would be doing all the work now to be ready for a spring street resurfacing project. She also reported the City Engineer had done a Feasibility Report on streets excluding streets that needed utility work but at the June 29th meeting, Council approved the City Engineer to complete the Feasibility Report to include all streets and will be presented at the August meeting.

Councilperson Hiers stated she is concerned about the library being closed on certain days and for some people, it is their internet access, especially in searching for jobs, etc. It was reported the City has volunteer insurance and volunteers can be used in working at the library to expand their hours.

Councilperson Bricher stated he watched the 4th of July fireworks and before the fireworks started, people were setting off fireworks in the parking lot and he felt this put the public at risk. David Schmidt stated he met with Police Chief Kruger and Councilperson Bricher on this matter and it will be policed next year. Also, they have discussed putting up temporary no-parking signs on Grant Boulevard so people do not park in front of people who have already put their chairs out.

Councilperson Meurer stated people have asked about a 40 mph sign coming down out by the high school. Police Chief Kruger stated that would be the County. David Schmidt stated the County is doing speed studies in various areas around town. Councilperson Meurer stated there are cars speeding on County road 30 near Mr. Roemer's new development.

Councilperson Gallenberger also stated semis are using Alleghany as they exit Kwik Trip and she felt this street has taken a beating and also since children are on that street due to the skate board park, it might be helpful to be signage by Kwik Trip for semis not to use Alleghany as an outlet and also felt staff should talk to Kwik Trip about this also.

Council President Schmidt directed David Schmidt to contact Mr. Marcou about coming to the next Council meeting to communicate with Council.

Having no other business, Councilpersons Hiers and Gallenberger moved to adjourn at 8:17. Adopted

unanimously.

Susan Schamaun, City Clerk