

Councilpersons:
First Ward: Friedmeyer, Wharton
Second Ward: Schmidt, Kruger
Third Ward: Meurer, Schoen

Mayor: Rollin Hall
City Atty: Peter Ekstrand
City Adm: Chad Springer
City Clerk: Susan Schamaun
Date: March 3, 2015

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Wabasha was held on Wednesday, March 3, 2015, and was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Hall.

Mayor Hall and all Council Members were present.

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest Speaker: Rolf Thompson: Soar With Eagles Month: Rolf Thompson, National Eagle Center Executive Director, came forward and gave a report on Soar With The Eagles events for the month of March. He stated they have some incredible flying bird programs this year that take place at the St. Felix Auditorium.

3. Public Comments. Randi Campbell, representing local business owners Brian and Rachel Yenter, read a letter from the Yenters in support of the Regional Event Center in the downtown area, which they believe is the only feasible option for its location. They feel Wabasha misses out on many weddings, meetings and events due to not having adequate facilities.

Darren Sheeley, Fire Chief, announced the Fire Department has gambling funds they donate to various youth groups and for the fireworks and also put towards the Fire Department equipment replacement fund. He stated last year they put some funds towards a new ATV. This year they are contributing towards a thermal imaging camera for the Fire Department for approximately \$8,000. This camera is a safety feature as it can locate hot spots.

Steve Fessler, owner of Slippery's, stated they are inclined to be in support of the Regional Event Center and stated he does have questions in reference to how it will be built, kitchen facilities, parking, etc.

Carol Proud, owner of Prouds Roadside Antique's, stated she is in support of the Regional Event Center. She stated Septoberfest this past year brought in many customers to their store. This was their best year ever. She felt the proposed Regional Event Center could have many different types of events including banquets, receptions, dances, senior card playing location, potlucks, auctions, estate sales that would bring in many customers. They felt it would be a tremendous asset to Wabasha and the area.

Brian Fries, Plaid Productions owner and Manager of Coffee Mill Ski Resort, stated he supported the proposed Regional Event Center and even though he felt the two companies he runs would not have a direct impact from the Regional Event Center, he was confident many other businesses would

4. Changes or Additions to Agenda:

Councilperson Schoen asked if the Comprehensive Plan subcommittee members should be voted on. Attorney Peter Ekstrand stated it should. This item would be added under General Business as 10.6. City Clerk stated the Resolution for Assessment of unpaid utility charges needed to be amended to remove the 2nd resident as that person made payment arrangements. City Administrator stated the

Police Union Contract needed to be added under General Business as 10.7.

Councilpersons Kruger and Schoen moved to approve the changes and additions to the agenda. The motion was adopted unanimously.

5. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hall reported that last week's Guest Speaker, Talia Miller, was Mayor for a day on Wednesday, February 4th, and Police Chief Jim Warren picked her and a friend up in a squad car. They were escorted to the Fire Barn, Ambulance Garage and City Hall. Fire Chief Darren Sheeley and Ambulance Director John Fox spent time with them. Mayor Hall also reported that last Saturday was the annual Grumpy Old Men Plunge and several local citizens helped make this a successful event. Funds raised by the Plunge go to the Wabasha Rotary and Great River Homes. There were 66 jumpers that raised approximately \$13,000. He read a letter from Mr. Mike Weinandt, of Great River Homes, thanking the City Council and City employees for their support of the Plunge.

6. Committee Reports and Wabasha Good News:

Mayor Hall stated last year residents were running water to avoid frozen and broken water pipes. He thanked all commission members who serve and we appreciate that. He stated City Administrator held an appreciation party last week for board and commission members. He thanked those board and commission members for giving of their time and talent to serve. He stated a group on the West side stated they appreciate having the park sidewalks and bike trails shoveled and cleaned.

Utility Commission: Councilperson Schmidt reported that the Utilities Commission met tonight and discussed machinery, controls and pumps that need to be replaced and updated. He stated they got a preliminary estimate on the broken water main under the railroad tracks and it will cost approximately \$175,000 due to going under six railroad tracks and needing a 36 diameter sleeve and inside of that a 12" one-piece water main. This water main will be a 300' long pipe so there are no seams under the tracks. He stated they are discussing putting in the new City well due to recent oil tanker accidents around the country.

Police Commission: Councilperson Wharton announced they welcomed new member Jane Glander and discussed the future of the police department.

Councilperson Meurer stated Tony Johnson, Street Superintendent, contacted him and asked him if he would consider being a member of the Street Commission and he stated he would. He also stated City Administrator, Chad Springer, asked him to participate in the Technology Committee.

Planning Commission: Dave Kruger reported the Planning Commission met on February 10th and several residents spoke in regards to the mining ordinance. They offered their suggestions for changes. They also discussed the Regional Events Center and several residents also gave comments on that issue. After discussion, they voted to approve the Regional Event Center CUP with a few amendments. On March 18th at 7 pm there will be a special meeting on the Mining Ordinance.

Technology Committee: Councilperson Schoen stated the City's videoing system was tweaked and things should be running much better. She stated a new council agenda system will be coming soon. She stated they took a tour of all the upgrades that have happened and things are very streamlined and things are more efficient.

Park Board: Councilperson Schoen stated Park Board discussed the pool and they were trying to figure out how to keep it open on week-ends in August when staff and kids go back to school. The March meeting was rescheduled. They also approved full reimbursement of lifeguard training.

Port Authority: Chad Springer reported they met on February 17th and discussed K&C Fisheries. Keith & Cate Bell may be coming to the March 17th Port Authority meeting.

Administrator’s Report:

Chad reported there was a good process put together to incorporate comments forwarded to the City on the Mining Ordinance. Molly Patterson-Lundgren and Kristy Clarke as well as Wendy Busch are working on this. There will be a special meeting on March 18th for the Mining Ordinance.

City staff have been working on the financial audit and also worked with Mr. Mike Bubany to review the financials. Staff feels the City is in a positive financial standing.

Chad thanked everyone who attended the Appreciation Event held for board and commission members. He thanked staff for taking time to come and participate. It was a good event attended by 50-60 people. He thanked the National Eagle Center for their hospitality.

8. Consent Agenda: Councilpersons Friedmeyer and Schmidt moved to approve the following consent agenda including the warrants: Adopted unanimously.

- Approved the February 3, 2015 Regular Minutes
- Approved CodeRed Agreement and Renewal Fee of \$500
- Approved Resolution for Assessment of Unpaid Utility Charges
- Approved Fire Commission Re-Appointment of Gene Wodele
- Approved 1st Reading: Proposed Amendments to Section 500: Waterworks Rates and Section 505 Sewer Rates and Rents
- Approved WSB Service Agreement Amendment
- Approved the following warrants as presented:

Mayors/Admin/City Hall/Council	General Fund	3,196.43
CSAH 30 project (final payment)	“	15,919.34
Police	“	6,746.63
Streets	“	9,178.12
Legal	“	6,031.41
Parks	“	17,299.13
Fire	“	15,768.38
Audit Fees	“	19,660.00
Ambulance	“	6,180.60
Planning	“	5,678.85
Pool – Annual Permit	“	330.03
Gen. Engineering	“	1,194.90
Community Center Feasibility Study	Grant	2,500.00
Misc.	“	106.25
2014 St. Project Eng.	“	450.00
CMS – Bldg. Inspections	“	670.79
Total	“	\$110,910.86

Consent Attachments: Resolution for assessment of unpaid utility charges:

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

CITY OF WABASHA

**RESOLUTION # 3-2015
RESOLUTION FOR ASSESSMENT OF UNPAID UTILITY AND SERVICE 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 charges for utilities and other services; 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	Parcel #	Service	Amount
Name	Address			
Carol Arnston	706 Grant Blvd W	R27.01245.00	Water/sewer	934.95

Adopted by the City Council on this 3rd day of March, 2015.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

10.1 Chamber/City Use Agreement Update & Extension:

Chad reported he sits on the committee as the City representative working on the Regional Event Center and stated they are actively fundraising and working on getting a Feasibility Study ordered. They submitted a CUP to the Planning Commission which was approved per City Code on February 10th.

Mr. Ed McBride, Chamber Executive Director, came forward and asked for Council's continued support. He stated the Building Feasibility Study has been completed. A Business Feasibility Study with a 3-year Business Plan is being worked on. A grant writer, CEDA, has been hired and they plan on applying for many grants. They are seeking State funding for most likely 2016. They have met with most legislators and Senator Matt Schmit who has stated he will present the bill to the State Senate.

Mr. McBride stated because of the Minnesota State timeline, they are requesting an amendment to the Use Agreement which would extend some of their benchmarks to better position them to achieve their

financial goals. There is also a construction commencement date adjustment as well.

Discussion was held on several issues including parking.

Councilpersons Kruger and Schmidt moved to approve the proposed amendment to the Use Agreement which allows an extension. Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Schmidt, Meurer, Kruger, Mayor Hall

Nays: Schoen, Friedmeyer, Wharton

Councilpersons Meurer and Kruger moved to Approve a Resolution to support a submission of the RECC to State of MN for funding consideration. The motion was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Wharton, Schoen, Kruger, Meurer, Mayor Hall, Schmidt, Friedmeyer

Nays: None

Councilperson Wharton asked that as documents for this project are completed, they be made available to the Council.

10.2 Consideration of Renaming Jaycee Park to Marcou Park:

Park Superintendent, Mike Mroz, came forward and stated the Park Board has approved renaming Jaycee Park to Marcou Park. Mr. Mroz gave a brief history of this request.

He stated in the Park Plan it states: "Block 66 of South Wabasha was named Jaycee Park in the 1970's after a donation was given by the organization to purchase the land. The local Jaycee Chapter has since disbanded but the name of the park remains." The Marcou Family challenged this because they had donated the land to the City for \$1.00 whereby the Jaycees donated \$2,000 to purchase trees and fencing. He stated in 2010 when the Marcou Family first made their request to the Park Board that they wanted the Park Plan changed to reflect that the Marcou Family donated the land, the Park Board stated they needed to have compelling and written testimony from people involved in the original transaction in order to change the Park Plan. They got letters of support from former Mayor, John Wodele, and former City Clerk, Virginia Fosmo.

At the January 2015 Park Board meeting, they approved changing the Park Plan description of the history of this park as well as approved renaming the park from Jaycee Park to Marcou Park.

Councilpersons Meurer and Friedmeyer moved to approve renaming Jaycee Park to Marcou Park. Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Wharton, Mayor Hall, Friedmeyer, Kruger, Meurer, Schoen, Schmidt

Nays: None

10.3 Audit 5-year Engagement Letter:

City Administrator, Chad Springer, stated the City's audit firm, Abdo, Eick & Meyers, submitted a 5-year Audit Agreement with very favorable pricing. He stated these prices reflect the fact the City has partnered with them for several years and there is a good working relationship as well as a process that is mutually beneficial to both parties which has resulted in process efficiencies. The following audit fees are proposed:

2015: \$24,850

2016: \$25,350

2017: \$25,850

2018: \$26,350

2019: \$26,900

Councilpersons Kruger and Schmidt moved to approve the 5-year Engagement Audit Agreement with Abdo, Eick & Meyers as presented. Adopted unanimously.

10.4 2nd Reading: Amending Section 500 Waterworks Ordinance:

At the March 3, 2015, Council meeting, Council approved the 1st Reading of the amendments to Section 500 Waterworks Ordinance with additional small amendments.

There were a couple areas the word "written" was deleted. Council unanimously approved leaving the word "written" in the ordinance, 500.08 Water Services; 500.010 Excavation.

Councilpersons Wharton and Schoen moved to approve Section 500: Waterworks Ordinance amendments as presented. Adopted unanimously.

10.5 Capital Strategy Subcommittee:

Chad Springer stated he wants to form an ad-hoc committee to meet and identify best sources for Capital Improvement funding for strategic needs including but not limited to preparation of a State Bonding package and to also research alternative sources for funding such as grants. This would also be useful for the Comprehensive Plan, the Riverfront project, Regional Event Center, as well as other infrastructure projects. He felt it would be useful for Port Authority members to serve on this committee.

Mayor Hall stated he and Councilperson Friedmeyer serve on the Port Authority and recommended they both volunteer to serve on the Capital Strategy Subcommittee. Councilperson Friedmeyer concurred.

Mayor Hall and Councilperson Schmidt moved to approve the development of a Capital Strategy Subcommittee with Mayor Hall and Councilperson Friedmeyer to serve as City representatives along with City Administrator, Chad Springer. Adopted unanimously.

10.6 Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee Approval:

The Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee was discussed. It was determined this was a steering committee formed as an advisory group whereby formal approval is not needed. They will bring their recommendations to Council.

10.7 Proposed Police Union Contract Approval:

Chad Springer stated a Police Union Contract was approved for one year retroactive to January 1, 2015. He stated they agreed to the same health insurance provisions as the rest of City staff and the same pay cost of living increase of 1.5%. He stated they added a shift differential of \$1.00 for officers who work the 6 pm to 6 am shift.

Councilpersons Kruger and Schoen moved to approve the Proposed Police Union Contract from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 as presented. Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Friedmeyer, Schoen, Wharton, Mayor Hall, Meurer, Kruger, Schmidt

Nays: None

Donations:

Councilpersons Schoen and Kruger moved to approve the Resolution accepting donations as of March 3, 2015. Adopted unanimously.

**CITY OF WABASHA
RESOLUTION NO. # 4-2015**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

WHEREAS, The City of Wabasha is generally authorized to accept donations of real and personal property pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens, and is specifically authorized to accept gifts and bequests for the benefit of recreational services pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 471.17; and

WHEREAS, The following persons and entities have offered to contribute the cash amounts set forth below to the city for the following:

<u>Name of Donor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Combined Drive	Library	\$25.00
River Junction Arts Council	CLIMB Theatre/Summer Reading	\$230.00
Friends of the Wabasha Pub. Library	CLIMB Theatre/Summer Reading	\$230.00
Friends of the Wabasha Pub. Library	Bookmark Contest	\$121.63
WACRC (Common Closet)	Library Patron Computer	\$974.00

WHEREAS, All such donations have been contributed to assist the city in the establishment and operation of recreational facilities and programs either alone or in cooperation with others, as allowed by law; and

WHEREAS, The City Council finds that it is appropriate to accept the donations offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF WABASHA, MINNESOTA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The donations described above are accepted and shall be used to establish and operate recreational facilities and programs either alone or in cooperation with others, as allowed by law.
2. The city clerk is hereby directed to issue receipts to each donor acknowledging the city's receipt of the donor's donation.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Wabasha on March 3, 2015.

Mayor Hall announced the 2015 Board of Appeal and Equalization for the City of Wabasha will be on Monday, April 20, 2015, at 6:00 PM at the Wabasha County Courthouse, 625 Jefferson Avenue.

Having no other business, Councilpersons Friedmeyer and Kruger moved to adjourn at 8:40 pm.
Adopted unanimously.

Susan Schamaun, City Clerk