

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

Mayor: Rollin Hall
City Atty: Peter Ekstrand
City Adm: Chad Springer
City Clerk: Susan Schamaun
Date: March 4, 2014

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Wabasha was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, and was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Hall.

All Councilpersons were present.

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Guest Speaker: None.

3. Public Comments: Mr. Charles Springer, 68014 County. Rd. 76, Wabasha, came forward and stated he is in the City's second ward. He distributed a map that showed 8 property owners on Teepeota Point that are in the City limits. He stated they are 4.0 miles from the nearest Wabasha city limits which is right by Binner Appliance Store. He stated they have no City services. He reported they are in the preliminary stages regarding detachment from the City.

4. Changes or Additions to Agenda: None.

Councilpersons Kruger and Friedmeyer moved to accept the agenda as presented. Adopted unanimously.

5. Mayor's Presentation:

Mayor Hall read a thank you letter from Mr. Mike Weinandt, Great River Homes and Mr. Rick Vaplon, Rotary President, in regards to the City's help with the Grumpy Plunge.

6. Committee Reports and Wabasha Good News:

Street Commission: Councilperson Bricher reported they met on February 25th and discussed Julie Ostrom's 10-15 minute parking request on Pembroke Avenue and stated that item was tabled. He also reported they received one sidewalk bid from Riverside Lawn Care. The bid was for \$30.00 for the 1st 100' of sidewalk and then \$.25/ft. They would apply ice melt if needed and that charge would be \$15.00/50 lb. bag and they would respond within 48 hours of notification. He reported the Street Commission recommended adding a \$15.00 administrative charge to cover inspections/notifications/billings etc.

Police Commission: Councilperson Wharton stated the Police Commission did not meet.

Utilities Commission: Councilperson Schmidt reported they met and discussed the fact that with the current weather situation and freezing water lines, many residents are running their water. He recommended residents use common sense and run about a quart a minute. He stated the City's new water well project is still moving forward and they are still working on how to pay for the project and are considering using an inter-department loan from the sewer department to the water department. He also stated the Utilities Commission is discussing using November through January's water usage in setting 2014 sewer rates due to the fact so many residents are running water to prevent freezing pipes.

Park Board: Mike Mroz, Park Superintendent, reported they met and discussed the history of Beach Park due to interest from the Rotary Club to rename Beach Park to Rotary Beach Park. They also discussed the Athletic Field as well as priced and prioritized repairs for the pool. He will be getting bids to replace the roof of the poolhouse.

HPC: Councilperson Schoen stated the HPC is looking at their mission statement and seeing if it relates and is in line with the state and national standards.

Planning Commission/Ambulance Commission: Councilperson Friedmeyer stated the Planning Commission met on February 11th and February 25th. They have worked on the extension of the mining moratorium and it is on tonight's agenda. They also have discussed Mosquito Field per the Council's request. They met on February 25th to discuss the City's Comprehensive Plan and how to move forward in updating it.

7. Administrator's Report: Chad Springer, City Administrator, invited Tony Johnson, Street Superintendent, and Dave Vosen, Utilities Superintendent, to come forward and report on the streets and utilities budgets in relation to snow removal and water line work due to the weather.

Tony Johnson came forward and reported his snow budget is just about depleted due to buying salt and sand. He stated he will have to increase what he contracts for salt for next year. He stated they have switched to using more sand than salt due to cost and that will result in more sweeping. He also reported they may go over budget in fuel due to the weather and extra sweeping and the street project due this summer.

Dave Vosen came forward and stated MNDot has reported frost is at 5 ½ feet. He reported they had a frozen water line on the end of Skyline Drive and after several attempts, did finally manage to get it working. He stated approximately 150 residents have reported to the City they are running water. There was a frozen water main at Eighth Street and Franklin Avenue. He recommended residents to keep monitoring their water temperature. He stated they have spent about \$18,000 on frozen water lines and there will also be some overhead added to that.

Chad Springer, City Administrator, reported he attended a legislative conference and the League of MN Cities (LMC) focused their discussion on rail safety, alternative publication bill, disaster relief as it relates to special sessions and FEMA criteria, and street improvement districts. He also reported the LMC is looking at Ground Water Initiatives. He stated a lot of discussion was held on the Sales Tax Exemption for local governments. He stated staff has been busy working on amending the Personnel Policy and there are excerpts under the Consent Agenda tonight for approval. The first draft of the City's audit was received and will be reviewed and responded to in the next few days. He stated there is an all staff meeting on March 12th for employees and spouses to review benefits. He reminded everyone that March is Soar With the Eagles month for the National Eagle Center.

8. Consent Agenda:

Mayor Hall asked Police Chief Jim Warren to give Council and residents an explanation of CodeRed. Police Chief Warren stated this was a mandated emergency alert system upgrade and it allows for more efficient emergency notifications through all land lines and then out to who is signed up for texting and email and cell phone. He stated the City also uses this system for snow emergencies. This is a faster way to get emergency notifications and critical situations out to the public.

Councilpersons Wharton and Schoen moved to approve the consent agenda as presented:

Motion adopted unanimously.

- 8.1 Approved the February 6, Regular and Special Meeting Minutes
- 8.3 MN Lawful Gambling Application for Excluded Bingo – Wabasha County Fair Board
- 8.4 Park Board Appointment Renewal – Mr. Dan Aitken
- 8.5 Resolution for Transfer of Funds for Fire Truck
- 8.6 Personnel Policy Amendments
- 8.7 CodeRed Letter of Agreement and Approval of \$500/year.
- 8.2 Warrants:

Mayors	General Fund	\$4,798.54
Police	"	\$4,257.84
Legal	"	\$3,500.00
Planning & Development	"	\$6,250.00
Street Dept.	"	\$17,714.77
Park Dept.	"	\$940.37
Miscellaneous	"	\$7,709.83
2013 Street Project Eng.	"	\$9,111.50
CSAH 39 Street Proj.	"	\$368.25
Engineering	"	\$140.00
CodeRed System	Capital Outlay	\$11,976.00
2014 St. Project	"	\$5,901.50
Bldg. Inspections	"	\$1,479.85
Ambulance	"	\$22,544.78
Fire	"	\$3,858.00
Total	"	\$100,551.23

9. Public Hearing: None

10.1 Street Project – Mr. Chuck Schwartz, MSA:

Mr. Chuck Schwartz, MSA, came forward and stated his staff has reviewed the invoice from the Wabasha County for the CSAH 30 Project and they recommend approval and payment of Pay Estimate No. 4 for \$8,122.68. He stated this Pay Estimate brings the city’s portion of the project up to \$310,000 and \$26,200 being held in retainage.

Councilpersons Schmidt and Wharton moved to approve payment to Wabasha County for Pay Estimate No. 4 for \$8,122.68 for the CSAH 30 Project. Adopted unanimously.

Mr. Schwartz presented a Resolution approving the 2014 Street Project Plans and Specs and ordering the advertisement for bids. He reported this project entails milling off the surface of the indicated streets, patching where required, and repaving with end roll bituminous curbing. Associated with the work is minor amounts of boulevard restoration. He stated there is manhole at Shields Avenue and Fourth Grant Boulevard that has to be replaced and associated with that is also 60’ of sanitary sewer to improve the functionality of the collection system in that area. The estimated cost of the project is \$380,000 with approximately \$22,000 - \$33,000 of sewer work. He stated the project schedule is for opening bids in April and awarding the contract and having the assessment hearing in May.

Councilpersons Schoen and Kruger moved to approve the Resolution approving the 2014 Street Project Plans and Specs and ordering the advertisement for bids. Adopted by the following

vote:

Ayes: Kruger, Schmidt, Bricher, Mayor Hall, Friedmeyer, Schoen,

Nays: None

Abstain: Wharton

Mr. Schwartz reported MSA has submitted the addendum to the plans for the City's new well to the MN Department of Health for certification. He stated if the City intends to apply for a PFA Loan, the request has to be submitted by the end of the month.

10.2 2nd Reading: Amend Section 620 Snow & Ice Removal from Sidewalks Ordinance:

Councilperson Bricher stated this amendment deletes subdivision 4 from the ordinance as it appears to be a replication of subdivision 5.

Councilpersons Bricher and Kruger moved to approve amending Section 620 Snow & Ice Removal from Sidewalks Ordinance as presented. Adopted unanimously.

10.3 Johnson & Scofield Presentation: Mr. Brian Wodele, Johnson & Scofield, came forward and stated Johnson & Scofield would like to express their interest in serving the City for engineering projects. He stated they are located at 626 Jefferson Avenue and they have added a civil engineering department and have a senior engineer employed. He also stated they are well established and will be around for many years. They have good knowledge of the City as well as good proximity which will provide a local and fast response. He stated Johnson & Scofield would like the opportunity to be considered for engineering work and/or to schedule a meeting to discuss which way the City wants to go with their civil engineering services in the future.

City Attorney Peter Ekstrand informed Council the City's engineering services do not have to be put out for bid.

A subcommittee of Councilpersons Kruger, Wharton and Schoen was formed to work with City Administrator, Chad Springer, on the City's engineering needs.

10.4 Rotary Request: Renaming Beach Park – Mr. David Wodele:

Mr. David Wodele, 515 Lawrence Boulevard West, came forward and stated he was representing the Wabasha Rotary Club. He informed Council the Rotary adopted Beach Park quite a few years ago and have done a lot of work and maintenance and have been taking care of it. He reported they worked on raising funds for the new playground equipment that has been installed by the generous donations by the Doffing family, Dr. Robert Mann and Linda Mann, and the Rotary Club. He stated due to their work and dedication to Beach Park, the Wabasha Rotary Club is requesting Council approve changing the name to Rotary Beach Park and allowing the Wabasha Rotary Club to place a plaque in Beach Park with the new name. He also stated all expenses incurred in changing the name would be paid by the Rotary Club.

Councilperson Schoen stated Council could consider a special plaque to recognize the original family that donated the Beach Park area. Mike Mroz, Park Superintendent, was directed to put that request on the Park Board agenda for their consideration.

Councilpersons Kruger and Wharton moved to approve and authorize renaming Beach Park to Rotary Beach Park. Adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

10.5 Extension of Interim Ordinance (Moratorium) on Frac Sand Mining and Processing:

Chad Springer reported Council passed the original Interim Ordinance (Moratorium) one year ago and the Planning Commission has reviewed and recommended approval for the extension of that moratorium while a study on the impact is considered. Councilperson Bricher stated the State Legislature allows for moratoriums for up to 3 years. He further stated the Planning Commission is looking for guidance from the State while they continue their study of impacts.

Councilpersons Wharton and Schoen moved to approve extending the Interim Ordinance (Moratorium) on Frac Sand Mining and Processing for a period of one year per state statute Chapter 114 of the 2013 Session Law Sec. 106. Adopted unanimously.

10.6 Mosquito Field Discussion:

Chad Springer updated Council that on December 18, 2013, the Port Authority presented Council with five properties that they felt were viable for marketing. Council gave direction at that time to assess those properties to see what it would take to get them marketable. A handout was discussed that was part of the packet that described the various constraints with this property in relation to zoning and shoreland, wetland, floodplain issues, etc. He stated at this point it has been determined the City needs to approve the Planning Commission to get a Wetland Delineation and survey of wetlands/elevations to see where the boundaries would be. Total cost for both is \$3,618.

Councilpersons Schmidt and Schoen moved to approve the Planning Commission move forward with attaining a Wetland Delineation and Survey of Wetlands/elevations on Mosquito Field for \$3,618 as presented. Adopted unanimously.

10.7 Detachment Discussion – Re: Teepeota Properties:

Mayor Hall stated the City received a letter from Attorney Michael C. Couri of Couri & Ruppe, in reference to the detachment request from property owners on Teepeota Point.

Attorney Peter Ekstrand informed Council he received a phone call from Attorney Couri before the letter was received by the City. He stated he informed Attorney Couri to send a letter to the City Administrator and copy him. He stated the property owners are looking at two options:

- 1) Detachment
- 2) Establishment of a rural taxing district over the 8 properties (currently taxed as residential)

Attorney Ekstrand stated he would agree to meet with their attorney and discuss this issue. Hefelt per State Statute, he does not think they have the right to detachment. He further stated establishing a rural taxing district is at Council's discretion.

**Councilpersons Kruger and Wharton moved to authorize Attorney Peter Ekstrand and Councilpersons Schmidt to meet with Attorney Michael Couri to discuss the detachment and/or establishment of a rural taxing district request. The motion was adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: Kruger, Wharton, Friedmeyer, Mayor Hall, Schmidt, Bricher
Nays: Schoen**

11. Donations:

A Resolution accepting and approving the following donations was submitted:

- 1) Ambulance Lucas Device Donations:

a. \$7,000.00 University of Minnesota

Councilpersons Wharton and Schoen moved to approve the Resolution Accepting Donations as of March 4, 2014, as presented. Adopted unanimously.

At 8:44 PM, Councilperson Schoen and Schmidt moved to go into Closed Session to discuss the possible sale, offers, and appraisal of park building located adjacent to campground. Parcel #R27.00298.00. Adopted unanimously.

At 9:02 PM, Councilpersons Kruger and Friedmeyer moved to come out of Closed Session. Adopted unanimously.

Councilpersons Friedmeyer and Schoen moved to direct staff to acquire a survey and determine an estimated market value for the park building located adjacent to the City's campground, Parcel R27.00298.00. Adopted unanimously.

Having no other business, Councilpersons Schoen and Wharton moved to adjourn at 9:03 pm.

Susan Schamaun, City Clerk