

ARLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m., Mayor Kreft presiding.

Members present: Mayor Kreft, Pederson, Pichelmann, Reetz, Vrklan, Wills

Members absent: None

Also present: Adm. Jaunich, Fire Dept. Officers Jeff Otto, John Zaske, Jim Farber; Police Chief Rovinsky, Kurt Menk

Motion by Vrklan, seconded by Wills, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Reetz, seconded by Pederson, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A) Approval of the January 19th Regular Meeting Minutes
- B) Approval of the Bills
- C) Approval of bid in the amount of \$3,934.97 from Belle Plaine Co-Op Tire & Auto for new tires
- D) Approve the Closing of West Alden Street from 1st Avenue going East to the Dead End on April 10th from 6:00 am to 3:00 pm.

It was noted that there were no public hearings scheduled.

It was noted that there were no citizens present to address the Council on non-agenda items.

The following announcements were reviewed:

- 1) City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 15th for the President's Day Holiday
- 2) Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, February 16th @ 6:30 pm (Change Meeting)
- 3) Fire & Ambulance Meeting with Townships/Green Isle is Thursday, February 18th at 7:00 pm

The Council reviewed the following communications:

- 1) January Building Permit Report
- 2) Update on Wind Turbine and Street Lights.

Fire Chief Otto presented the annual Fire Department Report. He gave a detailed summary of the number and/or type of calls, which included mutual aid given and received. He commented on the various grants that the department had applied for and been awarded in the last year: \$900 and \$3,600 from the MN Board of Firefighter Training and Education, \$1,100 from CenterPoint Energy and \$35,433 from FEMA and Dept. of Homeland Security. It was noted that the Department had applied for a separate FEMA grant for a new tank truck, but was still waiting to hear if they will be awarded it or not. Chief Otto commented on some things that need to be looked at in the next year or so, such as replacing turnout gear, updating the 2-way radios to the 800 MHz system, replacing 6" valves on the '98 Pumper and purchasing a different water truck. Chief Otto also commented that he was informed that the department was denied the 2010 DNR Grant that they had applied for.

Police Chief Rovinsky presented his monthly police report. It was noted that the department had responded to 83 calls for the month of January. Rovinsky commented that the part-time officers stepped up and filled in a little more recently as he was away for training (schooling) and Officer Bennett was out for personal/family reasons. He also noted that he had met with Consultant Smith-Strack and School representatives about the "Safe Routes to School" program. Rovinsky reported that the 3 new part-time officers are doing well.

It was noted that there were no items under the sections for ordinances, resolutions or unfinished business.

The Council reviewed the Dance Permit Application from the Arlington Dugout. It was noted that the permit being applied for was for the year, not per event.

Motion by Reetz, seconded by Wills, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the Dance Permit Application for one (1) year for the Arlington Dugout.

Adm. Jaunich explained that he had been contacted by Roger Dietel about eliminating the road approach on Hwy 5 near his property. Attorney Arneson had researched the matter to see if there were any public easements and found that there were not. Adm. Jaunich stated that Mr. Dietel had also contacted MnDOT about said road approach. They had no problem with eliminating it, but wanted written consent from the City to do so. Reetz questioned if the City would be responsible for any of the costs associated with closing the approach. Adm. Jaunich recommended that the approach be closed, but the expense would be the property owners.

Motion by Vrklan, seconded by Wills, and passed by unanimous vote to allow Roger Dietel to eliminate the road approach to Hwy 5 at his expense.

Considerable discussion was held on the coverage rates being charged to the townships and City of Green Isle for the Emergency (Fire and Ambulance) Services and the need to increase them. Adm. Jaunich had configured a formula for charging the City of Green Isle and the townships using data he collected from the last 5 years for both services. There was some question on how future (capital) purchases would affect the formula/numbers. It was suggested to charge the townships \$235/section for fire coverage and \$90/section for ambulance coverage collectible in 2011.

Wills commented on the most recent Cable Commission meeting. He stated that they will be purchasing a new DVD player as they are now down to one and can only broadcast on one channel instead of two. It was noted that they are looking at a "tight rope" system, which will enhance the quality of the programs being aired. Wills commented that the Libraries within each community will be notified that there is a \$2,000 grant available to them for technology needs, such as computers, printers, etc.

Reetz commented on the most recent Utility Committee meeting. He stated that the conversation centered on the meter reading system and having all electric meters evaluated so that everything can be automated within 3 years or so. He added that they also discussed future projects, which included more electric line upgrades and looping of the system in the southwest area of town. Adm. Jaunich added that they are still concerned with the amount of 'water loss' occurring within the city and how it can be lowered.

Wills reported that the Library had received by donation from Technical Services an 'oversized' copy machine, which allows them to make copies of newspapers. He added that due to budget cuts, the Library is reducing the hours they are open by 3 hours a week. Concern was expressed that the Council did not cut the budget, but did not grant the additional hours they had asked for. Adm. Jaunich will look into this further. It was noted that the Friends of the Library (known as Apple) will be receiving a \$2,500 grant, which will bring two authors to the community on April 25th to talk about their books.

Vrklan commented on the most recent Cemetery meeting. He stated that last year they had pursued the idea of planting five trees within the cemetery, but the project was put on hold. They intend to revisit the project this year, now that the City has contracted with a new Forester.

Pederson commented on the Parks Committee meeting. The members are working on developing a sidewalk/trail system within city limits. It was noted that they will be advertising for bids for the shelter for Frenzel Park soon.

Motion by Pederson, seconded by Wills, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm.