

ARLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 16, 2007

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

Members present: Mayor Kreft, Borchert, Griep, Reetz, Vrklan, Wills

Members absent: None

Also Present: Interim Administrator Schultz, Attorney Arneson, Police Chief Rovinsky, Kurt Menk, Dwight Grabitske, Greg Goblirsch, Bill Paulsen, Sue Bienfang, Christie Paulsen, Shirley Paulsen, Dennis Strack, Jean Strack, Krista Kube, Barb Fransen, Amanda Hillermann, Willie Larson, Ashley Larson, Ethan Strack, Jacob Strack, Jeff Strack, Emily Strack, Sheila Arneson, Jeri Odenthal, Mary Hennies, Shirley Fitzpatrick, Barb Cordes, Jaime Ide, Jan Larson

Police Chief Rovinsky along with High Island Creek Residence Director Sue Bienfang presented Christie Paulsen (an employee of the H.I.C.R.) with a Citizen's Award from the American Red Cross and a Life Saver Award from the North Memorial Ambulance Service for performing the Heimlich maneuver on a resident at the H.I.C.R on May 29th.

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

Motion by Griep, seconded by Wills, and passed by unanimous vote to table approving the minutes from the July 2 & Special July 11, 2007 meetings until the next regular meeting.

Motion by Reetz, seconded by Borchert, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the bills as presented and Statement of Funds.

Dwight Grabitske and Greg Goblirsch were present on behalf of the Arlington Historical Society (AHS) to give their annual report. Grabitske explained that AHS is starting the final phase (the tower) of the old fire hall restoration and will have to do some fundraising to help pay for it (approximately \$23,000). Grabitske formally presented pictures of past Mayors: Robert Fischer, Louis Kill and Ellsworth Dresser, which are to be added to the picture gallery on display in the Council Chambers. Grabitske commented that they are continuing in their pursuit to obtain pictures of all the past mayors. He stated that the AHS has been collecting other memorabilia as well and are in need of a place to keep and/or display it. There was some discussion about the possibility of the City giving the AHS a loan for the restoration costs as they did for the Veteran's and the Walking Path of Honor. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next regular meeting.

The Council reviewed the agreement between the City and the Good Samaritan Society regarding the proposed shelter for Fairview Park. Vrklan commented that he had been contacted by a few individuals who have family in the nursing home and they expressed their feelings to him that the shelter should be built in Fairview Park. Wills commented that he also had been contacted by some individuals who expressed their feelings that Fairview Park does not need 2 shelters and the proposed shelter should be put in Frenzel Park as it currently does not have anything. It was agreed that a shelter is needed in Frenzel Park.

Motion by Wills, seconded by Vrklan, and passed by unanimous vote to accept the Parks Committee's recommendation to construct the shelter in Fairview Park as presented at the last meeting.

Mayor Kreft explained that the in lieu of Building Official Jenness' resignation, the City has contracted with Interim Building Official Darin Haslip of 101 Development Resources, Inc. through the end of July. The Council reviewed the Building Inspector RFP's that the cities of Winthrop and Green Isle had put together in pursuit of some different options (contract terms and lengths). Some discussion was held on possibly extending

the existing contract with Haslip. Attorney Arneson commented on a few options that are available to the City regarding contracts and term lengths.

Motion by Reetz, seconded by Griep, and passed by unanimous vote to extend the contract with Darin Haslip of 101 Development Resources, Inc. for Building Inspection coverage through the end of the year, possibly indefinitely (pending possible contract negotiations).

Cynthia Smith-Strack of Municipal Development Group, Inc. explained that she is a Planning & Zoning Consultant/Planner and gave a brief history on her business. She spoke briefly on the various services she (her business) could offer the City of Arlington (a maximum of 20 hours per month, including some set office hours – two ½ days a week) and what the billing rate would be. Various questions were asked and answered regarding ordinance enforcement.

Motion by Vrklan, seconded by Reetz, and passed by unanimous vote to hire Municipal Development Group, Inc. (Cynthia Smith-Strack as principal) as the City's Planning & Zoning Consultant through the end of the year (under contract), and upon re-evaluation possibly indefinitely.

Mayor Kreft recessed the meeting for a short intermission and then reconvened the regular meeting.

Attorney Arneson presented Ordinance No. 207 – An Ordinance Regulating Special Council Meetings, and Amending Ordinance 167 for its second reading. Some discussion was held on possibly increasing the fee paid per meeting, which is currently at \$25.

Motion by Griep, seconded by Vrklan, and carried (Borchert & Wills opposed increasing the fee) to accept Ordinance No. 207 – An Ordinance Regulating Special Council Meetings, and Amending Ordinance No. 167 as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 207

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARLINGTON, MINNESOTA TO PROMOTE THE PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE, HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS, AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 167

Section 1: Special meetings of the City Council may be called by the Mayor or by any two council members by writing filed with the City Administrator, who shall notify the Mayor and all council members of the time and place of meeting at least one day before the meeting. Said notice shall be in written form, delivered to the Mayor and council members either by mail or personal delivery. All special meetings shall be open to the public except for meetings or portions of meetings called to discuss issues which qualify for closed meetings under state law, such as employee disciplinary hearings or litigation strategy meetings. The Mayor, or in the Mayor's absence, the Vice-Mayor, shall preside at special meetings.

Section 2: The routine business of the City shall whenever possible be addressed at regular scheduled council meetings. Special meetings shall be called only if urgent business must be addressed in circumstances where it would be detrimental to the City to delay discussion or action until the next regular council meeting. Special meetings may also be called if the council needs to address a particularly complicated or lengthy issue which deserves special attention, and which would impede the conduct of routine business at a regular council meeting.

Section 3: There shall be no limit on the number of paid special council meetings or committee meetings in any calendar year. The attendance fee to be paid to the Mayor and council members for each special meeting or committee meeting shall be \$35.00. These attendance fees shall be paid at the end of each calendar quarter.

This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon publication.

For City of Arlington

/s/ James R. Kreft
By James R. Kreft
Its Mayor

/s/ Dennis P. Schultz
By Dennis P. Schultz
Its City Administrator

Attorney Arneson presented Ordinance No. 208 – An Ordinance Setting the Salary of the Mayor and City Council Members for its second reading. He explained the changes that had been made at the last meeting. He further explained that the pay increase would not become effective until the year after the next election (2009), however the Council would start getting their salary paid out quarterly effective this year (once ordinance was published).

Motion by Reetz, seconded by Griep, and passed by unanimous vote to accept Ordinance No. 208 – An Ordinance Setting the Salary of the Mayor and City Council Members as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 208

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARLINGTON, MINNESOTA TO PROMOTE THE PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE, HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Section 1: The yearly salary for the Mayor of the City of Arlington shall be \$4,500.00. The yearly salary for each Council member shall be \$3,500.00. Said salaries shall be paid in increments of 25% of the yearly salary at the end of each calendar quarter. The Mayor and Council member salary amounts set out in this section shall be effective beginning in the calendar year next following the next municipal election.

Section 2: The Mayor and Council members shall, on a calendar year basis, accumulate a cost of living adjustment (COLA) to their salaries in the same percentage as the cost of living inflation percentage for that calendar year. The cost of living inflation adjustment set out in this section shall take effect biannually in accordance with Minnesota Statute 415.11.

This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon publication.

For City of Arlington

By James R. Kreft
Its Mayor

By Dennis P. Schultz
Its City Administrator

Discussion was held on amending the City Charter; the Council reviewed the charter section by section.

Attorney Arneson explained the difference between the following:

- 1) “Home Rule” Charter City and a Statutory City,
- 2) Aldermen and Council Person,
- 3) City Clerk-Treasurer and City Administrator,
- 4) Deputy Clerk and Assistant Administrator.

He also commented that various positions (City Administrator, Deputy Clerk, Chief of Police) are supposed to be made by appointment (per Charter), which is not the practice today (tend to be contractual positions). He also commented on the City Administrator’s authority over department heads. Schultz commented that when the Charter is revised it should be gender neutral. Attorney Arneson gave 2 examples of how the Charter can be amended; the first is by ordinance through a vote at a general or special election (simple majority vote of the citizens); and the second is to form a Charter Commission, which consists of 15 voting residents of the city. The Commission discusses changes to the Charter and makes recommendations to the Council, who in turn, pass them onto a District Court Judge for approval. It was the consensus of the Council to explore changing the

Charter and establish a Charter Commission. Attorney Arneson will have more information regarding procedure for changing the Charter at the next regular meeting.

Reetz commented on the Utility Committee budget meeting that had been held with PeopleService. It was brought to the Committee's attention that a pump in one of the lift stations needed some major repairs, but was still cost effective to fix rather than replace the pump completely. Schultz commented that there could be more issues with pumps/motors in the near future due to past maintenance procedures.

Vrklan commented that he and Wills looked over a current street repair issue. They felt a larger section of the street should be repaired and not just the small area currently marked. Schultz relayed the concern to Street Supt. Thomes. Wills commented that the street between the Methodist Church and School should be done with the Street Improvement project for next year due to its current condition (not cost effective to make repairs/patches). Schultz agreed as there are many elevation problems, etc.

Wills questioned if anything was happening with the wind generator the City was supposed to be getting. Schultz commented that they were still looking at where to place it and how to get the power back to the system. Mayor Kreft suggested inviting someone from MMPA to a Council meeting in order to provide a complete update on the generator.

Schultz commented that the City has worked out an agreement with the Over 60 Band for the use of the stage (no charge) at the Community Center on a limited scheduled basis. They would like a cabinet behind the stage to store some instruments in; there would not be any additional liability on the city. They would promote Arlington as the "Home of the Over 60 Band" and will play at 1 city function a year free. Vrklan expressed concern about conflicts with bookings. Schultz stated that they are very flexible and understand renting out the Community Center to paying individuals comes first.

Wills commented on an article he read the newspaper about the City of Glencoe using methane gas from the Biscay landfill.

Mayor Kreft commented on the building permit that had been revoked by the new Building Inspector and P&Z Consultant. He just wanted to the Council to be aware that this happened.

Motion by Vrklan, seconded by Wills, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Interim Administrator Dennis P. Schultz

Mayor James R. Kreft