

ARLINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 17, 2006

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

Members present: Mayor Czech, Borchert, Reetz, Voight, Wills

Members absent: Griep

Also Present: Administrator Krueger, Attorney Arneson, P&Z Administrator Jenness, Jeff Hennen, Anne Hennen, Fire Dept. Members Roberta Zaske & Thomas Pfarr, Kurt Menk

Motion by Borchert, seconded by Wills, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the agenda with the following changes:

11.1) Arlington Fire Department – Roberta Zaske

11.2) Travel Request – P&Z Administrator Jenness

11.3) Forester

Delete item No. 5 - SMC Administrator Ken Archer (he wasn't ready to present).

Motion by Voight, seconded by Reetz, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the July 5, 2006 meeting as presented.

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

Mayor Czech introduced Jeff Hennen and his daughter Anne, who are working with the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund on the Building Better Neighborhoods program (affordable housing). Mr. Hennen owns the development (15 acres) on the southwest corner of town currently platted as Polar Circle Phase II. He would like to replat the area to better suit the above program and presented 3 different concepts for the Council to consider. He explained that the streets are a little narrower (26-34 feet wide), and the lots are smaller (50-75 frontages) and include boulevards and sidewalks. There would be restrictive covenants put on the subdivisions. He also explained that the State likes to see homes with garages on the side or at the rear of the property with alley access. He stated that the market is good for this type of housing (\$160,000-\$180,000). He added that the State has a lot of incentive money available to buyers. Mayor Czech commented that the Planning Board had reviewed these concepts at their meeting. P&Z Administrator Jenness commented that they liked either concept A or B, but favored Concept B as it did not have as many lots backing up to Hwy 5. Reetz commented that he had driven through a development like this that had nice concrete alleys and all driveways were in the rear yards. He stated that he was surprised by the quality of the homes and that the lots did not appear that small as the garages were tucked behind the homes. Administrator Krueger commented that he liked the look of these types of developments as they don't have that "boxy" look and the neighborhood seems to flow better. Hennen commented that the homes would be unfinished (buyer would gain equity over time as they finish the house). Hennen stated that the program is designed to work with local banks and contractors, etc. Borchert questioned how deep the ponds would be and expressed concern at the close proximity to the park area. Hennen explained they are anywhere from 8-20 feet deep and cannot be fenced off for liability reasons. They are engineered in such way to be zero depth so many feet into the pond before actual drop off occurs. Mayor Czech questioned if individuals can purchase single lots and hire their own contractor. Hennen explained this would not be an option as the development would go in as a whole (all in 1 phase). Some concern was expressed about the long straight alley and roadway in concept B.

Motion by Reetz, seconded by Voight, and passed by unanimous vote to recommend to Jeff Hennen to redevelop his property on the southwest corner of town for the Building Better Neighborhoods program by using concept A.

Fire Department Members Tom Pfarr and Roberta Zaske were present to discuss the possibility of adding a new member to the department (increasing to 30 members). Pfarr explained that they were not looking to hire any new members, nor were they aware of anyone retiring, but an individual who has already gone through all the necessary training has approached the fire department about joining the department. He commented that he hoped no one would be retiring soon as the senior members still have a lot to offer the department. The fire department felt that it was in both the City's interest and theirs to increase to a 30 member department as there would not be any expenses to either of them and they would be gaining another fully trained firefighter. Pfarr added that this individual now lives in Arlington and works locally so he would be available for calls during the day. It was the consensus of the Council to permit the Fire Department to hire the individual.

Motion by Voight, seconded by Borchert, and passed by unanimous vote to issue a Temporary One-Time On-Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor License to Denise Swenson of the Arlington Haus to sell malt liquor at Four Season's Park during the Sesquicentennial Celebration on August 18-20.

The Council reviewed the letter from Sibley County Faith In Action asking for an "In Kind" Service donation in the amount of \$800. Administrator Krueger explained that the City makes copies and orders some supplies and deducts the amount from the yearly allotment that has been donated in the past. Administrator Krueger commented that they have never completely used up the allocated funds in a year's time and posed the question should money allocated as "In Kind" be carried over. Mayor Czech suggested that Administrator Krueger contact the Director and get some background such as yearly budgets, etc. and possibly invite the Director to the next meeting.

Mayor Czech gave an update on the upcoming Sesquicentennial Celebration. He stated that Administrator Krueger and Dwight Grabitske are working together on a proclamation. He stated that they are pursuing the time capsule with monument and looking at placing it in Memorial Park along with the Veteran's Walking Path of Honor. He reminded the Council that they will be coming in on the covered wagon on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. and he will then read the proclamation (opening of the celebration). He stated that parade committee has been doing a tremendous job and the fireworks were really coming together due to some very large contributions. Voight questioned who would be paying for the time capsule and monument. Mayor Czech stated that estimates were being put together and that it would be nice to have something to show to the future.

Mayor Czech commented on an editorial that had been printed in the newspaper about the police department. He stated that a court hearing has been scheduled and depending on that outcome if further action will be needed from the City. Reetz questioned if any further contact has been made to the City other than the editorial. Administrator Krueger commented that he had received a phone call and Mayor Czech had received a letter, both from party's not directly involved (secondhand information). Reetz commented that this was important to know so when they get approached by the public they know how to respond ("the City is not looking the other way as nothing was ever brought to us"). Attorney Arneson commented that there are actually 2 separate issues to this. He stated that one is a legal issue (the issuance of a ticket) and needs to go through the courts, and the other is an employee issue (an allegation that a police officer acted inappropriately) and should be handled through the structure that the City has put together (Employee Relations Committee and Police Committee). It was suggested to wait to see what the outcome of the legal case is before taking action on the city level. It was noted that the individual(s) in question have not lodged a complaint of any kind with the City.

Mayor Czech commented that the City of Gaylord's Trail Committee invited the Arlington Park Board to join them to discuss a joint trail system.

Wills stated that he and Councilmember Borchert met last week with representatives from Seneca Foods. Seneca informed them that they were looking into purchasing a modular digester that would dispose of the silage that they have. He stated that methane gas that would be produced would be used to make electricity and

the heat from the generator could be used to heat the plant in the winter. Administrator Krueger commented that MMPA is looking over the proposal of Seneca Foods supplying the City of Arlington with electricity and putting some numbers together. There are a lot of factors to consider and agreements to be put together. Wills added that brief discussion was held on the gravel road behind Seneca Foods.

Administrator Krueger commented that they are continuing to make progress on putting an alleyway ordinance together. Attorney Arneson stated that he had received a package from the League of MN Cities regarding alley ordinances and was going through it.

Motion by Borchert, seconded by Wills, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the travel request for P&Z Administrator Jenness to travel to Redwood Falls to attend the Southwest Minnesota Building Officials quarterly meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Administrator Krueger talked about a City Forester. He stated that years ago through a DNR grant the City had one, but the money and program ended some time ago. Street/Parks Supt. Thomes researched this and found that Zumbro Valley Forestry out of Elgin, Minnesota would be interested in working with the City. They would send 2 Foresters to survey the tree population to identify high risk elm trees with Dutch Elm disease and oak trees with Oak wilt at an estimated cost of \$1,000-\$1,500, plus a second evaluation of low risk trees at an estimated cost of \$800. Mayor Czech questioned if there was anyone locally that could do this. It was noted that Paul Feil used to do this. P&Z Administrator Jenness had submitted a memo that explained that Arden Kreft has been suggesting for some time to start a tree bank within the City and maybe he could be appointed as the City Forester. Administrator Krueger suggested having someone who is a certified Forester for public safety reasons. Reetz stated that at the last Planning & Zoning meeting Dwight Grabitske presented a copy of Ordinance 89 – Establishing a Shade Tree Program. Reetz questioned if this is something the City should review. Wills suggested sending letters to residents to have them remove dead or dying trees. Mayor Czech tabled this discussion until the next meeting so that everyone could review Ordinance No. 89 in its entirety.

Wills questioned what the outcome was with the bucket truck that had been damaged. Administrator Krueger commented that the City has not received a bill yet and they were working with Allied Adjusters (the City's Insurance Adjuster). He stated that a bill should be coming for the deductible; everything else has been paid for. Reetz expressed concern that this will still affect the City's loss ratio, which in turn affects the City's premiums, regardless of how much it cost the City overall.

Mayor Czech commented that the sidewalk project is coming along nicely. Voight commented that she didn't realize there was so much that needed to be replaced, but the crew was working fast and doing a good job.

Administrator Krueger stated that some lines on Main Street and side streets had been painted crooked; Street Supt. Thomes will be painting over them with black paint and redoing them.

Motion by Borchert, seconded by Voight, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the regular meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

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Administrator David L. Krueger

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Mayor David Czech