

ARLINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

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

Members present: Mayor Czech, Borchert, Griep, Reetz

Members absent: Voight, Wills

Also Present: Administrator Krueger, Tim Michaelis, Mark Battcher, Kevin Riley, Bob Lueth, Karen Archer, Carol Mader, Ken Marshall, Elaine Spain, Brian Thomes, Don Nuessmeier

Motion by Griep, seconded by Reetz, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the agenda with the following addition:

13.) Water Tower Computer-Controller.

Motion by Borchert, seconded by Griep, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2006 meeting as presented.

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

Administrator Krueger stated that Kevin Riley, a senior (18 years old) at Sibley East School would like to work for the City through the Sibley East Work (Co-Op) Program (approximately 3 hours per day). He stated that there are odd jobs that can be done between the various city departments, including lawn mowing (this will give him a broad spectrum of duties); and he would be Kevin's supervisor. Administrator Krueger commented that the rate of pay needs to be determined. He explained that the temporary part-time employees are paid \$6.15 per hour and the part-time lawn mowers are paid \$8.75 per hour. Reetz feels that this position qualifies as a temporary part-time position and therefore should be paid accordingly. Mayor Czech commented that an increase in pay could come later depending on quality of work. Reetz questioned what he (Riley) hoped to learn. Riley stated that he likes physical labor, to keep busy.

Motion by Reetz, seconded by Borchert, and passed by unanimous vote to authorize Administrator Krueger to complete the Training Agreement with Sibley East Schools allowing Kevin Riley to work for the city through the Sibley East Work (Co-Op) Program at \$6.15 per hour.

Mayor Czech commented that he started the work (Co-Op) program back in 1968 when it was the Arlington-Green Isle School. He stated that he has tremendous respect for this program. Shortly after the program was implemented surrounding communities started doing the same. He stated that they have done follow ups in the past to see how the students have succeeded. The program has been a tremendous success.

Some residents were present to express their concern about the closing of the Adult Day Health Center and the effects this would have on the Sibley County Faith In Action. Administrator Krueger explained that this was a decision made by the hospital board based on money (approximately \$40,000 per year) lost over the last few years along with recent reimbursement changes from Medicare. People are not using the facility like they used to because of the reimbursement changes. Krueger further explained that the City Council has nothing to do with this as the hospital is not covered under the city's day-to-day operations. He had received a call from Faith In Action and they wanted to know if the city had any space they could utilize. He said the city is pretty limited on its space. He suggested to FIA to check with the hospital as they may have room in their basement (business office area) that could be utilized by FIA. The question was asked if the building was owned by the hospital or leased from a separate party. Administrator Krueger stated the hospital owns the building. Administrator Krueger and Reetz explained a little bit how things operate between the city and the hospital regarding finances and reports. Elaine Spain from the MN River Area Agency on Aging was present and informed those present that this organization would be interested in helping the hospital to keep the Adult Day Health Center open. They can find grants programs and have many other resources to offer. This organization helps communities

start and maintain these types of programs for the elderly. Mayor Czech suggested to those present that they should contact the Hospital Board with their concerns and ideas.

Mayor Czech updated the Council on Clayton Strobel's Eagle Scout bench project. He stated that Strobel was working with Councilmember Wills on various types of benches. These ideas were presented to the Park Board and no final decision was made. The Park Board was not opposed to the project; they just want to decide what style and how many benches should be made, and where they should be placed. Mayor Czech asked the Council to consider approving the bench project even though the particulars (type of bench or cost) have not been worked out yet in order to keep things moving.

Motion by Griep, seconded by Reetz, and passed by unanimous vote to allow Clayton Strobel to make benches for the City as an Eagle Scout project at a reasonable cost (to be determined depending on type and number of benches).

Administrator Krueger talked about the trail system that the City of Gaylord was starting. He stated that Gaylord had invited Arlington to a meeting recently to discuss the possibility of a joint trail system. The idea was welcomed by the Park Board and actually has grown to include Green Isle. Administrator Krueger commented that he was essentially put in charge of this joint trail system to get it moving to the next level. He informed the Council that he will be presenting this concept to the County Commissioners on September 26<sup>th</sup> and has asked each city to have representation at this meeting to give their support. He intends to:

- a) explain the plan and process;
- b) ask for verbal support from the County now and a Resolution in the future;
- c) ask the County for direct support from the County Engineer to help put a master plan together, look at right-of-way issues and assess where bridges and other items will be needed.

He stated that a nonprofit organization (M.S. 501(c) 3) would have to be created for the trail system (which Gaylord already has done for their system) to:

- a) promote fundraising efforts;
- b) accept donations;
- c) be able to apply for grants;
- d) promote and produce material pertaining to the trail;
- e) coordinate trail activities.

He stated that the majority of the grants available are matching funds. He estimates the cost of a trail system from Gaylord to Arlington to be approximately \$2 million - \$2.5 million. Mayor Czech added that there are State and Federal Highway funds available to assist with the cost as well. He commented that Gaylord has a trail going to the Pow Wow Grounds and Green Isle has a trail around their baseball park. Krueger commented that he has a copy of the trail plan that Fairfax did to the State Park. Fairfax is willing to work with us on getting our trail plan together and show us how to apply for grants with the hopes that someday all the trails will connect. Krueger stated that as more trail connections are made, the more grant money becomes available because it supports a larger volume of users.

Motion by Griep, seconded by Reetz, and passed by unanimous vote to support the Joint Trail System with Gaylord and Green Isle.

Ambulance Members Brian Thomes and Bob Lueth presented the specifications for the new ambulance which is to replace the rig that is currently used as the backup rig. Administrator Krueger explained that he had Attorney Arneson look over the legal aspects of the specifications and made a few minor changes, wording etc. Krueger stated that the costs will be split with the townships. The townships and City of Arlington have been budgeting for this for some time. Griep questioned what the cost for a new ambulance was. The price range is anywhere from \$105,000 (low range) up to \$120,000 (high range). Thomes stated that they have to find out what the backup rig is worth on trade in yet. He also stated it is their intent to get another rig just like the main rig or as close to it as they can, except it will have specific upgrades such as lighting and a GPS system.

Motion by Borchert, seconded by Reetz, and passed by unanimous vote to authorize the Ambulance Service to obtain bids for a new ambulance in the price range of \$105,000-\$120,000 as presented above with the recommended changes from Attorney Arneson.

Administrator Krueger explained that one of the older fire trucks needs to have some larger machine parts replaced that will cost approximately \$2,500 (not including labor) and presented the estimates that Fire Chief Otto had gotten for these parts. He stated that there is currently funds within their budget, but may not cover the complete costs, therefore a transfer may be needed at the end of the year.

Motion by Borchert, seconded by Griep, and passed by unanimous vote to authorize the Fire Department to make the necessary repairs to the older truck in the amount of \$2,500 + labor.

The Council reviewed the thank you letter from the SEA Lions for the use of the Senior Building for their annual garage sale.

Administrator Krueger reminded the Council of the following upcoming meetings:

- a) LMC Regional Meeting October 25<sup>th</sup> in St. Peter;
- b) Joint EDA/Council Meeting September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. for the Housing Study presentation
- c) EDA Strategic Planning Session September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Griep commented that the Cable Commission will be funding the local libraries with \$2,000 Technology Grant (internet or communication issues). He had contacted Arlington Librarian Kathy Homme and she will be getting her request back to him soon.

Administrator Krueger spoke on the issues with the older computer system at the water tower. He explained that a lightning strike presumably took out portions of the computer system this last weekend, which allows the water tower and pumps for the wells to communicate to each other. The water tower was unable to communicate with the pumps to call for more water, which caused the water tower to empty and the town had no water for a period of time. The system is inoperable at this time. Administrator Krueger stated that Instrument Control Services and Councilmember Curt Reetz had been called in to help with the problem. He and Mayor Czech thanked Councilmember Reetz for all his assistance. Reetz explained that Instrument Control Services is the company who initially installed the system and presented a bid to upgrade the system. He said ICS is a reputable company, but because of the amount involved to upgrade the system he feels it would be wise for the city to seek out other estimates. He had been contacted by Mark Battcher from Automatic Systems, also a reputable company in the business, who expressed an interest in submitting a bid to upgrade the system. He feels the Council should pre-approve this in order to keep things moving as it needs to be handled immediately.

Motion by Reetz, seconded by Borchert, and passed by unanimous vote to consider the bid from Instrument Control Systems and also request Administrator Krueger and WW Supt. McCormick to get an estimate from Automatic Systems as soon as possible; then have the Utility Committee and City Administrator determine which bid is the best and verbally consult the Council if necessary.

Administrator Krueger commented that a statement will be put in the paper explaining what happened with the water this past weekend. Reetz suggested that the League of MN Cities should be contacted as this will be a claim issue (a good portion should be absorbed by our insurance claim for liability).

Borchert commented that the bottom half of the water tower is so moldy again. He questioned if it was normal for that to happen so quickly after it had been cleaned. Reetz stated that it is normal and will happen more frequently as the paint starts to wear. Administrator Krueger suggested bringing this to the Utility Committee to discuss repainting or other options to control the mold on the water tower.

Motion by Reetz, seconded by Griep, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the regular meeting.

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Administrator David L. Krueger

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Mayor David Czech