

Mayor Beyer called the November 23, 2010 regular council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of city hall, 6031 Main Street, Rockford, MN.

Roll call

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Beyer, Graner, Hafften and Martinson. Nichols was absent. Also in attendance were: Administrator Carswell and Public Works Supervisor D. Peterson.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Public Hearing/2010 Street & Sidewalk Assessment

Administrator Carswell stated that the notice of the public hearing was mailed to the CP Rail and published in the official newspaper at least 2 weeks in advance of the hearing. One letter of objection from Gary Rebieshcke was submitted.

Mayor Beyer opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

Mayor Beyer asked if there were any comments from the public and there were none. Mayor Beyer closed the hearing at 7:02 p.m.

Resolution 10-63 Adopt Assessment Roll for 2010 Street/Sidewalk Project

MOTION was made by Graner seconded by Martinson to adopt Resolution 10-63 Adopt Assessment Roll for 2010 Street/Sidewalk Project.

***Set Agenda/Consent Agenda**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to approve the consent agenda.

MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER, HAFFTEN AND MARTINSON.

***Approve Minutes/November 9, 2010**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2010 regular council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER, HAFFTEN AND MARTINSON.

***Approve Payment of Claims**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to approve the payment of claims Check #018414 to #018485 in the amount of \$50,888.64.

MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER, HAFFTEN AND MARTINSON.

***RES 10-65/Authorize Initiative Grant Application/Business**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to approve Resolution #10-65 authorizing the city to apply for a grant application promoting business stability.

MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER, HAFFTEN AND MARTINSON.

***Pay Request #2 2010 Street/Sidewalk Improvement**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to approve pay request #2 for the 2010 Street/Sidewalk Improvement Project.

MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER, HAFFTEN AND MARTINSON.

***Shark Industries/Loan Subordination**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to authorize the mayor sign the subordination agreement for Sharks in regards to their DEED Loan.

MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER, HAFFTEN AND MARTINSON.

Open Forum/

Mayor Beyer called Open Forum no one was present.

Request for Proposal for Building Inspector

At a meeting in April a resident requested the city go out for RFP's for the Building Inspector Service. The city council agreed to discuss this at the end of the year. Staff has put together a draft of a Request for Proposals for Building Inspection Services. After discussion the city council agreed since the city has not received other bids on the service that the staff should advertise for RFP's that will be submitted to council for review in March of 2011.

MOTION was made by Martinson, seconded by Hafften authorizing staff to advertise for RFP's for the city building official position to be submitted to the city council for review in March of 2011.

MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER, HAFFTEN AND MARTINSON.

Wastewater Operators Study/Liesch & Associates

Staff submitted the minutes from the last wastewater committee meeting. Jim Bullert from Liesch & Associates was present to discuss the operations of the wastewater treatment. To start Mr. Bullert gave some history as to the design of the current wastewater plant which was from the 1960's. The last package plant was added in 1997 and the plant is at 50% capacity. The volume on our tanks is very small and only allows one (1) hour detention in the tank to treat the wastewater prior to discharging to the river. Mr. Bullert explained that the new plants allow between 12-24 hours detention

time to treat before it's expelled to the river. Mr. Bullert recommends that in 20-25 years when a new treatment facility is constructed that it includes newer design standards.

Mr. Bullert noted that the plant has been in compliance without a permit since August of 2010. Bullert noted that since they have been using his sampler to test the waste coming into the system, in the past week that there have been no large amounts of non organic solids.

Mr. Bullert noted that the staff is testing the wastewater in different areas of the city. Last week another portable sampler was used and one showed normal and the other had a reading of higher than normal solids. Bullert noted that the amount of sludge pumped is normal.

Mr. Bullert stated that in 2004 they completed a study and made recommendations about the operations of the wastewater treatment facility which are being followed today. Mr. Bullert noted that the staff is doing a good job operating the city's wastewater plant.

Mayor Beyer expressed concerns about violations and fines that are associated with them. Mr. Bullert stated that since the city is working to address any violations of our permit that the PCA will take that into account and may be less likely to fine the city.

Council member Martinson said he met with a resident Tim Levanger who has some experience in wastewater treatment. Mr. Levanger said he was willing to assist the city in any way he could and feels that testing could narrow down the problem.

Mr. Bullert stated that he would not make any changes now but would be willing to come back when a problem arises at the treatment plant to try and find what the cause is. The problem could stem from non organic solids or a form of filamentous bacteria but at this time the plant is compliant. If it's all organic we know it is filamentous bacteria. Mr. Bullert said there is nothing more he can do at this time and recommends that the staff continue to sample.

Dennis Peterson stated that a permanent solution for the polymer pumps is needed so that the polymer does not freeze. Dennis also noted that the city is using garden hoses to add chlorine to the wastewater. Mayor Beyer recommended that Dennis Peterson put together plans for making these operations permanent and provide that to council in January of 2011. For now Peterson said he will make these operations work without having to pay for excavating and putting pipe in the ground during the winter season. However, he stated that the polymer cannot freeze. They will build a fish house type building for these operations and somehow winterized the chlorine hoses.

The city council then discussed the position of wastewater operator. Doug Duda has a class C operator's license and Dennis Peterson has a Class B operator's license and the employees have been operating the plant in compliance since August. There was a lengthy discussion about contracting for wastewater operations, but only one council

member was in favor of this option. The rest of the city council wanted to promote Doug Duda into the position as he has been operating the plant since the resignation of our Scott Niesen.

MOTION was made by Beyer, seconded by Graner to promote Doug Duda to the position of wastewater and water operator.

MOTION CARRIED VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER AND MARTINSON
OPPOSED: HAFFTEN

Resolution #10-64 Adopt Ordinance #10-05 Fire Charges

Since the last council meeting the city attorney has made a few changes to the fire charge ordinance which has been submitted for council approval. The money collected from fires and accidents will be billed by the city and should reduce the costs of the operations of the Fire Department for the entire service district. No medical calls will be billed as part of this ordinance.

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to adopt Resolution #10-64 approving Ordinance #10-05 Fire Charges.

MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER, HAFFTEN AND MARTINSON.

Administrator's Report

There was no administrator's report

Mayor's Report

Mayor Beyer announced the Crow River Christmas events are scheduled for December 4th and December 11th. There is a website linked to the city's website that lists the activities which include: pancake breakfast, cookie walk, craft sale, tree lighting, chili contest, dinner by Bridge Street Café in the park, caroling, Santa at the fire station, Stork House Christmas Tea, etc.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn was made by Martinson, seconded by Hafften.

Mayor Beyer adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Michael Beyer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Nancy Carswell, Administrator

