

MAPLE LAKE CITY COUNCIL

February 7, 2006 - Minutes

The Maple Lake City Council was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Mayor Messina in the Council Chambers of the City of Maple Lake.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dircks, Messina, Mooney, and Northenscold.

ABSENT: Kelly.

OTHERS PRESENT: City Attorney Rhonda Pagel, City Engineer Jeremy Mathiasen, Economic Developer John Meyer and City Clerk/Treasurer Linda Hruby.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made/seconded/passed, (m/s/p), Dircks/Mooney, to approve the agenda.

Consent Agenda

A motion was m/s/p, Northenscold/Dircks, to approve the Consent Agenda including Approval of the January 17, 2006 Minutes; Approval of Disbursement List #06-03 and #LS02-07-06; Approval for Staff to Attend the 2006 MCFOA Clerk's Conference in St. Cloud; and Approval of November, 2005 Financial Reports.

New Business

City Hall Financing Options

The regular meeting closed and the public hearing opened at 7:05 p.m. for the 2006-2010 Capital Improvement Plan Amendment for the option of financing a new city hall. John Meyer stated that one of the options for financing a new city hall would be amending the Capital Improvement Plan. Meyer gave a background of the growth of Maple Lake in the last 30 years, stating that 326 new homes have been built, the population has doubled to 2,200, a water plant was built, with an additional cell, to meet the needs of the city for the next 20 years, and a wastewater plant is being planned to accommodate future growth, the cost of which will be paid for with SAC fees. Meyer stated that a city hall is being conceived to meet the needs of the city for the next 20-30 years. A committee was established and looked at the present site of city hall. After reviewing options, it was decided the former Red Owl site was a better option. The cost would be \$1.5 million. The estimated impact on taxes would be an additional \$75 for a home valued at \$200,000.

The meeting was opened for public input, which included the following:

- Do we need this nice of a building
- Use the land the city owns on Spruce Avenue North
- Handicap accessibility
- The effect of this building on the rest of downtown
- Questioned whether proper engineering study has been done for water runoff
- How many residents needed for a petition to vote on building a city hall
- Notices for public hearings should be sent through the mail
- Rental of the second floor
- Operation costs of a new building
- Size of the present city hall and the need for space planned for new city hall – number of employees
- State of the economy and can't afford higher taxes
- Wait for additional residents and the cost will be spread among more people

- Comparison of all costs to obtain best deal
- Deputy registrar office in new city hall
- Bids would be obtained before bonds are sold
- Purchase an area to house all city functions
- Plan an alternative proposal by reducing the foot print by 30%
- Cost estimate of building is too low based on building permit charges – State Code
- Importance of first impressions – image
- Site is not good to build on.

The City Council and Building Committee responded to the above comments as follows: Spruce Avenue North is planned for future commercial for businesses that require highway exposure; the parking lot will be on the north of the building with the majority of the parking there and there is an elevator in the building – a ramp is being planned on Division Street; 14 downtown business owners have expressed interest in re-doing the front of their buildings; the city has applied for a grant for downtown and has also applied for a re-development grant for the elevator site, which will include infrastructure repair on Birch Avenue; a study has been done for water runoff; 5% of the voters from the last general election are required to sign a petition to bring this matter to a vote; renting the 2nd floor was discussed as an option; SAC fees will be used to pay for the new WWTP, not taxes; cheaper to build now than waiting for more residents – example of Birch Avenue, 1988 it would have cost \$125,000 – a 2004 estimate is \$1.2 million; and bids will tell if cost estimate of building is low.

The public hearing closed and the regular meeting opened at 8:51 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

A motion was m/s/p, Messina/Dircks, to approve the Irish Scamper 2006 route, for city staff to contact the Sheriff's Department for their assistance, for organizers to have appropriate permits, for staff to assist with safety precautions, and for staff to sweep as much of running route as possible, weather permitting.

The City Council meeting recessed at 8:52 p.m. and reconvened at 8:57 p.m.

A motion was m/s/p, Mooney/Dircks, to approve the St Patrick's Day Celebration parade route change on March 11, 2006.

2006 Sewer Project – Receipt of Bids and Awarding Contract

Jeremy Mathiasen stated that 5 bids were received, and recommended that the Council approve the low bid from Veit and Company at a bid amount of \$123,986.50. A motion was m/s/p, Messina/Dircks, to adopt **Resolution #R2006-05**, showing receipt of bids and awarding the contract to Veit and Company, Inc., the low bidder, at a bid amount of \$123,986.50 for the 2006 Sewer Project. All present voted aye.

Orderly Annexation Agreement – Maple Lake Township

This issue was tabled until the next meeting. Any questions on the agreement should be addressed to City Attorney Pagel.

Personnel Committee Report

A motion was m/s/p, Messina/Dircks, to award the health insurance contract to Health Partners.
A motion was m/s/p, Messina/Mooney, to amend the Employee Policy Handbook as presented.
A motion was m/s/p, Messina/Mooney, to set the salary for the maintenance position at \$15.10.

Old Business/Directive**Franchises**

Nothing new to report.

City Hall

The next Building Committee meeting will be held on February 9, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at city hall.

Meeting for Beach

Hruby reported that the meeting scheduled for March 15, 2006 will need to be re-scheduled due to a conflict in Martha Reger's schedule.

Administrative Issues

Hruby reported that the March 7, 2006 Council meeting will need to be moved due to Caucus night. A motion was m/s/p, Messina/Northenscold, to hold the meeting on Monday, March 6, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. That motion was rescinded by both parties. A motion was m/s/p, Messina/Northenscold, to hold the meeting on Thursday March 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion was m/s/p, Dircks/Mooney, to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Attest,

City Clerk/Treasurer