

MAPLE LAKE CITY COUNCIL

December 4, 2007 – Minutes

The Maple Lake City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Messina.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dircks, Geyen, Kelly, Messina, and Northenscold.

ABSENT: None.

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

A motion was m/s/p, Kelly/Dircks, to approve the Consent Agenda including Approval of the November 20, 2007 Minutes; Approval of Disbursement List #07-22 and #LS12-04-07; Approval to Grant Gambling Premises for the Post Prom Committee at the Maple Lake High School; Approval of Payment No. 2 to Mid-Minnesota Hot Mix, Inc. for the Ney Park Trail in the amount of \$93,558.07, per Engineer's Recommendation; and Approval of Payment No. 1 to LaTour Construction for the Bolduan Park Storm Sewer Improvements in the amount of \$36,952.62, per Engineer's Recommendation.

New Business

Truth in Taxation Public Hearing – 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting closed and the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing opened at 7:02 p.m. Hruby stated that on September 4, 2007 the Council adopted the proposed budget of \$1,325,412 and the proposed levy of \$657,582, which resulted in a tax rate of 40.186%. The proposed budget and levy will be reduced by \$90,000. The 2008 final budget will be \$1,235,412 and the 2008 final levy will be \$567,582, which will result in a tax rate of 34.686%. This is comparable to last year's tax rate of 34.395%. Brian Wall was present, PID #110-017-003080, and questioned why his taxes went up by 20%. Hruby stated his taxes would be lower based on the \$90,000 reduction in the levy. Messina stated that the Council is required to approve a proposed budget and levy by September 15 and that the proposed budget and levy cannot be increased, but can be lowered before the final approval in December.

A subsequent hearing to adopt the 2008 Final Budget and the 2008 Final Levy will be held at city hall on Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. The public hearing closed and the regular meeting reconvened at 7:06 p.m.

Airport Wetland Issues

Meyer reported that he has been working with Mathiasen and John Smyth, Bonestroo, to resolve the wetland issues at the airport. Meyer stated that it was his understanding that the City could use road replacement bank credits for this project and recently was informed that due to a change in policy in July, 2007, the City is no longer eligible for these credits. Meyer will continue to work with

Mathiasen, Smyth, and Pagel to resolve this issue.

USDA Sewer Related Improvements

Meyer reported that he has prepared an application for financial assistance with the USDA, Rural Development to provide funding for the decommissioning of the current wastewater treatment plant, construction of a force main to the new lift station, and improvements to Birch Avenue. The City could be eligible for a 45% grant and is required to publish a Notice of Intent to File Application. A motion was m/s/p, Messina/Dircks, to authorize the publication of a Notice of Intent to File Application for the USDA, Rural Development Grant.

Meyer stated that the USDA, Rural Development Grant requires the City to obtain Request for Proposals from engineering firms. A motion was m/s/p, Kelly/Dircks, to authorize Request for Proposals from engineering firms for the projects included in the USDA, Rural Development Grant.

Maintenance Issues

Public Works Director Sawatzke was present and reported that Lawrence Manuel, Softball Association, has obtained a price of \$5,800, plus tax, for a Cushman field maintenance machine. A motion was m/s/p, Messina/Dircks, to authorize the purchase of a Cushman field maintenance machine for Bolduan Park at a cost of \$5,800, plus tax.

Sawatzke also stated that he has tried out a used Sewer Vac. The vac can be used to clean out lift stations, gate valves at the water department, and storm sewer lines. The City is currently borrowing a jetter owned by the City of Annandale. Sawatzke stated that with this piece of equipment, the two cities could borrow each other's equipment and when the new wastewater treatment plant is built, both pieces of equipment will be stored there. Sawatzke will have a firm price at the next meeting.

A discussion was held regarding establishing an agreement between the City of Maple Lake and the City of Annandale regarding the use of equipment, either jointed owned or borrowed. Pagel will obtain additional information from the League of MN Cities and a cost estimate to prepare this agreement. The City of Annandale has agreed to split the cost of preparing this agreement.

Sawatzke stated he received the new payloader today and it is working fine.

Maple Lake American Legion Post 131 – Premises Permit Gambling Permit

A motion was m/s/p, Messina/Kelly, to adopt Resolution #R2007-51, approving the application of the Maple Lake American Legion Post 131 Premises Permit Renewal for Charitable Gambling. All present voted aye.

Old Business/Directive

Wright County Amateur Radio Society

Brian Wall, Wright County Amateur Radio Society, was present. Pagel stated the Council wished to inform him that the City has amended the Park Ordinance to allow permits from applicants to request additional hours for park use and that the Council still is favorable for the Radio Society's request to use the park on June 28 and 29. The Amended Park Ordinance becomes effective as soon as the Park Ordinance Summary is published. At that time the City will send him an application. He will then need to complete the application and return to the Council for approval.

Park Ordinance Summary

Pagel reported that the Council received the Park Ordinance Summary in their packet and that the Summary must be adopted by a 4/5 vote. A motion was m/s/p, Northenscold/Messina, to adopt Resolution #R2007-52, to approve the Park Summary Ordinance. All present voted aye.

Dick Anderson

Hruby reported that the Council granted Anderson an extension of time until August 31, 2007 to install egress windows at his property. To date, Anderson has not applied for a building permit. Staff was instructed to send Mr. Anderson a certified letter requesting that he come to the next meeting.

McAlpine Property

Messina stated that the Council previously received a letter from John and Rita McAlpine regarding their property along the railroad tracks, west of City Hall. The McAlpine's requested a written response from the City regarding this site. The Council had received a memo from Dean Johnson outlining the concerns discussed by the consultants. A motion was m/s/p, Messina/Kelly, concurring with Dean Johnson's memo and instructing staff to prepare a letter, including Dean Johnson's memo, stating why Strata Corporation is not an appropriate fit for this property.

Danielson's Overlook Estate Concerns

Nothing at this time

Planning Commission Appointment

Messina reported that the City received 3 applications for the Planning Commission vacancy. A discussion was held regarding interviewing the 3 candidates. A motion was m/s/p, Messina/Dircks, to have the Planning Commission conduct the interviews at their January, 2008 meeting and to make a recommendation to the City Council.

Xcel Franchise

Pagel updated the Council regarding the Xcel Franchise stating that this issue began 2 years ago involving both the Xcel Franchise and the Wright-Hennepin Franchise. Her office has a conflict with Wright-Hennepin and Attorney Jim Strommen, Kennedy and Graven, had been appointed to handle that franchise. Pagel advised that as the matter has never been concluded, Jim Strommen does not need to be reappointed, however, Pagel did inform the Council that his hourly rate has increased due to the time that has elapsed. Pagel anticipated both franchises would be ready in February, 2008.

Adjournment

A motion was m/s/p, Northenscold/Dircks, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Attest,

City Clerk/Treasurer