

**WELCOME CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Welcome City Council was held on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the city hall.

Present: Mayor Eric Anderson; Council Members H. Bocky Borchardt, John Borchardt, Wes Strausser, Louis Weyer and City Clerk/Treasurer Deborah Hansen

Also Present: Matt Maes from Waste Management, City Attorney James Wilson, Max Longley and Neil Hiatt from Public Works and Council Elect John Larson and David Cook.

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

Motion by Bocky Borchardt, sec. by Strausser to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2008 Truth and Taxation meeting with one correction of the addition of the word increase after the word levy and the regular meeting striking the sentence of the council elect showing no opposition to wait to make these appointments. Carried 5-0 as written and corrected.

Motion by Strausser, sec. by Weyer to approve Resolution 2008-27 Adopting a Final 2008 Property Tax Levy. Carried 5-0.

Matt Maes from Waste Management was present to propose a new garbage contract with the City. An across the board 3% increase in the rates with a .25 cents increase in the recycling was proposed. The increase in the recycling is due to the transportation of the materials having to travel farther. Motion by Bocky Borchardt, sec. by Strausser to accept the new contract and carried 5-0. Motion by Bocky Borchardt, sec. by Weyer to give Deb Hansen on behalf of the city authorization to sign the contract. Carried 5-0.

James Wilson was present to answer questions from council on utility billing and multiple users on one single meter. The first issue discussed was changing the term maintenance fee to capital assessment fee or another term that points to the correct purpose of the fee and what it is used for. The second area of discussion was the definition of rental units or multiple units on one meter to justify a larger fee for those types of users. Mr. Wilson will draft a resolution to address a classification of rental users defined as two or more users on one meter.

The council discussed Brian Sandberg's mailbox that was hit by the grader. No estimates on the replacement was available. The consensus of the council is the city is liable for the incident but did not make a decision on how to handle the situation because no cost estimates were provided.

Motion by Anderson, sec. by Weyer to join the Cooperative Purchasing Venture program at no cost to the city. It will allow members to purchase products established at state bid price. Carried 5-0.

Neil Hiatt from the Public Works Department gave the council a brief update on the WTP and WWTP. There was a heater problem at the WTP that was fixed by Day's Plumbing. At the WWTP the bearings need to be replaced in the one blower and when that repair is getting done they will consider putting VFD's on them to save electrical costs. The consensus of the council that the replacement of the bearings to the blower is necessary to the facility because both blowers need to be operational. Public Works will replace new filters for the intake.

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Neil explained to council that there is about 109 meters left to be installed and the challenge is catching people at home. They will be repainting some street signs that have faded in the elements.

Presently a clothing allowance of \$100 per year is available to the public works department. Neil explained that at a small allowance that it doesn't buy much considering the required clothing needed to do the job. Motion by Bocky Borchardt, sec. by Anderson to approve a new allowance of \$400 per year. Carried 5-0.

The purchase of a S250 Bobcat Skid Loader was discussed. Neil explained all the uses and time saving features of having that type of equipment available to public works. A state bid price was presented from Bobcat for \$33,910. Presently there is enough money in the street budget to make a purchase. Motion by Strausser, sec. by Weyer to purchase the base unit for \$30,366. Carried 5-0.

The council discussed wage increases for city employees. The CPI and Social Security increases were discussed. Mayor Anderson stated that none of the employees received increases last year because all hires were new. Motion by Weyer, sec. by Strausser to approve a 6% wage increase for the city employees for year 2009. Carried 4-1 with Bocky Borchardt opposing.

The clerk prepared the council with an update on the investments the city has with various CD's.

The newly elected officials would like to attend a leadership conference in Mankato. Motion by Strausser, sec. by Anderson to allow Dave Cook and John Larson to attend. Carried 5-0.

The clerk was instructed to bring to discussion quotes for insurance and auditors in August or September 2009.

Motion by Anderson, sec. by Weyer to accept the Welcome Legion November Charitable Gambling Report. Carried 5-0.

The clerk was instructed to contact Doug Hartke from the Fox Lake Conservation League to discuss compliance with the charitable gambling ordinance.

The date was set for the Fire Department/Township Meeting for February 26th, 2009. An open house at the station will be planned so the townships can view the new pumper truck.

The following zone report was accepted: Ken Odegaard, 604 West First Street, install egress windows.

Motion by Anderson, sec. by Strausser to accept the following November Police Report: Alarm-4, Animal Complaint-10, Assault-2, Assist MCSO-3, Assist MSP-4, Assist Other-2, ATL-2, Child Abuse (suspected)-1, Civil Issue-2, Crash 10/50-6, Criminal Damage/Property-2, Disturbance-1, Domestic-2, Driving Complaint-3, Fire/Sherburn-1, Fraud-1, Funeral Escort-1, Harassment-2, Informational-1, JV Nuisance-2, Medical/Sherburn-4, Medical/Welcome-2, Miscellaneous-1, MV Damage-1, Open Door/Window-4, Ordinance Violation-1, Paper Service-1, Parking Complaint-2, Suicide (& Attempts)-1, Suspicious Circumstances-2, Theft-4, Threats-1, Traffic Stops-6, Traffic Hazard-1, Trespassing-1, Warrant Service-1, Total Arrests: 1, Total Citations: 8. Carried 5-0.

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The clerk asked if Phil Burgess could be hired on as a part time employee for the city only during snow emergencies to help public works truck snow. Motion by Strausser, sec. by Weyer to hire Phil Burgess for emergency situations only. Carried 5-0.

Motion by Strausser, sec. by Anderson to adjourn at 9:10p.m. Carried 5-0.

Deb Hansen
City Clerk/Treasurer