

**MENAHGA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 13, 2007/7:00 P.M.**

The regular meeting of the Menahga City Council was held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, November 13, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Donna Anderson.

Members present: Kim Rasmussen, Loren Tolkkinen, Dennis Komulainen and Julia Kicker. Department heads present: Clair Erickson, and Teri Osterman.

**RASMUSSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING. TOLKKINEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

Jeff and Monica Schindeldecker and attorney John Minge presented their Preliminary Plat to the council for approval. The Plat was reviewed by the Planning Committee and forwarded to council with a recommendation for approval and a Re-Zoning change from R-1 to Commercial on the Schindeldecker's Plat.

Tolkkinen informed the council that he and the neighbors in the area were complaining about the commercial buildings that the city has allowed Schindeldecker to build on his property. Tolkkinen stated he had no problem with the plat, only with the zoning. Tolkkinen was informed by Schindeldecker that no one attended the Public Hearing on his Plat and no-one had complained.

John Minge asked the council to explain why the Planning Commission has consistently come to the same conclusion on this parcel of land and the council is not seeing this as meeting the conditions of the Zoning Ordinance. Minge said that he felt Schindeldecker's were becoming victims of a new approach to zoning in Menahga.

**KICKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PLAT AS PRESENTED FOR DAISY LANE. TOLKKINEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

**RASMUSSEN MOVED TO PERMIT THE EXTENSION OF THE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT ON THE PARCEL OWNED BY SCHINDELDECKER TO THE LINE ON DAISY LANE PLAT WHICH WOULD MAKE LOT 3 ALL RESIDENTIAL AND LOTS 1, 2, & 4 ALL COMMERCIAL. KICKER SECONDED. AYES: KOMULAINEN, KICKER, AND RASMUSSEN. NAYES: ANDERSON AND TOLKKINEN. RASMUSSEN ASKED FOR A VERBAL ROLL CALL TO MAKE SURE THE VOTE WAS RECORDED CORRECTLY. MOTION CARRIED.**

Tolkkinen stated he is not for piecemeal parcels and he wanted to tackle the issue now. Komulainen said whoa, whoa, wait a minute, what did we just vote on? Schindeldecker

responded, "Wait a minute you can't change you vote now." Komulainen stated Loren wanted a buffer zone and maybe Schindeldecker could do that. Schindeldecker said since Komulainen voted for the zoning he would do that for his vote. Komulainen and Schindeldecker then shook hands.

Marty Penner, Police Officer, reported calls for the month of October in Chief Ryhti's absence: 2 felony DUI, Misdemeanors: 1 theft, 1 domestic, 1 DUI, 7 NSF Checks, 3 Animal Complaints, 1 OFP Violation, and 11 traffic citations. Komulainen questioned Penner on why Chief Ryhti's car is dusty and dirty.

Clair Erickson, Nursing Home Administrator, reported that they are in the process of making the old therapy room into a private dining area. Erickson also informed the council the alarm system will be obsolete as of December 1, 2007, and he will be looking into a new security system. Erickson would like to have one pager that handles all alarms. He noted technology is available but will be costly. Erickson said he would like to get engineering specs for quotes, but in view of today's meeting on the Nursing Home Market Analysis perhaps this should be lumped into the architect's plans for an Assisted Living Plus.

**TOLKKINEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE NURSING HOME MINUTES AND THE FINANCIAL WITH THE FLOORING RECOMMENDATION. KOMULAINEN SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

**TOLKKINEN MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #1113-07 PLACING DELINQUENT UTILITIES ON THE TAXES AND CERTIFYING THE LIST TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR. RASMUSSEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

Anderson informed the council she would like to find someone in the community that would like to be on the Economic Development Committee for Region 5. No action was taken.

Hugo Pulju reported that he has been meeting with a number of people in the area regarding Wadena Soil and Water grants for storm water run-off. He also informed the council Spirit Lake Association will be putting \$10,000 from a grant into education to keep a drop of water were it falls. Pulju said he would be sending meeting notices to Wayne Rost and Ron Neisess and the Council for a meeting to be held the end of January, possibly January 24, 2008.

Julia Kicker submitted her resignation to the council as she is moving out of the city limits and will no longer be able to serve. Kicker noted that "Family Comes First." Kicker said she had enjoyed her time serving the citizens of Menahga. Kicker also told the council she would like to recommend that they fill her position with someone who can keep the council moving forward and someone with some experience. Kicker recommended the council put Norman Hillukka on until the next election in November 2008. Anderson stated she would not be in favor of putting Norman Hillukka on the

council and that the people of Menahga did not even vote for him in the last election when he ran for County Commissioner. Rasmussen stated this council should put someone on that has experience given the newness of this council and that she would be in favor of Hillukka. Rasmussen said the council needs to figure out how they want to replace Kicker. No action was taken.

**KOMULAINEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JULIA KICKER. RASMUSSEN REGRETFULLY SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

**KOMULAINEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE BILLS FOR PAYMENT AS PRESENTED. TOLKKINEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

There being no further business to come before the council the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 P.M.

**MENAHGA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 28, 2007/8:15 A.M.**

The special meeting of the Menahga City Council was held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, November 28, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Mayor Donna Anderson.

Members present: Kim Rasmussen, Loren Tolkkinen, and Dennis Komulainen.  
Department heads present: Teri Osterman.

**PURPOSE:** To discuss the strategy to fill the council seat vacated by former Councilmember Julia Kicker.

Anderson informed the council that she has asked Joel Mickelson to submit a resumé which he had given to her. Osterman told the council that she has received by phone and in person four names of former council members who would like to fill the position: Dolly Dissmore, Tim Bloomquist, Norman Hillukka, and Tom Larson.

Anderson told the council she has contacted the League of MN Cities, and the Mayors of Sebeka and Wadena to know the procedure. Anderson also noted that if we are going to interview the candidates we should interview all of them and that the final tally should be a up or down vote, but that if a tie the Mayor appoints.

Rasmussen said her feelings are that this is a temporary position to fill Julia Kicker's position until the next election. Rasmussen stressed that it would be hard to put someone new in since ½ of the council is new this year. "I would like to keep this council up to speed and functioning for the next year", said Rasmussen.

Dennis Komulainen stated all should have to send a resumé. Tolkkinen said he felt a letter of interest would be sufficient. Tolkkinen and Rasmussen both stressed that valuable experience will keep the council up to speed and moving forward. Rasmussen noted that this meeting is a waste of taxpayers' money and not to chastise anyone but it shows the lack of knowledge and leadership of the council this year. Rasmussen also felt the public should make the decision on a new member at the next election. Anderson stated we are all elected to make these decisions.

**TOLKKINEN MOVED TO REQUEST A BRIEF BIO OR LETTER OF INTEREST FROM ALL CITIZENS INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE COUNCIL IN THIS POSITION AND LEAVE IT OPEN UNTIL DECEMBER 5, 2007. KOMULAINEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED. \*\*\*MOTION RESCINDED\*\*\***

After further discussion and a review of the dates of the newspaper it was noted that not enough time was being given to put a notice in the paper and take letters of interest.

**TOLKKINEN MOVED TO RESCIND THE MOTION TO REQUEST A BRIEF BIO OR LETTER OF INTEREST FROM ALL CITIZENS INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE COUNCIL IN THIS POSITION AND LEAVE IT OPEN UNTIL DECEMBER 5, 2007. KOMULAINEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

It was noted that Paul Carlson has been scheduled to meet with the council on legal issues on Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 5:15 prior to the TNT Hearing and December Council meeting.

**TOLKKINEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO ADVERTISE THAT ANY CITIZEN EXPRESSING INTEREST IN FILLING THE POSITION VACATED BY JULIA KICKER SEND A BRIEF BIO OR LETTER OF INTEREST TO THE CITY BY 4:30 P.M. OF DECEMBER 28, 2007. RASMUSSEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

**MENAHGA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 29, 2007/5:30 P.M.**

The special meeting of the Menahga City Council was held in the Council Chambers on Monday, October 29, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Donna Anderson.

Members present: Kim Rasmussen, Loren Tolkkinen, and Dennis Komulainen and Julia Kicker.

**PURPOSE:** Employee Performance Review

Meeting was closed at 5:37 p.m. for Clair Erickson Performance Review.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.