

**MENAHGA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 12, 2007 / 7:00 P.M.**

The regular meeting of the Menahga City Council was called to order on Monday, March 12, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Donna Anderson.

Members present: Mayor Anderson, Council members Kim Rasmussen, Julia Kicker, Loren Tolkkinen, and Dennis Komulainen.

Mayor Anderson requested that, prior to approval of the February 12 minutes, she would like to amend the minutes regarding the hiring of Pathway Health Services to state, "Motion passed but not unanimous," as she felt she did not make a correct vote. Anderson stated she wanted to go on record as voting "no." Discussion followed regarding whether or not abstaining from a vote is an "aye" vote, or whether or not the Mayor had indeed voted "aye" vocally. It was determined that the vote had been already recorded and Anderson would not be able to change her vote.

Anderson also recommended a verbal roll call vote be taken whenever the vote involved spending money.

ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 12 MINUTES AS RECORDED. RASMUSSEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Prior to approving the February 2 liquor store committee meeting minutes, several questions were raised regarding the purchase a new commercial freezer. Liquor Store Manager Tom Gerszewski stated he recommended purchasing a stainless steel commercial freezer from Superior Products at a cost of \$2,269.00. Discussion will follow during the Liquor Store Manager's report later in the meeting.

Kari Tomperi presented the Council with an update on the Stormwater Project. Tomperi is in the process of applying for grant funds for the project, and presented the Council with a preliminary breakdown of costs.

Dorothy Ollanketo of the Menahga Civic & Commerce and artist Tracy Cole sought permission from the Council to hold the Midsummer Arts & Crafts Show outdoors on the shores of Spirit Lake between the beach and fishing pier area. The show will be held Saturday, July 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

KOMULAINEN MOVED TO APPROVE ALLOWING THE MIDSUMMER ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW TO BE HELD ON THE SHORE OF SPIRIT LAKE JULY 7. TOLKKINEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Rose Alajoki, local businesswoman, asked the Council to consider hearing a presentation from Dan Frank of Region V on a Healthy Community Grant prior to the April 9 council meeting.

KICKER MOVED TO HEAR A PRESENTATION BY FRANK AT 6:30 P.M. PRIOR TO THE APRIL 9 COUNCIL MEETING. RASMUSSEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Elmer Bohjanen, representing the Menahga Area Historical Museum, was present to request the City pay the museum's water and sewer bill during the months the museum is closed due to limited museum funds. The Museum would pay the bills during the months they are open. Tolkkinen suggested the matter be brought to the Water and Sewer Committee for review.

RASMUSSEN MOVED TO SEND THE MATTER TO COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW. TOLKKINEN SECONDED. AYES: ANDERSON, RASMUSSEN, TOLKKINEN, KICKER. NAYES: KOMULAINEN. MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Miles of the Raboin Law Firm in Baxter served a summons to the Council on potential litigation against the Menahga Liquor Store.

Gary Ryhti, Police Chief, reported the calls for the month of February: 1 Felony Domestic Assault, 1 Domestic Complaint, 3 Disorderly Conduct, 5 NSF Checks, 1 Animal Complaint, 1 Court Order Violation, 2 Trespassing, 1 Vandalism, 7 Traffic Citations, 25 Traffic Warnings, 1 Warrant Arrest, 4 Medical and 1 Fire Assist. Ryhti also informed the Council he had met with Bill Cross of the Sheriff's Department regarding purchasing a police software program.

Tom Gerszewski, Liquor Store Manager, recommended the Council approve the purchase of a new stainless steel upright freezer from Superior Products as discussed earlier.

KOMULAINEN MOVED TO PURCHASE A FREEZER FROM SUPERIOR PRODUCTS AT THE COST OF \$2,269.00 AND TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE MINUTES. RASMUSSEN SECONDED. AYES: ANDERSON, KICKER, KOMULAINEN, TOLKKINEN, RASMUSSEN. NAYES: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Gerszewski also informed the Council that he would be looking into purchasing turf carpeting for the entryway, which is included in this year's liquor store budget. Discussion was also held on the possibility of a statewide smoking ban passing the Legislature this year and the effect it may have on business.

Ron Neisess, Street Department, informed the Council that he has looked into estimates for crack and seal coating, and suggested that the Street Committee meet to go over the estimates.

Discussion was held on semi and truck trailer parking at the onset of spring breakup, and the need for a truck parking ordinance. The Street Committee will be reviewing the parking issues and bring back to Council.

Clair Erickson, Nursing Home Administrator, informed Council that the date to meet with Patricia McCullough is being changed to March 26, 2007, at 7 p.m.

RASMUSSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE NURSING HOME MINUTES AND FINANCIALS WITH THE NOTED DATE CHANGE. ANDERSON SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Erickson reported that the month of February should be in the black, and that Pathway Health Services had completed their evaluations at the nursing home.

In New Business, Mayor Anderson requested that the Council start their meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance. There being no objections, the Pledge will be recited beginning with the April 9, 2007, meeting.

TOLKKINEN MOVED TO PAY THE BILLS FOR THE CITY AND LIQUOR STORE AS PRESENTED. KICKER SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 P.M.

City Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator

Mayor