

MENAHGA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2007/7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Menahga City Council was held in the Council Chambers on Monday, September 10, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Donna Anderson.

Members present: Kim Rasmussen, Loren Tolkkinen, and Dennis Komulainen and Julia Kicker. Department heads present: Gary Ryhti, Clair Erickson, Ron Neisess, Tom Gerszewski, and Teri Osterman.

RASMUSSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST MEETINGS, INCLUDING THE JOINT N.H. MEETING. KOMULAINEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Rose Alajoki reported to the council that she has approximately 7-8 people interested in working with her on a Healthy Community Partnership Grant. Alajoki informed the city that they need to have approval from the city to precede with the grant. Council questioned the need to have approval from the city since they have stated Blueberry Township will be administering the grant. Council decided to research the grant process with Dan Frank of the Initiative Foundation before approving any process.

ANDERSON MOVED TO GO FORWARD WITH THE GRANT APPROVAL, BUT TO NOT COMMIT ANY FUNDS TO THE PROJECT.

*****MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECONDED*****

Mike Rogers approached the council with his concerns over the fire department using water supplied to the mud run and wanted to know who paid for the water. Rogers was informed the water for the mud run was taken from Stocking Lake and that when he witnessed the fire department filling and rinsing their tanks at the hydrant it was to clean the tank and fill it with chlorinated city water which helps prevent bacteria from growing in the tanker.

Hugo Pulju, Spirit Lake Association, reported that a discharge from the MN DOT project had reached the abatement pond at Spirit Lake, but that MN DOT was aware of the problem and would be cleaning it up. Administrator Osterman told the council she had been made aware of the problem by a city worker.

Sharon Tate, Blueberry Township, informed the council that her township has cut the check for the fire truck payment. She also informed the council she would not be giving the check to them until they met some further demands she has.

RASMUSSEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO HAVE ATTORNEY PAUL CARLSON DO AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2007 FIRE CONTRACT

CHANGING THE “HOLD HARMLESS” CLAUSE LANGUAGE. KICKER SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Mike Cameron reported that the city engineer did not do a good job on the end of his driveway, and that he expects the city to continue to repair it. He also stated that the project was supposed to tar 18” into everyone’s driveway and that it was not done. Administrator Osterman replied that the project tarred 18” into every already tarred driveway. Ron Neisess stated that he has fixed Cameron’s driveway several time but that he really should not be doing it. Neisess stated that the tarring project did not affect Cameron’s driveway and that he has fixed it prior to the project. It was decided the Street committee would take a look at it.

Gary Ryhti, Chief of Police, reported calls for the month of August: 1 felony DUI, 2 theft, 1 disorderly conduct, 1 property damage, 1 minor consumption, 1 fleeing on foot, 13 NSF checks, 4 animal complaints, and 15 traffic citations.

TOLKKINEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE STREET COMMITTEE TO SET SIGNAGE IN SOUTHGATE AND TO SET SIGN DATES FOR THE CITY. KOMULAINEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Ron Neisess, Street Department, reported that the 11th Street project is nearing completion. Neisess was reminded by council that the beach needs to be prepared for winter; chairs and raft put away, etc.

Tom Gerszewski, Liquor Store Manager, reported a good bottom line at the liquor store and reminded the council of the No Smoking Law that goes into effect October 1, 2007. Gerszewski also stated he needed a committee meeting to look at ceiling tile replacement, and that he has placed an ad in the newspaper for part-time help.

Clair Erickson, Nursing Home Administrator, reported that the nursing home census is down 12. Erickson reviewed the NH bad debts and briefed the council on the refunding of one of the nursing home bonds. Erickson reported that he has asked for some changes in the market analysis. Erickson was reminded that all of council has not received a copy of the report and would like one.

KOUMULAINEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND FINANCIALS FOR THE NURSING HOME WHICH INCLUDED THE WRITE OFF OF BAD DEBTS WITH COLLECTION TO CONTINUE THROUGH A COLLECTION AGENCY USING THE CITY ATTORNEY FOR ADVICE. TOLKKINEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

TOLKKINEN MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #910-07 CALLING FOR THE REFUNDING OF THE NURSING HOME G.O. BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,150,000. KICKER SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

RASMUSSEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE SKETCH PLAN FOR JEFF AND MONICA SCHINDELDECKER DEVELOPMENT AND TO AUTHORIZE THEM TO PROCEED WITH THE PRELIMINARY PLAN AND PUBLIC HEARING. KICKER SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

KOMULAINEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE SIGNING OF A QUIT CLAIM DEED FOR SHIRLEY KOSKINIEMI TO CLEAR UP A PROPERTY DESCRIPTION CONTINGENT ON THE CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW AND RELEASE. TOLKKINEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

RASMUSSEN MOVED TO SET THE DATE OF DECEMBER 11, 2007, AT 6:30 P.M., AS THE DATE FOR TRUTH N' TAXATION MEETING WITH COUNCIL TO FOLLOW AT 7:00 P.M. AND DECEMBER 19, 2007, AT 6:30 AS A CONTINUATION DATE IF NEEDED. REGULAR OCTOBER MEETING ON OCTOBER 15, 2007, AT 7:00 P.M., UNLESS A CONFLICT ARISES. KOMULAINEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

RASMUSSEN MOVED TO SET THE PROPOSED LEVY BY RESOLUTION FOR THE PAYABLE 2008 AT \$305,617.00. TOLKKINEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

TOLKKINEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO STAY A MEMBER OF THE MN RESORT AND CAMPGROUND ASSOCIATION AND ADVERTISE THE MENA HGA MEMORIAL CAMPGROUND. KOMULAINEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

TOLKKINEN MOVED TO SEND THE COUNCIL AGENDA DATE AND PACKET DELIVERY DATE TO THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW. RASMUSSEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBER AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Donna Anderson brought to the attention a letter requesting support for the Wadena Regional Wellness Center for the City of Wadena. No council action was taken.

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

There being no further business to come before the council the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 P.M.