

MENAHGA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, April 14, 2014
Draft Transient Merchant Ordinance

A Special Meeting of the Menahga City Council was held in the Council Chambers on Monday, April 14, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Pat Foss.

Also present: Council Members Kim Rasmussen, Roger Henstorf, Gary Parvi, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Char West.

Mayor Foss reported that the purpose of the Special Meeting was to provide information and an opportunity for public comment regarding the draft Transient Merchant Ordinance. He reviewed the development of the draft Ordinance and pointed out that it would affect only two transients; one at the City beach and the knife sharpening business at the Shell Station.

Shell Station owner Marlene Snyder commented that business persons do things to draw attention to their business; she could put the knife sharpening business inside, but it would not be as effective and they may not come.

Mayor Foss reviewed the exemptions to the Ordinance, such as the selling of ag products and C&C activities.

Council Member Henstorf reviewed the fees; \$10 per day, \$150 per month, \$400 season/4 months. He added that the Ordinance required any transient merchant selling goods in town to register at City Hall with no fees required; this would provide the City with information in the case of problems.

Discussion was held as to how the Ordinance would affect activities provided by private businesses on their property and community events.

Menahga commercial property owner Jensine Kurtti commented that she understood the need for the regulation of public property but not on private property, questioned how the Ordinance would affect a transient with a store front and whether the City was requiring liability insurance coverage at the City Beach.

Administrator West reviewed the separate agreement the City had with the

food trailer owner at the City Beach which included a time frame, a fee for use of utilities, liability insurance coverage and a hold harmless clause.

Council Member Rasmussen commented that she was not sure the City should offer property to allow a transient business to compete against local businesses that pay taxes; maybe they should request to be on private property.

Mayor Foss commented that he wanted all business to feel welcome.

Discussion was held as to how the Ordinance would affect functions held by private property owners on their own private property and the need for a private property owner to carry additional liability insurance due to a transient merchant being located on their property.

Subway owner Ken Hendrickx questioned why the City should collect fees for functions on private property.

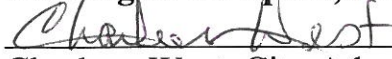
WCEDA Director Mark Hansen commented on his past experiences regarding transient merchants; they may be needed during disasters to provide services that could not be provided at that time; the City would want an Ordinance to handle this but be able to say no for unwarranted competition.

Mayor Foss thanked everyone for their comments; a decision would not be made that evening and the Committee would be meeting again prior to the next council meeting.

C&C President Liz Olson referred to the Transient Merchant application form which required felony conviction information; she questioned whether the City would be conducting background checks.

Mayor Foss responded that the City would be conducting background checks.

Motion by Henstorf, seconded by Rasmussen, to adjourn the Special Meeting at 7:04 p.m., motion carried.



Charleen West, City Administrator



Patrick Foss, Mayor