

MENAHGA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
JULY 11, 2011/ 7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Menahga City Council was held in the Council Chambers on Monday, July 11, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Foss.

Members present: Kim Rasmussen, Maxine Norman, Roger Henstorf and Alden Yliniemi.

MOTION BY RASMUSSEN TO APPROVE THE JUNE 13, 2011 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS. HENSTORF SECONDED. ALL AYES MOTION CARRIED.

Jensine Kurtti voiced her concerns regarding parking and loading between Spirit Lake Lumber and her son's property on Second Street SW. During these hot days of summer the beach parking gets congested. She requested the City retain right of way property that the lumber yard has a fence on which would provide additional off street parking. Mayor Foss stated a common ground or compromise between businesses should be agreed upon. Chief Koennicke stated that this has been brought up several times. He recommended the street committee address the issue and he would enforce the outcome. Kurtti said beach goers could park in her church parking lot. She also complained about the City's water and sewer charges hoping the City would utilize a system she feels would be fairer.

Mike Rodgers addressed the Council regarding comments people are making about with him and his wife. He operates an ATV which he states is licensed as a class A vehicle. Chief Koennicke stated they had no complaints as to classification of his ATV. Rodgers said they always try to follow the rules but get discouraged when people are talking about them in town. The Mayor read an excerpt from the ATV Ordinance Subd. 16, Operation On City Street/Roadways for a specific Purpose, "A person with a valid driver's license issued by the State of Minnesota or another state may operate an all-terrain vehicle upon the city streets/roadways as authorized in the following manner and consistent with the provisions hereof: (A) The City of Menahga shall designate and mark roadways or portions thereof upon which all-terrain vehicles shall be permitted to operate. The purpose of such designation shall be to allow direct access to and through the city from authorized rural all-terrain vehicle routes. Chief Koennicke stated the intent was not for running everyday errands in town but for access to and through the city from rural routes. Mr. Rodgers stated this was very discriminatory towards him and left the meeting.

Mayor Foss wanted to thank all the citizens that have helped with cleanup of the City. To name a couple Mavis Mattila and Lois Peterson have been helping pick litter on their daily walks for more than ten years. To all those people and business owners we want to sincerely offer our thanks.

MOTION BY NORMAN TO SEND A THANK YOU LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE CITY FOR A JOB WELL DONE TO MAVIS MATTILA AND LOIS PETERSON AS WELL AS ANY OTHERS FOR HELPING TO KEEP OUR CITY LOOKING GOOD. HENSTORF SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Chief Koennicke reported on activities during Midsummer. Overall, things went well although there were a few arrests on Friday and Saturday night. There was one vehicle chase and arrest for speeding which may result in forfeiture of the vehicle. He states that he will review the ATV ordinance and address it at the Police committee meeting. He is checking on conditions of properties that received a cleanup letter. The City needs to install a one way sign on the alley

between Aspen and Birch Avenues at Main Street East. He is working on the final details for National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2nd from 5:00 p.m. till 7:00 pm.

Liquor Store Manager Tom Gerszewski reported that the Midsummer Celebration was quite busy and went smoothly. The bar went well with four stations serving drinks. The off sale was about average. He will provide info on purchasing an ATM and costs of operation for the next liquor Committee meeting.

Street Supervisor Ron Neisess reported that considering all the activities this past weekend with Midsummer, and all the people that perform without pay or recognition, by noon today you couldn't tell we had it. The City looks remarkably clean. That's how well they did. Members from the C and C complimented him for the condition of the cemetery and for painting picnic tables. He stated the lifeguards are doing an outstanding job. Replacement of the DNR fishing pier was discussed. Salo reported that it was scheduled for about a week ago but, with Midsummer it was rescheduled for after the state shutdown. There also was discussion of repositioning the old pier on the west side of the lake at the City boat landing off Highway 87.

Mayor Foss commented that our street/park utilities worker will be retiring at the end of October. The City will need to determine our options for his replacement. We also need to accept his formal resignation.

Greenwood Connections Administrator Clair Erickson reported that Sarah Bobst was selected as the new Director of Nursing. She is a twenty five year employee with Greenwood Connections. He also reported on the \$275,000.00 improvement project.

MOTION BY NORMAN TO APPROVE THE JUNE MINUTES AND FINANCIALS FOR GREENWOOD CONNECTIONS. YLINIEMI SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Administrator Salo reported that letters were recently mailed requesting help performing Business Retention and Expansion surveys. An informational meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 28th at the Menahga Community and Senior Center.

MOTION BY NORMAN TO SIGN THE STATEWIDE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (SHIP) MINI-GRANT AGREEMENT ACCEPTING PAYMENT OF \$1,576.00. HENSTORF SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Salo advised that the Planning and Zoning Commission addressed the proposed amendment to Ordinance 151.16 (E) (C) FRONT YARD REGULATIONS. They recommended not to amend the ordinance and to continue to explore the industry to determine if we should pursue looking at other proposals. The council accepted their comments and no action was taken.

MOTION BY HENSTORF TO ACCEPT THE INITIATIVE FOUNDATION GRANT AS \$4,000.00 MATCHING FUND FOR THE CITY BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION PROJECT. YLINIEMI SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Administrator Salo reviewed progress in preparing proposals for upgrades for the city's municipal accounting software and the addition of a new server for networking all personal computers. He requested that vendors rebid utilizing the state contract pricing for the hardware. He will have comparable proposals in place for the next meeting. He also updated the Council on the progress on the 2010 audit. The State granted an extension through August 15, 2011. The City staff has

been working closely with the auditor, providing anything and everything they have requested. He will also prepare a request for proposals (RFP) for next year's audit.

MOTION BY RASMUSSEN TO APPROVE THE FAMILY FUN CIRCUS TO COME TO MENAHGA FOR A ONE DAY EVENT ON AUGUST 1, 2011 AND TO SET-UP ACROSS FROM CITY HALL. HENSTORF SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY NORMAN TO SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR \$600.00. YLINIEMI SECONDED ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY HENSTORF TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY THE CIVIC AND COMMERCE TO SHARE HALF THE COST OF INSTALLING LIGHTS ON THE TWO CITY ENTRANCE SIGNS WITH THE CITY PAYING THE POWER USAGE BILLING. NORMAN SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Salo Reported that for the Fire Relief Association or any vendor to obtain a higher limit of liquor liability insurance the city must mandate the amount. Otherwise, the maximum they can only obtain is \$50,000.00. He will prepare a resolution for vendors to have the same amount the City currently carries.

MOTION BY NORMAN TO APPROVE APPLICATIONS BY THE MENAHGA VFW POST #6206 FOR TEMPORARY LIQUOR LICENSES ON AUGUST 22-23, 2011 AND AUGUST 29, 2011. SECONDED BY RASMUSSEN. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY YLINIEMI TO INFORM THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA INSURANCE TRUST THAT THE CITY OF MENAHGA DOES NOT WAIVE THE MONETARY LIMITS ON MUNICIPAL TORT LIABILITY ESTABLISHED BY MINNESOTA STATUTES 466.04. SECONDED BY HENSTORF. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY HENSTORF TO APPROVE THE BILLS AS PRESENTED. YLINIEMI SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

YLINIEMI MOVED TO ADJOURN. HENSTORF SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:25 P.M.

City Clerk/Treas/Adm.

Mayor