

MENAHGA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2011/ 7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Menahga City Council was held in the Council Chambers on Monday, September 12, 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 AUGUST 8, 2011 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS. NORMAN SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY NORMAN TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 15, 2011 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES. HENSTORF SECONDED. ALL AYES MOTION, CARRIED.

Jensine Kurtti inquired about a street issue and if will be addressed at this meeting. Mayor Foss stated that it should be discussed under the Street Department report.

Chief Koennicke made his monthly report. Traffic complaints were down. Progress is being made in getting nuisance lawns and weeds cut. He discussed the installation of the new video camera for a squad car.

Administrator Salo reported on Liquor Committee recommendations. The Council had approved the purchase of a new ATM machine for the liquor store. As it turns out, our ATM contract with the First National Bank automatically renews every two years and requires ninety day written notice prior to that date to cancel. The committee decided to give the notice now even though the contract will not expire until July 1, 2012.

Salo reported that the DNR will remove the old fishing pier after Labor Day. They said that we can salvage the pier for lumber etc. or they would dispose of it. We will store the old pier at the city garage.

Salo also reported on the status of the DNR walking trail grant application. He had talked Joe Hiller of the DNR and responded to additional info he needed for the grant. Hiller said that they decided to go ahead with selecting submitted grants and we should know their decision within the next few weeks.

Salo reported that the posting for the Street/Park Utility Person position ended today. The Administrative Committee will expeditiously complete the selection process of screening and interviewing to recommend candidates to the Council. Hopefully, the newly selected employee will have some time to spend with Andre.

The Street committee met to review and set the 2012 department budget. We also reviewed and discussed the concerns that Jensine refers to. We each had spoken to individuals at the lumber yard and agreed that we have had no prior problems on that street. Prior Council had designated the street as a loading zone. The lumberyard, we felt, had been working very well in training their drivers to come and go in certain ways and be as cautious as possible. The Beach area is congested and very busy at certain times of the year and there is no getting around that whether there are trucks unloading there or not. We felt that continuing the practice of having trucks on that road was safer than having trucks unloading on Highway 71. The committee's final consensus was to

continue with what we're doing and following the Council's prior decisions. Moving a fence that has been in place many years did not seem to serve any purpose.

MOTION BY RASMUSSEN TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION BY THE STREET COMMITTEE. YLINIEMI SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Foss reported on Water and Sewer Committee activities. They have reviewed and set budgets for 2012. There are no recommendations at the present time on water and sewer billing rates, although we continue to work towards a structure based upon usage. This does not necessarily indicate any drop in rates. We have our engineer working on cost estimates for our Main Street, First Street Northwest and Cottonwood projects.

MOTION BY HENSTORF TO APPROVE THE AUGUST MINUTES AND FINANCIALS FOR GREENWOOD CONNECTIONS. RASMUSSEN SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Foss discussed the Business Retention and Expansion study activities. We are having a meeting later this month to finalize survey questions and firms selected. We continue to look for more people to help conduct surveys. We also have set a timetable for the plan of work.

The Council reviewed the preliminary budgets. The mayor asked all departments to look at increasing wages. We have gone number of years without rewarding our employees; therefore we put in a three percent increase, not that it will necessarily be what they will get. Administrator Salo went over the preliminary budget and the proposed tax levy. The general fund preliminary budget for 2012 is \$309,629.00 with debt funds of \$45,700.00 increasing the total tax levy to \$355,329.00. This reflects an \$18,429.00 increase from last year or a 5.47 percent increase.

MOTION BY YLINIEMI TO APPROVE THE 2012 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND THE 2011 (PAYABLE 2012) PROPOSED TAX LEVY. HENSTORF SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Administrator Salo reviewed the status of the Siren Grant application. He read correspondence from Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management, deputy State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Jennifer Nelson stating "At this point the city is not eligible to apply for hazard mitigation grants. I suggest your city participate in (and adopt) the Wadena County Plan update, revised every 5 years, the Current plan expires May 5, 2013." Evidently the city did not adequately participate in the plan and cannot be considered as approved jurisdictions in the Wadena County plan at this time. Salo will talk with someone at Region 5 and Wadena County to see if there is some way to still participate in the plan.

MOTION BY RASMUSSEN APPROVING A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION WITH THE COMMUNITY CONCERN FOR YOUTH PROGRAM WITH TODD-WADENA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FOR 2012 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,126.00. HENSTORF SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Requests for proposals for 2011 - 2013 audit services were reviewed by the Council.

MOTION BY NORMAN TO ACCEPT THE 2011 -2013 YEAR AUDIT PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY LARSON AND ALLEN LLP. YLINIEMI SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Administrator Salo stated he had been contacted by Donna Anderson regarding our interest in reapplying for the Small Cities Development Program. She also had asked what a fair amount would be for preparing the application. Salo will try to get additional information.

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

HENSTORF MOVED TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:00 P.M.

City Clerk/Treas/Adm.

Mayor