

## MENAHGA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

September 10, 2012/ 7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Menahga City Council was held in the Council Chambers on Monday, September 10, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Foss.

Members Present: Kim Rasmussen, Roger Henstorf, Tracy Tomperi, and Alden Yliniemi  
Members Absent: None

**MOTION BY RASMUSSEN TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 13, 2012 CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES. HENSTORF SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY HENSTORF TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 13, 2012 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES. YLINIEMI SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY YLINIEMI TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 24, 2012 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES. HENSTORF SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY RASMUSSEN TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 31, 2012 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES. YLINIEMI SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

Kurt Clark of 215 Aspen Avenue Northwest addressed the Council regarding traffic concerns as vehicles enter and leave the city from the north on Highway 71 near his home. They are primarily safety issues of speeding, jake braking and vehicles passing on the right. Mayor reported that the Minnesota Department of Public Safety is extremely concerned about pedestrian traffic. Chief Koennicke and the police committee are trying to address the issues.

Wayne Isaacson of "A Clean Plate" addressed the Council regarding additional funding from the City's revolving loan program. He needs to replace a freezer and install an air system for his bakery designed and inspected by a licensed engineer. He thanked the Council for approving the \$25,000 loan he has received and is asking the city to borrow him and additional \$10,000 to \$20,000 if at all possible. He currently does not have the cash flow to complete his bakery in the near future. Mayor Foss discussed the current loan cap of \$25,000 and the possibility of increasing the amount in consideration of today's economy. It was discussed that the loan program was designated as only gap financing. If a bakery is going to cost an addition \$20-25,000, an additional loan for \$10,000 may be considered a new loan. The mayor stated that he is hearing positive comments for helping and at the next meeting we should be able to make a decision. Part of the process is having Mr. Isaacson get the paper work started. In that we just got this request it would give the Council time to discuss the request and consider if the \$25,000 cap is realistic at this time for our Initiative Foundation projects.

Chris Thorson of Ulteig Engineers updated on the proposed improvement projects. He reported on funding he had applied to from the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PHA). The water project qualified on a points basis but, the sewer did not. Mayor Foss stated that the consensus it to keep moving on this project. Thorson stated that the USDA is also a funding source. They would be looking more closely at the City's financial status and may require us to raise rates to \$40.00 per month for each water and sewer. Going forward from this point, the next thing is meet with Wadena

County and develop plans with them. There has been talk that they may continue further east on Main Street around the curves with curb and gutter. They are aligned with the City's time frame either 2013 or 2014 works for them. Ulteig would start field survey work this fall and further develop design on the project. We could start planning for public assessment meetings in December.

There was public input from Craig Svitak of 540 West Main Street requesting a sign or ruling on Highway 87 entering town regarding no engine brakes or Jake brakes allowed in the city. Chief Koennicke and the police committee are addressing this issue. We have also looked at purchasing a speed indicator to slow traffic.

Chief Koennicke his monthly activity report. He reported on activities to control speeders on Highway 73 including a speed indicator sign and a school crosswalk sign. He also addressed the engine brake situation. He read an email he sent to Ramona Doman, MN Commissioner of Public Safety, in an effort to get something done in regard to the lack of marking State Highway 71. He did receive a response but no action. He is frustrated in that the DOT has jurisdiction for marking and signage yet, seem to be reluctant to do anything to relive the situation. Salo recommended the Council sending a resolution directly to the Commissioner.

Liquor Store Manager Tom Gerszewski reported that there are gloomy numbers coming from the bar. He will be trying different things such as a meat giveaway and beer and pizza special to attract business. The ATM machine income is doing well at \$136.00 for August at no cost to the city.

Park Beach and Street Superintendent Neisess stated that the State is required to install a crosswalk sign at the school. Any time the school owns property on both sides of the highway, they are required to put up signage for a school crossing. Henstorf discussed a wish list for park projects for the next five to six years. In priority order they are upgrading five camp sites with 50 amp service and sewer at \$7,000, a new disk golf course at \$1,500, a new 32 foot by 48 foot with sides that open and close at \$30,000, and building six new seasonal camp sites that are full service at \$15-20,000. Hopefully we will get approval of the DNR grant so we can do the repairs on the boat landing.

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

**MOTION BY HENSTORF TO SUPPORT THE 2013 INITIATIVE FOUNDATION REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR \$650.00 TOMPERI SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

The Council reviewed the preliminary budgets. The mayor had asked all departments to look at increasing wages. We have gone number of years without rewarding our employees; therefore we put in a three and a half 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 2013 is \$308,786.00 with debt funds of \$42,700.00 increasing the total tax levy to \$351,486.00. This reflects an \$11,329.00 increase from last year's final levy or a 3.278 percent increase.

**MOTION BY YLINIEMI TO APPROVE THE 2013 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND THE 2012 (PAYABLE 2013) PROPOSED TAX LEVY. HENSTORF SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

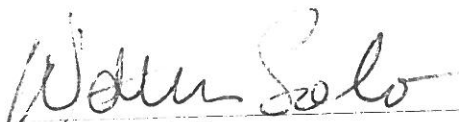
Mayor Foss discussed the deputy clerk interviews and stated that we had some very good people making it very tough to make a selection. The administrative committee recommended offering the job to the number one ranked applicant and negotiate a package for that person. In consideration of experience and education the council set the pay at the pay equity midpoint of \$15.00 per hour with a six month probation period.

MOTION BY RASMUSSEN TO OFFER THE DEPUTY CLERK POSITION TO THE NUMBER ONE RANKED CANDIDATE ALVINA J. KYTTA. STARTING AT THE PAY RATE OF \$15.00 PER HOUR. TOMPERI SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY HENSTORF TO ACCEPT THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT POLICY DRAFT AND DISCUSSED. RASMUSSEN SECONDED. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

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

HENSTORF MOVED TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:10 P.M.

  
Admin/Clerk-Treasurer

  
Mayor