

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

APRIL 19, 2011

Meeting called to order by Mayor Tammy Konz at 6:35pm

Council members present: Tammy Konz, Nate Osmundson, Joe Krippner, Eric Loewen and Chris Jansky absent

Others present: Jim Frilstad, Randy Sabart and Leslie Arnold

Deputy Clerk Leslie Arnold asked the Council about the Dog Licensing Ordinance. A few residents in the City still have not licensed their dogs. The Council said to send one final notice giving 2 weeks and if not licensed follow the ordinance as it states by issuing a ticket. She also inquired as to who inspects storable pools and if there is a penalty for not getting a permit before placing a storable pool in the City. The Public Works Dept. should inspect the pools and since it is not stated in the ordinance what the consequences are for not acquiring a permit she should bring her recommendations to the next Council meeting. The Deputy Clerk also had a question regarding uncompleted building projects in town. A permit is good for 6-months but that deadline is extended if an inspection is done or may be extended by MNSPECT upon request by the homeowner/contractor. Todd Van Nurden has not yet completed his residing project from 2009. His file has been closed but the work has not been finalized. Should MNSPECT or the City be sending notice to the homeowner that the project is past its completion deadline? The Council thought MNSPECT should be notifying us when closing a file for a project that has not be finalized. Should there be penalties? Councilmember Osmundson said he would speak with Todd Van Nurden regarding completing his project. The Deputy Clerk asked what the Council's expectations are regarding National Night Out. National Night Out is a night to promote neighborhood awareness and crime prevention. Are we fulfilling that purpose or should we look at doing something different? The Council thought it was a good idea to try neighborhood block parties this year. They suggested putting notices in with the utility bills and a notice in the newspaper to let residents know.

Police Chief James Frilstad let the Council know he has been checking on other City's Junk Vehicle and Parking Ordinances. Some have language regarding unapproved parking spaces such as back yards or grass. The Council thought it best to look into amending the current ordinance to define suitable parking spaces and operable vehicles/collector vehicles/disassembled vehicles. Chief Frilstad said he would get copies of the ordinances emailed. Randy also said to check with St. Joseph as they just redid theirs.

Randy Sabart from SEH updated the Council on the street project that the City has been working on for 2 years. There is a meeting with the USDA on April 22 at City Hall to find out specifics in regards to grant/loan percentages. After this meeting the City Clerk should get in contact with David Drown's office. The first public hearing will be May 3 at the Council Meeting.

Councilmember Loewen left.

City Clerk Nicole Pilarski will be meeting with a representative from Michelle Bachmann's office on Thursday afternoon. She would like to hear about the concerns of her constituents.

Councilmember Osmundson updated the rest of the Council on the Fire Escape stairs. They did not pass inspection. The contractor said he had followed MNSPECT's instructions. Tracy from MNSPECT said she would be getting ahold of Steve to speak with him regarding the inspection.

Mayor Konz is going to call Lyndon VanVleet about painting City Hall.

The City Clerk talked about cleaning of fire hydrants during the winter. She has been looking into what other Cities do. Some have it listed in their ordinances that residents must keep them cleared, some Fire Departments have their firefighters clear them as part of their volunteer hours and other Fire Departments do an adopt-a-hydrant contest with a prize being given out either weekly or at the end of winter. This can be brought up at the next Fire Board meeting in May. Randy suggested checking with the League regarding possible liabilities with the Fire Dept. members maintaining them.

Councilmember Krippner talked about the hours for the Public Works Dept. Some residents are frustrated when trying to contact them only to find out they have left for the day. The Council agreed they should have scheduled open hours like City Hall. The City Clerk said she needed to speak with the Personnel Committee members after the work session regarding comp time and hours on timecards.

Councilmember Jansky informed those present that he would be resigning from his Council position in June. The City Clerk let him know that the Council would need his resignation in writing before being able to declare a vacancy. The City Clerk asked how the Council would like to proceed; they can either appoint a City resident or ask for applicants then appoint a resident. They would like to ask for applicants.

Mayor Konz updated the Council on the trailers that the Fire Dept. wants to put out and the WWTP site for training. Rich Jansky had called her with concerns as he had already planted crops there. The Fire Chief had visited the training site in Hutchinson that has the same type of set up and did not think it should be a problem to get the okay from the MPCA.

Motion made by Joe Krippner and seconded by Chris Jansky to adjourn at 9:07; motion carried
Councilmember Eric Loewen absent

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Pilarski