

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 18, 2009 - 6:00 P.M. – ROCKVILLE CITY HALL.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Hagen. Roll Call was taken and the following members were found to be present: Mayor Hagen, Council Members: Bill Becker, John Koerber, Susan Palmer, Randy Volkmuth & Duane Willenbring. Absent: Jerry Schmitt.

Staff members present were: Administrator/Clerk Rena Weber, Park & Recreation Board Chair Scott Stenseth & Interim Fire Chief Rodney Schaefer.

Others present were: Judy, Kris & Vicki Ikeogu, Dave Volkmuth, Tудie Hermanutz & Don Simon.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE** – Mayor Hagen asked that people take moment of silence to remember Amy Goerger – Finance Director who passed away recently.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – Motion by Member Volkmuth, second by Member Willenbring, to approve the additions to the agenda for discussion purposes.**  
**AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring**  
**Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.**

**OPEN FORUM**

Don Simon – 600 Othmar Lane stated he had a comment on the budget. The council voted to stay at one meeting per month and a year ago a raise was given to them \$175 from \$125. The city employees made the cuts, fire department made cuts, and he would like the council to rescind their pay raise.

Also the Castaways Building, there is no siding on this building. How long can they go without finishing it? It has almost been one year since they started.

**CONSENT AGENDA – Motion by Member Volkmuth, second by Member Koerber, to approve the consent agenda as presented:**

- a) *Approve minutes of 10/21/09*
- b) *Approve Treasurer's Report of 11/18/09*
- c) *Approve List of Bills and Additions of 10/21/09 – 11/18/09*

Acct. Payable CK# 011657 to 011717	\$73,496.84
Payroll CK # 003608 to 003621	11,370.78
EFT #000268 to 000273	6,957.70

**AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring**  
**Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.**

**BOARD/STAFF REPORT**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT** – Written report shows 41.5 contract hours.

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

ORDINANCE 2009-62 AMEND R-1, R-2, & R-3 DISTRICTS TO ALLOW FARM ANIMALS – Rena Weber explained the process used to develop the ordinance by comparing the conditional use permit, interim use permits, animal ordinance and definitions. This proposed ordinance has been reviewed by Stearns County and the ordinance as proposed will work with their ordinance regarding feedlots. Also taken into consideration were ordinances from East Bethel and the City of St. Michael. The Planning Commission reviewed the ordinance and made two adjustments:

- 1) Reduce 10 acre requirement to 3 acres
- 2) Reduce setback distance from 100 feet to 50 feet

Member Willenbring explained the reason for the reduction particularly in the Ikeogu case their lot is long and narrow and typically the lots run 165 wide and you would be overlapping on the setback, but still making each interim specific to the individual right. The reduction of 10

acres to 5 acres was based on St. Michael's use of 5 acres and East Bethel used 3 acres. The 3 acres prevailed.

Member Palmer asked how this works in Shoreland. It is not allowed.

Member Palmer cited the fact that they have 2 ½ and she does not think that is enough room for horses. We should not be dropping our setback requirements to accommodate everybody.

Member Willenbring added that the Ikeogu's would not qualify in this case.

Member Volkmuth stated he is apt to budge on the 50' but not the 3 acres and he would still like to see 10 acres.

Member Palmer stated that she personally would not like to have horses on the property next to her.

Mayor Hagen stated this is going strong against typical zoning and he would like to keep the requirement at 10 acres. Go a little slow here and try the 10 acres.

Member Palmer stated that we are putting this in place for everybody. She further does not think the 100' setback is that far out of line. We may have to grant a variance. This is going to have to fit the rest of the city.

It was determined that we would add Ikeogu variance to the IUP at no cost.

Rena Weber reported this was the first reading of the ordinance and a public hearing would then be held on 12/16/09 – approximately 6:30 (after the tax levy hearing).

***Motion by Member Volkmuth, second by Member Palmer, to keep the ordinance at the 10 acres and 100' setback, and schedule the public hearing as recommended.***

***AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer & Volkmuth***

***NAYS: Willenbring***

***Motion passed on a 5 to 1 vote.***

**DAN HANSEN RESIGNATION** –Rena Weber reported that Dan Hansen has submitted his resignation from the Planning Commission. This brings the number to 5. Three of the member's terms are up 12/31/09. It was determined that we would open applications for the Planning Commission.

***Motion by Member Volkmuth, second by Member Willenbring, to accept the resignation of Dan Hansen from the Planning Commission.***

***AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring***

***Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.***

**PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT** – Chair Scott Stenseth presented the following:

**PAUL WIRTH APPOINTMENT** – Scott asked for approval to appoint Paul Wirth to the Park & Recreation Board.

***Motion by Member Palmer, second by Member Willenbring, to appoint Paul Wirth to the Park & Recreation Board effective immediately.***

***AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring***

***Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.***

**SANTA DAY** – Scott reported that Santa Day will be held on 12/6/09 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall. People are asked to bring non-perishable food items and there will be free pictures with Santa.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Interim Fire Chief Rodney Schaefer requested the following:

**TURN OUT GEAR** - Please approve the purchase of 3 sets of turnout gear and 1 coat. The turnout gear committee has met with several vendors and is recommending purchase from Fire Equipment Specialties. NFPA recommends turnout gear is to be replaced every 10 years due to the fact the heat resistance deteriorates, therefore the Fire Department tries to purchase 3 sets every year, last year we did not purchase any. Turnout gear recently had a 5% increase we are still able to purchase at the price before the increase.

(4) Janesville Isodri 32" commando Coats \$930.00 each (\$3720.00)

(3) Janesville Isodri Superpant with lumbar support \$595.00 each (\$1785)

(3) Janseville Suspenders \$29.00 each (\$87.00)  
 (3) Servus 1467 Bunker Boots \$125.00 (\$375.00)  
 Shipping charges \$50.00 approx.  
 TOTAL \$6017.00

The funds will come from E101-42200-538 \$4621.00

And designated fund Fire Department Personal Protective Equipment \$1,396.00

***Motion by Member Volkmuth, second by Member Becker, to approve the purchase of turn out gear as requested.***

***AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring***

***Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.***

FIRE FIGHTER REPLACEMENTS - The City Council in June authorized the advertising seeking applications for members to the Fire Department. We are seeking approval to move along with the hiring process and hire 2 new members. We currently have 3 members on leaves of absence, and 1 member retired, and 1 member resigned leaving us with 19 personnel. We would like to fill the positions of the retired and resigned members. We currently have 5 applications.

***Motion by Member Volkmuth, second by Member Becker, to approve the interviewing of applicants for fire fighter as requested.***

***AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring***

***Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.***

#### OLD BUSINESS

**CYPRESS COURT** – Rena Weber read the “Action” portion of the Attorney’s memorandum dated 10/27/09 regarding the Cypress Court Walking Path. Rena also reported that the cost to do quiet title action would be approximately \$2,000.

Member Volkmuth indicated he would not be in favor of spending the money for quiet title action.

Member Willenbring suggested that we let a sleeping dog lie.

Mayor Hagen suggested staff put something in the newsletter that this is indeed a pedestrian/walking trail.

Member Willenbring was opposed to putting a private matter into the newsletter.

Rena Weber suggested the city approve an easement agreement as provided by the League of MN Cities.

***Motion by Member Palmer, second Member Becker, to declare that the Cypress Court walking/bike path is indeed city property, and further that the Administrator/Clerk is to draft an easement agreement with the least cost method so that it can be recorded on the abstracts.***

***AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring***

***Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.***

#### PUBLIC HEARING

**AMENDMENT TO WECS ORDINANCE** – Mayor Hagen announced that a public hearing would now be held to consider an amendment to the WECS Ordinance at 6:37 p.m.

Rena Weber read the change to the ordinance:

**Subdivision 6: SAFETY DESIGN STANDARDS is hereby amended to read:**

1. Engineering Certification – For all WECS, the manufacture’s engineer or another qualified engineer **registered in the State of Minnesota** shall certify that the turbine, foundation and tower design of the WECS is within accepted professional standards, given local soil and climate conditions.

No person appeared to voice concern or approval of the ordinance amendment.

***Motion by Member Palmer, second by Member Volkmuth, to close the public hearing at 6:39 p.m.***

***AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring***

***Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.***

**Member Palmer introduced the following ordinance and moved for its adoption:  
ORDINANCE NO. 2009-61  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SUBDIVISION 6 OF ORDINANCE NO. 2009-58 – WIND  
ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS**

**WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Rockville adopted official zoning controls (“Zoning Code”) pursuant to the authority granted in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 462 in April 2003 which replaced all pre-existing official controls; and**

**WHEREAS, the City Council amended the Zoning Code by Ordinance Numbers 2003-06, 2004-18, 2004-19, 2004-20, 2004-25, 2004-26, 2006-30, 2007-40, 2007-41, 2007-42, 2007-43, 2007-44, 2008-45, 2008-46, 2008-47, 2008-49, 2008-50, 2008-51 and 2008-53; 2009-58 and**

**WHEREAS, the City Council has the authority pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 462 to amend the official zoning controls; and**

**WHEREAS, the Planning Commission seeks to amend and clarify the official controls relating to wind energy conversion systems, and has recommended the following amendment be adopted at its meeting on October 13, 2009; and**

**WHEREAS, public hearing was held on November 18, 2009 in front of the City Council, and members of the public were given an opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Cold Spring Record on October 27, 2009 and November 3, 2009; and**

**NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council does ordain:**

**Subdivision 6: SAFETY DESIGN STANDARDS is hereby amended to read:**

- 1. Engineering Certification – For all WECS, the manufacture’s engineer or another qualified engineer registered in the State of Minnesota shall certify that the turbine, foundation and tower design of the WECS is within accepted professional standards, given local soil and climate conditions.**

**The motion for the foregoing ordinance was duly seconded by Member Koerber with the following vote being taken:**

**AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring  
Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.**

#### **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

**CIGARETTE LICENSE RENEWAL 2010 –Motion by Member Volkmuth, second by Member Palmer, to approve cigarette licenses for 2010: B’s Liquor, B’s Quick Mart, and Rockville Gas & Bait.**

**AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring  
Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.**

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF AREA CITIES – LEGISLATIVE ISSUES – Discussion was held regarding the proposed joint resolution on legislative issues:**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2009-19**

**Joint Resolution of the Central MN Cities of St. Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, St. Joseph, St. Augusta and Rockville Advocating Support for Certain Legislative Issues and Proposals of Common Interest or Concern to Central Minnesota Region.**

**WHEREAS, the Central Minnesota-St. Cloud area has a strong history of collaboration and coordination amongst its local units of government to facilitate well planned communities that are provided municipal services in the most cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner possible; and**

**WHEREAS, to better assist our State legislative leaders, we have collectively identified certain legislative issues and proposals that are of specific impact and interest to our communities to enable them to respond in a manner that strengthens the partnership between our local units of government and the State in fostering the continuation and enhancement of socially, economically and culturally vibrant.**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Councils for the Cities of St. Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, St. Joseph, St. Augusta and Rockville, Minnesota, that the**

following legislative issues and proposals are of common interest or concern to the Central Minnesota Region and therefore officially support and advocate the following actions of the MN State Legislature:

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

- 1- **Local Government Aid:** Restore LGA funding to the 2008 certified level with no further reductions and retain the 2008 LGA Unity formula.

LMC FF-1 State-Local Fiscal Relations; FF-3 Funding LGA, FF-4 Local Government Aid Reform – pages 92-96. **ROCKVILLE WOULD LIKE TO STRIKE “2008 LGA UNITY FORMULA” Motion by Member Palmer, second by Member Volkmuth, to strike 2008 LGA unity formula.**

**AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.**

- 2- **Levy Limits:** SUPPORT elimination of levy limits and continue to facilitate local accountability. **ROCKVILLE HAD 4 MEMBERS AGAINST THIS AND 2 FOR IT Motion by Member Volkmuth second by Member Willenbring, to not support this recommendation. Ayes: Hagen, Koerber, Volkmuth & Willenbring Nays: Becker & Palmer – Motion passed on a 4 to 2 vote.**

LMC F-13 State Restrictions on Local Budgets – page 101.

- 3- **Tax Rate Driven Levies:** Enable cities to adopt tax rates that determine levy amounts by requiring tax valuation data to be provided prior to preliminary levy adoption.
- 4- **Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC):** SUPPORT legislation that provides the relief directly to the property owners rather than through the local units of government. Any reductions in MVHC should result in a reduction in relief to the property owner benefiting from the credit.

LMC FF-7 State-Local Fiscal relations – page 97.

- 5- **Tax Exempt Credit Program:** SUPPORT legislation to assist Cities with disproportionately high amounts of government and nonprofit business properties such as Colleges, Universities and Hospitals.

LMC FF-19 Payments for Services to Tax-Exempt Property – page 106.

- 6- **State Mandate Relief:** SUPPORT legislation that reduces or eliminates unfunded and/or onerous mandates to local governments (e.g. personnel related mandates such as binding arbitration, lack of State funding for State retirement plan, MPCA fees, storm water fees). No additional mandates should be enacted unless the legislature or agency imposing the requirements provides a permanent stable revenue source for the mandate. RE-ESTABLISH the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation to facilitate review and approval of waivers in State rules and regulations.

LMC SD-1 Unfunded Mandates – page 1; SD-3 Redesigning and Reinventing Government – page 2 (Promote local efforts through incentives rather than mandates); HR – 1 Personnel Mandates & Limits on Local Control – page 113.

- 7- **State Fee Increases:** SUPPORT measures that preclude State agencies and operations from shifting funding reductions and/or cost increases on to municipalities in the form of fee increases.

LMC FF-5 State Charges for Administrative Services – page 96.

- 8- **Eminent Domain:** SUPPORT modifications to the 2006 Eminent Domain statute to remove recently added attorney fees and cost penalty provisions in actions involving

public infrastructure improvements in order to restore a fair balance between the rights of private landowners and the interests of the public.

LMC SD-16 Private Property Rights and Takings – page 14 – 16.

- 9- **Land Use Reform & Annexation:** Support legislation that better protects the environment, reduces green gas emissions, reduces the cost to deliver municipal services, and protects the interests of cities in annexation statutes.

LMC LE-1 Growth Management & Annexation – page 54.

- 10- **Regional Collaboration:** SUPPORT regional efforts of local government jurisdictions by providing additional incentives that encourage these types of efforts. RE-ESTABLISH the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation to facilitate the provision of financial incentives for implementing new collaborations.

LMC SD-3 Redesigning and Reinventing Government – page 2 (Promote local efforts through incentives rather than mandates).

- 11- **North Star Commuter Rail:** Support extension of North Star Commuter Rail service northward to the St. Cloud area in a manner that serves the needs of business and commercial travels, that is highly expandable, and is priced affordably to optimize use.

- 12- **State Airports Fund:** SUPPORT restoration of the \$15 million to the State Airports Fund. **ROCKVILLE IS OF THE UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WILL BE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS FUND AND WE ARE STRUGGLING WITH ROAD IMPROVEMENTS SO WE COLD NOT SUPPORT THIS.**

LMC LE-35 Airport Planning and Funding – page 89.

- 13- **Water Conservation Pricing Legislation:** SUPPORT legislation to repeal the water conservation pricing legislation that was enacted in the 2008 legislative session.

- 14- **Street Improvement District Authority:** SUPPORT legislation that would give municipalities the authority to establish street improvement districts to collect fees from property owners within a district to fund municipal street maintenance, construction, reconstruction and facility upgrades.

LMC FF-16 City Revenue Diversification – page 103.

- 15- **Statutory Approval Timelines – 60-day Rule:** SUPPORT the revision of State Law to reflect that the 60-day time line applies to the period in which the City is in control of the application and does not include the period during which the applicant is debating whether or not to proceed with a local appeals process.

LMC LE-4 Statutory Approval Timelines – page 57.

- 16- **Green Acres Legislation:** SUPPORT the repeal or reform of the Green Acres legislation adopted last legislative session.

- 17- **Photo Cop:** SUPPORT legislation that allows cities the ability to utilize the Photo Cop technology. **ROCKVILLE HAD 4 MEMBERS AGAINST THIS AND 2 FOR IT**  
**Ayes: Hagen, Koerber, Volkmuth & Willenbring Nays: Becker & Palmer**  
**Motion passed on a 4 to 2 vote.**

LMC SD-33 Traffic Enforcement Cameras – page 35.

- 18- **Administrative Authority:** SUPPORT the expansion of authority of Statutory and Home Rule Charter cities ability to impose and collect administrative penalties.

LMC SD-28 Administrative Fines – page 30.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT/STATE BONDING REQUESTS:

- 1- **St. Cloud Civic Center Expansion:** Support \$15.1 million state funding for \$30 million expansion project – City of St. Cloud.
- 2- **Regional Parks & Trails:** Support State bonding as follows:
  - a. Sauk River Park Land Acquisition (City of Sartell – Dehler property) - \$1.3 million, ranked #1 land acquisition priority by Central MN Parks & Trails Board
  - b. Rockville County Park & Nature Preserve (City of Rockville) - \$ 250,000 for access and trail improvements to enable the park to be opened for use by the public.
  - c. Quarry Park & Nature Preserve (City of Waite Park) - \$422,500 for 39.5 acre land acquisition to facilitate expansion of the park and creation of an additional access into the park.
  - d. Rocori Trail (City of Rockville) - \$1,459,500 to construction Phase 1a from 178<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Cold Spring
- 3- **St. Cloud Regional Airport Land Acquisition** (City of St. Cloud) - \$2 million

#### UNPAID SEWER BILLS – CERTIFY TO TAX ROLLS

**Motion by Member Volkmuth, second by Member Willenbring, to approve certification of: Parcel #76.42141.0018 \$168.77 to the tax rolls for a one time collection at 6%.**

**AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring**  
**Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.**

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**MAYOR** – Mayor Hagen had nothing to report.

**PERSONNEL** – Chair Volkmuth indicated that Personnel had nothing to report

**FINANCE** – Chair Palmer reported the committee met on 10/27/09 and discussed:

**GRANTS** – The Personnel gave approval to seek grants for the fire department using matching funds, however we need to set up parameters if funds required to match. The council needs to discuss this when presented.

**ROCK FEST** – The Finance Committee discussed city involvement in the event. Having a festival is a good thing for the city and the teen dances are great. They have been around long enough and should be self sustaining. She personally wishes to express appreciation for 100 of hours of donated time for the event. The Finance Committee recommends:

- ◆ Fund Rock Fest through 2010
- ◆ Then we drop the funding so it is self-sustaining
- ◆ City staff to still take care of things at City Hall
- ◆ They can still use the well house for storage of no parking signs
- ◆ It is okay to use the old city hall for storage

**Motion by Member Volkmuth, second by Member Koerber, to approve the recommendations of the Finance Committee as stated above.**

**AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring**  
**Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.**

The Finance Committee also met in 11/4/09 to review the Water Rate Study. No decisions were made, but staff was asked to draft a budget with and without capital improvements to determine what type of increases are needed.

**PUBLIC WORKS** – Mayor Hagen reported the committee met on 10/27/09 and discussed:  
 MOVE 30 MPH SIGNS - John Peck requested approval to move the 30 mph sign north of the railroad tracks – okay was given by the committee, however, county approval is needed.  
 MARY KAY KRAEMER - Kraemer's needed clarification on their assessment and were informed that this is postponed until there is a change of use.  
 COW PASS ISSUE – There was nothing new on this.  
 SNOW PLOWING - Snow plowing practices will change on Lake Road to be the most efficient way to plow.  
 PLEASANT LAKE WALKING PATH – This path will be repaired next spring.

- \* Schedule on the Street committee agenda – road improvement projects  
 Member Willenbring wants to invite citizens to ride with when the road inventory is done.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

LAPTOP PURCHASE - Please approve the purchase of a new laptop to replace the defective laptop currently used during council and committee meetings out of Designated Funds set aside for computer replacement (current balance is \$2000.00). The cost would be \$1096.41 which would include the laptop, operating system, Microsoft software license, shipping & tax. Also please approve a budget amendment to increase expense account 101-41000-309 Computer Services, Supply & Software by \$1,100 to reflect the use of designated funds.

***Motion by Member Volkmuth, second by Member Palmer, to approve the purchase of a laptop as requested.***

***AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring***

***Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.***

TRANSFER OF FUNDS - Please approve the transfer of General Ledger Account Balances from Construction Account Fund 409 CR 82 Street Imp. Construction Fund to Fund 308 CR 82 Street Imp. Bond. The construction account is no longer needed as the project is finished and all costs related to said project are paid.

#### **Current Account**

#### **New Account**

G 409-10400 Investment at Cost \$16,000.00	G 308-10400 Investment at Cost \$16,000.00
G 409-10600 Cash \$622.56	G 308-10600 Cash \$622.56
G 409-25300 Unreserved Fund Bal(\$16,622.56)	G 308-25300 Unreserved Fund Bal(\$16,622.56)

***Motion by Member Volkmuth, second by Member Palmer, to approve the transfer as requested.***

***AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring***

***Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.***

GRAND LAKE ROAD REPAIRS - Please approve additional patching cost for Grand Lake Rd. Repairs of \$1,600 through Central Minnesota Paving, Inc. Cost already approved by Mayor Hagen and Administrator Rena Weber.

In addition please approve a budget adjustment in the amount of \$2,700 to move funds from Capital Outlay Fund 101 to Repairs and Maint. Fund 215 for the September 2009 Repairs on Grand Lake Road.

Reduce Budget for	E 101-43100-590	Was \$46,500	Amended \$43,800
Increase Budget for	E 215-43100-220	Was \$15,000	Amended \$17,700

***Motion by Member Volkmuth, second by Member Koerber, to approve the budget adjustment as requested.***

***AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring***

***Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.***

SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE AMENDING SIZE OF PLANNING COMMISSION – ***Motion by Member Palmer, second by Member Willenbring, to schedule***

***the public hearing to consider adoption of Ordinance No. 2009-63 for 12/16/09 – 6:40 p.m. approximately.***

***AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Palmer, Volkmuth & Willenbring***

***Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.***

BUDGET UPDATE – Rena Weber reported that the tax rate for 2010 came in at 34.004% which is reduced from 2009 by 4.73% and this includes taking into consideration the loss from the detachment. Further the goal at 10 months should be 83%. In the general fund we are at 63% and this includes 10 months of Fire Fighter pay. Water Fund is at 77% and Sewer is at 87%.

Member Volkmuth asked for a breakdown of the balance for attorney and engineering.

FINANCE DIRECTOR REPLACEMENT – Rena Weber asked for council approval to advertise to fill the position.

Member Palmer indicated she would approve advertising for the position.

Member Koerber indicated we should for 6 months before we hire.

Member Becker indicated that he disagrees. The market is changing so fast.

Member Palmer voiced concern that expertise is needed. The City was well served and Amy did a good job. If you want to reduce personnel this is not the right area.

Member Willenbring stated that a needs study should be done of the city before we take action. We need to cross train employees. This needs to go to the Personnel Committee for research.

Member Volkmuth stated he is in favor of cutting the budget.

Member Willenbring asked does it take somebody 40 hours per week. We should not make a snap decision. When something like this comes along the city should take advantage of the situation.

***Motion by Member Willenbring, second by Member Volkmuth, to refer this matter to the Personnel Committee to do a needs study.***

***AYES: Hagen, Koerber, Volkmuth & Willenbring***

***NAYS: Becker & Palmer***

***Motion passed on a 4 to 2 vote.***

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Tudie Hermanutz – 211 1<sup>st</sup> St W reported that Rep. Steve Gottwalt will be at the Granite Edge on Saturday 11/21/09 at 10 am.

***ADJOURNMENT – Motion by Member Koerber, second by Member Volkmuth, to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.***

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**VERENA M. WEBER-CMC  
ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK**

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**JEFF HAGEN  
MAYOR**

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