

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 4, 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, Jerry Schmitt, Randy Volkmuth & Duane Willenbring. Absent: Susan Palmer.

Staff member present was: Administrator/Clerk Rena Weber

Others present were: Matt Rayl, Darrin Lahr, Kathleen Stanger, Ralph & Jean Walz, Brian Herberg, Aaron Cheeley, Tudie Hermanutz, Tom Zimmerman, Dave Volkmuth, Adeline Boucher, Carol Dietman, George Bechtold, & Clarence Bloch.

**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, Schmitt, Volkmuth & Willenbring
Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.**

OPEN FORUM

No one appeared.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Becker questioned the Rockville Business Assn. bill and what do we get out of this? Rena Weber explained that the reason there were two such bills is due to the fact that a check was not cashed in 2007 and they have now found it.

Mayor Hagen indicated it is membership dues.

Member Koerber reported that it was strong at one time.

Member Willenbring suggested we look at this at the Finance Committee meeting.

Member Willenbring questioned the grinder station bills and if any of this is reimbursable. Rena Weber indicated that this was something she is bringing to the Finance Committee for discussion.

Motion by Member Becker, second by Member Koerber, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- a) **Approve minutes of 02/18/09**
 - b) **Approve Treasurer's Report of 03/04/09**
 - c) **Approve List of Bills and Additions of 03/04/09**
- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| Accounts Payable CK #011017 to 011042 | \$13,440.84 |
| Payroll CK #003392 to 003401 | 5,667.13 |
| EFT CK # 000190 to 000195 | 67,719.49 |

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

BOARD/STAFF REPORTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Rena Weber reported that the Fire Department is requesting approval to purchase one mobile radio per year. The total needed is seven. Rena further reported that the council may want to wait until the Finance Committee meeting whereby under the 20% cuts this would be discussed.

Member Volkmuth indicated that if we made changes it would go to the 2010 budget.

Fire Chief Ralph Walz indicated that the state is mandating them to get off the old system and it is their intention to budget the purchase of one per year.

Mayor Hagen asked if we are putting this radio in one that goes out. Ralph Walz responded that this will go into the Rescue van.

Motion by Member Becker, second by Member Volkmuth, to approve the purchase of the radio as requested.

Member Willenbring spoke to a few Fire Department members who stated that if we were going to cut back this year, this would be an area to cut back on. Member Willenbring checked on the use of portables stating that there are 7 in chargers that could be used when the trucks go out. Since it is budgeted then we should go ahead and understand that we are not jeopardizing safety if we don't purchase this equipment this year.

Member Volkmuth indicated that while it is budgeted for this year, it may not be next year with the budget cuts.

Member Schmitt indicated they are saving an awful lot of money this year.

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

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT –

ROAD GRADING BID – Rena Weber read the bid notice, bid tabulation and reported the way bids were handled in the past was to have the Street Committee review them and make recommendation to the council. The following bids were received:

John Herberg Construction	\$85.00/hour
Myron Felix	\$90.00/hour – 2009 & \$95.00/hour in 2010
Gene Lange & Sons	\$96.00/hour & fuel surcharge may apply if fuel goes above \$3.00 gallon

Member Volkmuth asked if this was something we should delay and give to the Public Works Committee.

Mayor Hagen indicated he would like to have discussion at the Public Works Committee level and how we want to handle potential conflict of interest given some of the problems we experience with the hiring of the building inspector, fire chief, and officers. There is a perception in the community that there is the good old boys system of hiring. He wants to make sure whoever we select we have had good discussion on whether or not we hire past employees, council, Mayor, etc. Further he would like to make sure we can answer any questions from the public that would be transparent and objective.

Member Willenbring does not see anyone here of the three. He has worked with all three individuals and had no problems with any of these. You have to look at the merit of the person you are hiring. You need to look at the lowest responsible bidder, the insurance is in place and the Administrator has reviewed this. Why make that decision at another time.

Motion by Member Willenbring, to accept the John Herberg bid.

Member Becker voiced concern about the financials and what we can save not that this is just a little bit. He agrees with Member Willenbring and does not know these people but would second the motion.

The motion was seconded by Member Becker with the following vote being taken:

AYES: Becker, Koerber, Schmitt, Volkmuth & Willenbring

NAYS: Hagen

Motion passed on a 5 to 1 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

DARRIN LAHR – EMPLOYEE OF XCEL ENERGY – CAPX 2020 UPDATE– This is a group of 11 utilities from across the state. It is a global look at the electric transmission system. The Fargo to Monticello line is the one Rockville should be interested in.

- Need process
- Certificate of need was submitted in 8/07
- Administrative law judge phase – last Friday the ALJ issued an opinion to move forward and upsized the permit
- Single pole steel
- Height of the towers is 150' to 175'
- Route process – propose 2 routes

- End of March the application will go in
- Look at using existing poles where they can
- Did map a 3rd route but the route doesn't work with the freeway, lot of curves, angles
- Proposed to place the pole 5' outside of the road right-of-way – 18' arm at the top that overhangs into MNDOT'S side
- MNDOT has a 1000' wide corridor but Xcel only needs a 150' wide corridor
- They have looked at 5' overhang, 25' and 75' overhangs
- Crossing over at city limit between Rockville and St. Augusta on the north side of I94.

Member Schmitt asked how many poles will be in Rockville city proper. Darrin Lahr responded that every 700' to 1000' poles will be placed.

Member Schmitt asked will it affect our wellhead protection area. Darrin Lahr responded that it should not affect our wellhead protection area.

Member Willenbring suggested that it would make sense to put it along the highway. Darrin Lahr reported the normal process is to work with what the people would like to see. They may need to involve the legislators.

Member Schmitt asked how this will affect TV radio. Darrin Lahr stated it would only affect am radio.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MAYOR – Mayor Hagen had nothing to report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – It was reported that the Finance Committee has been rescheduled to 3/11/09 – 6 p.m.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Member Volkmuth asked to schedule a Personnel Committee meeting on 3/25/09 – 6 p.m.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

STEARNS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT LETTER – A copy of the letter received from Dennis Fuchs in response to the city letter to Greg Berg (i.e. Lake Road Rain Garden project) was reviewed. The letter indicates that *“Since the City has been unable to commit the required resources to proceed with the project, the funds will be used for a different project with a motivated landowner”*.

Member Volkmuth questioned whether or not we should get a bid from another engineer? \$4,500 seemed excessive.

Member Willenbring indicated another engineering firm has contacted him on this project.

Mayor Hagen asked if we were rejected because we did not have an engineer. Rena Weber is to find out first if a certified engineer is required.

Member Willenbring cited 10 year rain event, 100 year rain event, and soil percolation, needs to be looked at.

Member Volkmuth indicated we need to continue with the grant, but dig that ditch out first.

BUDGET AMENDMENT – FUND 309 – Finance Director Amy Goerger requested approval of:

Budget Adjustment for Fund 309 Lake Sewer Project Bond
Adjustment Requested due to additional \$800,000 paid in August

Current Budget

Principal	\$449,000	309-47000-601	Debt Service Bond Principal
Bond Interest	\$106,463	309-47000-611	Bond Interest
Total	\$555,463		

Proposed Adjusted Budget

Principal	\$451,487	309-47000-601	Debt Service Bond Principal
Bond Interest	\$90,432	309-47000-611	Bond Interest
Total	\$541,919		

Motion by Member Volkmuth, second by Member Willenbring, to approve the budget amendment as presented.

AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Schmitt, Volkmuth & Willenbring

Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.

MPCA LETTER TO GEORGE BECHTOLD – Rena Weber reported that this letter was provided for information purposes only. Mr. Bechtold is dealing with it.

SAFETY & LOSS CONTROL WORKSHOP – Rena Weber reported that three employees would be attending this one day seminar. It is a great value at \$20.00 per person. Member Schmitt and Member Willenbring asked to attend as well.

FUND BALANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY – Rena Weber reported that with the GASB requirements the audit calls for these two policies to be approved. A copy of each policy is hereby attached and marked Exhibit A & B

Motion by Member Volkmuth, second by Member Koerber, to approve both the Fund Balance and Risk Management Polices as presented.

AYES: Becker, Hagen, Koerber, Schmitt, Volkmuth & Willenbring

Motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote.

UPGRADED BOND RATING – Administrator/Clerk Rena Weber read the following quote from the recent Standard & Poors review & upgrade of the cities bond rating from A- to AA-: *“The local employment base centers mostly on the granite industry: granite is a local natural resource, and as such there are several granite fabricators and processors in the area. City income and wealth indicators, in our opinion, have been very strong. In our opinion, the financial operations have been very good, backed by maintenance of very strong financial reserves and good management practices. Fiscal 2007 closed with an \$832,000 general fund balance, or a very strong 63% of expenditures, in our view. The unaudited fiscal 2008 result was a small drawdown, with fiscal 2009 budgeting for a break even result. In our view, the debt burden is relatively low at 1.4% of market value, but carrying charges are moderate at 14% of the total government budget.”*

ROCORI TRAIL – Rena Weber reported that the 2009 Soup and Chili cook-off held in Cold Spring netted \$6,000. With the City of Cold Spring matching that amount and the City of Rockville paying \$1,000 the total came to \$13,000.

MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE MARK RITCHIE – Rena Weber reported she will be meeting with Mr. Ritchie on 3/5/09 to discuss the last election, the recount, and what can be changed.

ROCK FEST UPDATE – Kathleen Stanger was present to update the council on:

- Last teen dance brought in over \$800 and were able to bring in over \$500 after expenses
- 3/20/09 is the next dance - anyone who has not chaperoned is welcome to help
- July 10th and 11th are the days of the event
- No breakfast on Sunday
- Sponsorship forms and all events will be on the city web-site as well as their own web-site www.rockvillerockfest.com
- Battle of the Bands – Owners from Fireside Café will collaborate the Christian bands getting together
- Street Closure – 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. to accommodate the parade as well as day events
- Heard that not everybody is happy with Rock-Fest, but it is felt this is still a very needed event to give back to the community and get the kids involved
- Change location back to the ballpark for security reasons
- During the day at school – the electrical service is there

- Pageant Trailer is no longer
- Theme – Rockville Hoedown - Cow is the mascot

Member Willenbring agreed that the pageant trailer is shot. It is rusted and can't be welded. We need to find another trailer or see if anyone can borrow them one. Here is an opportunity for community cooperation that we all heard about campaigning last fall.

POLICY DISCUSSION – Refer to Exhibit C

OTHER BUSINESS -

Member Schmitt asked about the notice he received that he is to now vote in Maine Prairie Township. Rena will follow up on this.

Member Koerber indicated that he will attend Park & Recreation meetings in the future.

OPEN FORUM

No one appeared.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by Member Volkmuth, second by Member Becker, to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**JEFF HAGEN
MAYOR**

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