

MINUTES
COMMON COUNCIL ADJOURNED MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2000
5:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Rietz, Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, Council Members Fedson, Jorgenson, Poppe, and Lang.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Gloria Nordin

OTHERS PRESENT: News Media. Public. Cindy Samuel. Greg Brown. Doug Root. Robert Belden. Wayne Wollenburg

Mayor Rietz presented plaques to three 1999 retirees: Clarence (Doug) Root, Robert Belden and Wayne Wollenburg.

Mayor Rietz added additions to the agenda: a resolution approving a gambling premises permit renewal for VFW Post 1216; a resolution approving a licensing fee change for novelty machines; a resolution approving park pavilion plan and authorizing the City to apply for a DNR grant; and a resolution approving the purchase of a speed trailer.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Fedson, approving the agenda. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, approving the minutes of January 4, 2000. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member Poppe, approving the consent agenda as follows:

Licenses:

Temporary gambling: Church of St. Edward, 2000 W. Oakland – March 5, 2000

Cigarette: The Beer Depot, 502 12th Avenue NW

Arcade, 112 4th Avenue NE

Sinclair, 1406 4th Street NW

Sinclair, 900 N. Main Street

Food: Sinclair, 1406 4th Street NW

Sinclair, 900 N. Main Street

Arcade, 112 4th Avenue NE

Austin Youth Hockey Association @ Riverside Arena, PO Box 111

Target Store, 1701 18th Avenue NW

Gas Station: Sinclair, 1406 4th Street NW

Sinclair, 900 N. Main Street

Pool Table: Arcade, 112 4th Avenue NE
Concrete: Meyer Construction, 507 5th Street NW
Vernon D. Neitzell dba Vernon Daniel Co., 2018 5th Avenue NE
Tree Removal: Meyer Construction, 507 5th Street NW
Sign: Suburban Lighting, 6077 Lake Elmo Avenue N., Stillwater, MN 55082
Precision Signs, 207 South Main St.
Art-N-Sign, 1801 West Fir Ave., Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Master Plumber: James McDermott & Sons, 1105 24th Avenue SW
Kelley Plumbing & Heating, 923 S. Broadway, Albert Lea, MN 56007
Excavation: Dick Peterson Electric, RR #1, Box 27, Rose Creek, MN

Financial and Investment Reports.

Pre-list of Bills.

Cindy Samuel, SPAMTOWN Festival Director, requested permission to hold the annual street dance on North Main Street from 2nd Avenue to 4th Avenue NW on Main Street and from 3rd Avenue to the alley. Ms. Samuel said that clear plastic cups would be used for the beer this coming year, along with neon wristbands. A double snow fence will be used again this year. The bands will be Thunder Rose, Kevin Carrey and the Postures, High Noon and Incognito. This will be the 5th year for the Festival. Greg Brown will be Festival Director for this year.

Moved by Council Member Lang, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, approving the street dance requests. Carried.

Public hearings were held for four street improvement project assessments. Hearings for these streets were held last fall with people objecting. City Engineer Jon Erichson said that because of the confusion, objectors were allowed to withdraw. These hearings are for the approximate 30 individuals who withdrew their objections out of the total 62 original objectors.

Mr. Earling Opsahl complained that the ground was not filled in properly at the corner crosswalk on his property. Mr. Erichson said this project is still under warranty with the contractors and then received Mr. Opsahl's address to correct the situation.

Mr. Opsahl suggested the City square his property and that the City take back a portion of the property. Mr. Erichson said he did reply to Mr. Opsahl's request in a letter dated December 14. The letter stated that this would be difficult because of the infrastructure involved and vacations required. Mr. Opsahl also stated that he would like to see all properties be assessed at the same amount.

Another person in the audience suggested that the whole city pay for the assessments. Mr. Erichson stated that the way the City of Austin has been assessing has been around since probably the '50s and is a very common practice. Council Member Poppe stated that 50% is actually paid by the City. Mr. Erichson added that in many cases, the City

pays 60%. Mr. Erichson said that it is City policy that the life expectancy of a street is 35 years. If the street is determined to not last that length of time, the property owners would be credited by a percentage of the 35 years.

Moved by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member Poppe, adopting a resolution approving Project 1-A-99 assessment in the amount of \$29,142.31 at 7% interest for 15 years. 5-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member Poppe, adopting a resolution approving Project 2-A-99 assessment in the amount of \$7,507.33 at 7% interest for 15 years. 5-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member Poppe, adopting a resolution approving Project 3-A-99 assessment in the amount of \$8,406.85 at 7% interest for 15 years. 5-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member Poppe, adopting a resolution approving Project 4-A-99 assessment in the amount of \$11,182.50 at 7% interest for 15 years. 5-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Poppe, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, adopting a resolution approving an agreement with MnDOT to apply for a grant for landscaping materials placed along I-90 at the T.H. 218 interchange. 5-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Lang, seconded by Council Member Poppe, to adopt a resolution bringing the novelty licensing fee into compliance with State Statute. The City had been charging \$2500 per location and \$25 per machine. Statute requires only \$15 per location plus \$15 per machine. 5-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Lang, seconded by Council Member Fedson, to adopt a resolution approving the park pavilion plan and authorizing the City to apply for a DNR grant. The plan calls for filling in the basement of the old St. Paul's Church and taking off the parsonage. 5-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member Fedson, to adopt a resolution approving the purchase of a speed trailer. This will be a 50-50 County/City joint purchase. The City's share of the purchase cost is \$5,000 to come from the Contingency Fund. 5-0. Carried.

Council Member-at-Large Chaffee asked Mr. Erichson if the trailer has the ability to count cars. Mr. Erichson is not sure, but the trailer does meet the needs of the Police Dept. at this time.

An ordinance committee will be forthcoming after the weekend Council retreat.

CVB Director Jeanne Sheehan has attended the Blandin workshop along with three board members. Chuck Keller has attended the Governor's conference and reports that the Governor is enthusiastic with the tourism trade. Lodging tax has risen 16% despite one hotel not reporting.

Bike Committee has been rescheduled to Wednesday, January 26 at 5:15.

Council Member-at-Large Chaffee mentioned the six excellent candidates for the Second Ward Council seat. The appointment will be made at a special meeting of the Council at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 21.

City Engineer thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend the Blandin workshop.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Craig Hoium will hold an update meeting sometime in February with the Planning Commission and the Council for review of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Rietz invited all to attend the State of the City address on Thursday, January 20.

Mayor Rietz also read a thank-you note from the Humane Society regarding its new location.

Motion by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, to adjourn.

Adjourned: 6:23 p.m.

Approved: _____

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____