

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE HIBBING CITY COUNCIL
Wednesday, January 20, 2010

TIME AND PLACE: A regular meeting of the Hibbing City Council was held in the City Hall Council Chambers on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Present at roll call were Mayor Rick Wolff, Clerk Patrick Garrity, Councilor Tim Harkonen, Councilor Darby Sater, Councilor Frank Bigelow, Councilor Jack Lund, and Councilor Patty Shafer. Also present were Acting Police Chief Duane Gielen, City Engineer John Suihkonen, City Attorney Richard Sellman, City Administrator Brian Redshaw, and Administrative\Council Assistant Sharon Ross.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wolff called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

I. APPROVE MINUTES:

- Councilor Harkonen, supported by Councilor Bigelow moved to approve the minutes of the Reorganization and Regular meeting of the Hibbing City Council of January 6, 2010.
Motion CARRIED

II. CONSENT AGENDA: Councilor Bigelow, supported by Councilor Lund moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items #1 through #11, minus Item #6 as pulled for discussion. Motion CARRIED

1. Approve Accounts Payable dated:
 - 01/15/2010, checks #133572 - #133671, in the amount of \$125,954.46
 - 01/19/2010, checks #133672 - #133718, in the amount of \$1,122,222.85
2. Approve City Payroll for Pay period ending 01/01/2010, checks #150531 - #150540, in the amount of \$474,041.51.
3. Approve the promotion of Mike Douville to the rank of Captain in the Hibbing Police Department.
4. Approve the promotion of Brent Everett to the rank of Sergeant in the Hibbing Police Department.
5. Approve the promotion of Cliff Arola to the rank of Sergeant in the Hibbing Police Department.
6. Authorize external hire of four patrol officers for the Hibbing Police Department.

Discussion: Clerk Garrity pulled Item #6 for continued discussion from the January 13, 2010 Committee of the Whole meeting. Clerk Garrity noted that even though the recruitment process has been unsuccessful to this point, he requests for budgetary purposes to hire only two officers at this time instead of four and then possibly one additional officer in six months. Mayor Wolff agreed with the Police Commission that if we could state the number of hires it would create a better field of candidates and he could agree to at least three hires

at this time. Councilor Bigelow, supported by Councilor Harkonen made a motion to hire up to four patrol officers. Discussion: Clerk Garrity commented that he is not against doing the testing but we are not replacing staff in other departments because of budgetary reasons. Councilor Sater's opinion after hearing the comments tonight was that he felt there could be a compromise between two hires and four. Councilor Lund stated that he can't support four hires because of the vacancy for the general laborer position that is listed as an upcoming discussion but could support the hiring of three officers. Mayor Wolff asked for support of the motion on the floor. Motion FAILED.

Councilor Tim Harkonen, supported by Councilor Darby Sater moved to authorize the external hiring of up to (3) three patrol officers for the Hibbing Police Department. Motion CARRIED. Opposed Councilor Bigelow

7. Authorization for Fire Chief Pogorels to begin the Bid Process for a new Ambulance.
8. Authorization for Deputy Chief Gielen to begin the Bid Process for two 2010 full-sized police vehicles to be utilized as marked patrol vehicles.
9. Approve Mayor's appointment of Rhonda Leffler for a five year term as the 2010 Resident Commissioner of the Hibbing Housing and Redevelopment Authority.
10. Set the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 9, 2010 for Emergency Management Training for the City Council.
11. Set the next regular meeting for the City Council for Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber.

Due to consideration of time, discussion was held for the following Item under:

DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE: City Administrator's Office – Brian Redshaw

a) Vacant AFSCME Positions

The Staffing Efficiency Committee has submitted information to the Council regarding the City of Hibbing hires and resignations during the years 2007, 2008, and 2009. In order to maintain the present level services the City provides the Staffing Efficiency Committee is recommending the hire of a temporary equipment operator and a general laborer.

Councilor Lund is a member of the Staffing Efficiency Committee and wants to remind the Council of what the committee has accomplished with cost savings and in hearing the supervisors they don't have staff to do the jobs. The general laborer position would be a flexible position that could fill in where there are instances of short staffing. The departments need to be flexible but it is important to listen to our supervisors as they have worked hard to keep the costs down for the City.

Councilor Shafer commented that she is not against hiring, but asked if this position was this in the budget. Clerk Garrity replied that even if savings had been made with job combinations, the problem remains that taconite aid was reduced and the reality is that the governor cut \$980,000

of local government aid and that the majority of the City budget is all within personnel and departments need to look at things a bit different and work together. Clerk Garrity feels that he has to vote against this hire. Councilor Bigelow agrees that he can't vote for it because if nothing else the decision should be to at least put it on hold for a month and do a temporary hire.

Mayor Wolff complimented the department heads for keeping services as they are at this point and noted that until this budget picture gets better, we need to refocus and retool and look at how we prioritize what we are doing and what needs to get done. We need to be cautious and maintain the flexibility.

Mayor Richard M. Wolff, supported by Clerk Patrick L. Garrity moved to concur with the Staffing Efficiency Committee and authorize the filling of the temporary Equipment Operator position, Hibbing Public Works Department. Opposed: Councilor Lund. Motion CARRIED

III. PUBLIC FORUM:

IV. BIDS AND QUOTES:

1. Sanitation Department – Bryce Pearson, Supervisor

- a) **Front Loader Containers:** The Sanitation Department went out for bids for a total of 150 front loader containers for the industrial area of the community. Four bids were received. Councilor Bigelow, supported by Councilor Harkonen moved to award the bid for the purchase of 150 front loader containers to Hartel's/DBJ in the amount of \$98,960. Motion CARRIED

V. DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Planning Commission – Pat Green, Building Official

- a) **Planning Commission Recommendation – Conditional Use Permit Petition of Kelly and Wendy Estey.**

Mayor Wolff, supported by Councilor Lund moved to concur with the Planning Commission to approve the Conditional Use Permit Petition of Kelly and Wendy Estey. Motion CARRIED

2. City Engineer's Office – John P. Suihkonen, City Engineer

- a) **Home Acres Watershed Analysis**

In 2009, Barr Engineering completed an analysis and report on flooding issues in the Home Acres and Greenhaven neighborhoods and was evident that the proposed improvements may have additional drainage impacts and has prepared a proposed study.

Councilor Frank Bigelow, supported by Councilor Tim Harkonen moved to concur with City Engineer John P. Suihkonen to authorize Barr Engineering to continue the Home Acres Watershed Analysis work outlined in Amendment A to Work Order #1 in the amount of

\$36,767.00 thus extending the general agreement with Bar Engineering to December 31, 2010. Discussion: Councilor Shafer asked where the funding for this project would come from. Mr. Suihkonen replied that the City will propose the study to be included on state aid street project which would also include storm sewer along with construction funding.
Motion CARRIED

3. **Hibbing Public Library – Ginny Richmond, Director**

a) **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Project Proposal**

Ginny Richmond was present to relay up-to-date information regarding this project and notice of intent. The grant application is due next Monday. She reviewed the notice of intent and noted that most requests for this grant are \$100,000. She is working with Mike Larson of S.E.H. and they are currently analyzing if the energy projects will be able to show a payback in 2 – 10 years. Even though the grant application shows no requirement of matched funding, it will look better on the application to show that the project will be supported locally. The priority items listed for this proposal are the window project and HVAC portion. Deadline of project completion is March 31, 2011. Grants will be approved in March 2010 and work could begin as early as April.

The HVAC and windows project total is \$179,000 with \$100,000 coming from the grant and \$79,000 of local money. Mrs. Richmond noted that the grant could be done at whatever level the council wants but once the grant is accepted the City needs to commit to completing the project.

Mayor Richard M. Wolff, supported by Councilor Frank Bigelow moved to concur with Hibbing Public Library Director Ginny Richmond to begin the application process for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Project for improvements to the Hibbing Public Library window replacement and HVAC system repairs. The estimated dollar amount of the grant request is \$100,000 with a match of \$79,000 and commitment of completion from the City of Hibbing.

4. **City Attorney's Office – Richard Sellman**

a) **Ordinance No. __, 2nd Series: Amending Provisions of the City Code relating to Gambling.**

The Gambling Commission has requested this ordinance change due to changes in state law. Basically, any organization wanting to conduct a raffle will need to file for a permit with the City and the Gambling Commission will review the applications. If the prize limit is under \$1,500 the Gambling Commission would review the application and the application would not require Council approval. For prize limits over \$1,500, applications will be reviewed by the Gambling Commission and then would also require Council approval.

Councilor Shafer asked if the public is aware of the permit requirements. An advertisement will be published to notify the public of the procedures for raffle permit applications.

Councilor Harkonen, supported by Councilor Bigelow moved to adopt **ORDINANCE NO. 367, 2nd SERIES: AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 2 ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT" BY AMENDING SECTION 2.22 ENTITLED "CHARITABLE**

GAMBLING COMMISSION” AND CHAPTER 6 ENTITLED “OTHER BUSINESS REGULATION AND LICENSING” BY AMENDING VARIOUS PROVISION OF SECTION 6.44 ENTITLED “GAMBLING”; AND, BY ADOPTING BY REFERENCE, HIBBING CITY CODE CHAPTER 1, SECTION 2.99 AND SECTION 6.99 WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS, CONTAIN PENALTY PROVISIONS. (Ordinance herein incorporated and on file in the Council Office.) Motion CARRIED

5. **Mayor’s Office – Richard Wolff**

a) **Resolution 10-01-02 Support of Polymet Mining Northmet Project**

This Resolution will show support of the project taking place in Hoyt Lakes. The comment period ends February 3, 2010 and the resolution needs to be submitted by February 3rd for final documentation to be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Mayor Wolff, supported by Councilor Lund moved to adopt **RESOLUTION NO. 10-01-02 SUPPORT OF POLYMET MINING NORTHMET PROJECT** (Resolution herein incorporated and on file in the Council Office). Motion CARRIED.

VI. LICENSES AND PERMITS

- 1) Councilor Lund, supported by Councilor Harkonen moved to approve the 2010 On-Sale & Sunday Liquor License Renewals in the City of Hibbing. Motion CARRIED
- 2) Councilor Harkonen, supported by Councilor Bigelow moved to approve the 2010 Off-Sale Liquor License Renewals in the City of Hibbing. Motion CARRIED
- 3) Councilor Bigelow, supported by Councilor Lund moved to approve the 2010 Wine On-Sale Liquor License Renewals in the City of Hibbing. Motion CARRIED
- 4) Councilor Harkonen, supported by Councilor Bigelow moved to approve the 2010 Club On-Sale & Sunday Liquor License Renewals in the City of Hibbing. Motion CARRIED

VII. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business brought before the Council, Councilor Lund supported by Councilor Bigelow moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m. Motion CARRIED

Richard M. Wolff, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Patrick L. Garrity, Clerk-Treasurer