

**THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE HIBBING CITY COUNCIL
May 5, 2010**

TIME AND PLACE: A regular meeting of the Hibbing City Council was held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Hibbing City Hall Council Chambers.

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

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wolff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ADDs & DELETES: Mayor Wolff read into the record the revisions to the original agenda.

- **ADD:** Consent Agenda, Accounts Payable dated May 5, 2010
- **ADD:** Consent Agenda Item #11
- **ADD:** Boards & Commissions, Heritage Preservation Commission Resident Applicant

I. APPROVE MINUTES:

- Councilor Bigelow, supported by Councilor Lund moved to approve the minutes of the Emergency Meeting of the Hibbing City Council of Thursday, April 15, 2010. Motion CARRIED
- Councilor Lund, supported by Councilor Harkonen moved to approve the minutes of the Hibbing City Council Retreat meeting of Tuesday, April 20, 2010. Motion CARRIED

II. CONSENT AGENDA: Councilor Bigelow, supported by Councilor Lund moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items minus Item #4, #6, and #7 as pulled for discussion. Motion CARRIED

1. Approve Accounts Payable dated:
 - 04/29/2010, checks #134601 - #134710, in the amount of \$181,904.59
 - 05/05/2010, check #134711, in the amount of \$1,429.73
2. Approve City Payroll for Pay period ending 04/23/2010, checks #151367 - #151378, in the amount of \$328,610.56.
3. Authorize an internal/external hire for an Administrative Assistant in the Hibbing Police Department.
4. Approve Proclamation of Fit City Week in the City of Hibbing, May 1st – 8th, 2010.

Item #4 Pulled for Discussion: Melissa Gryzbowski, with (SHIP) State Wide Health Improvement Program was present to review the activities and events that are scheduled during this year's Fit City Week. She is working with Hibbing Healthy Life Styles Coalition. This proclamation would provide an opportunity to recognize the activities going on in the community this week.

Mayor Wolff, supported by Councilor Sater moved to approve the Proclamation of Fit City Week in the City of Hibbing, May 1st – 8th. Motion CARRIED

5. Approve Proclamation of Salvation Army Week in the City of Hibbing, May 10th – 16th, 2010.
6. Adopt Resolution for Application to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority for Clean Water Revolving Fund/Drinking Water Revolving Fund.

Item #6 Pulled for Discussion: Councilor Bigelow, supported by Councilor Sater moved to adopt **RESOLUTION NO. 10-05-01 APPROVING THE DRINKING WATER APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE HIBBING PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY FOR PURPOSES OF SECURING FINANCING TO RECONDITION THE HIGHLAND WATER TOWER** (Resolution herein incorporated and on file in the Council Office) Motion CARRIED

7. Adopt Resolution for Application to the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and Regional Transportation Advisory Committee for the purpose of in-kind transportation planning services.

Item #7 Pulled for Discussion: Councilor Lund, supported by Councilor Bigelow moved to adopt **RESOLUTION NO. 10-05-02 APPLICATION TO THE ARROWHEAD REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF IN-KIND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING SERVICES** (Resolution herein incorporated and on file in the Council Office) Motion CARRIED

8. Authorize awarding the contract for the Recycling and Waste Reduction Grant from St. Louis County Environmental Services Department to MDI for Recycling Containers.
9. Set the next Hibbing Council Retreat for Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Range Regional Airport Conference Room.
10. Set the next regular meeting for the City Council for Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber.
11. To alleviate the need for Street Vendors to have a Transient Merchant License for the Hibbing Chamber Sponsored Street Dance, (The Council waives the Transient Merchant fee as long as the vendors are to be located within the defined area of the event). The Council authorizes the waiver of the requirements for such vendors to have Transient Merchant Licenses.

III. PUBLIC FORUM:

- **Chris Petrack, Captain and Union Member of the Hibbing Fire Fighter's Union**
Mr. Petrack stated the minimum staffing language by union contract is six and the department is now down to four. He said that he works for the people of this community and wanted to make sure the Council is aware of the consequences of being short-staffed. He reviewed what happens when they are down to four and the changes of the day to day operations. He also commented that he is aware of the financial status of the City and is also asking for the Council's long term plan. Mr. Petrack also commented that he feels that there is a communication issue between labor and management. He feels strongly that communication should be improved

and other things could be discussed to preserve staffing and to also meet the new challenges faced by the City.

- **Matt Ashmore, President of the Hibbing Fire Fighter's Union**

Mr. Ashmore stated that he is present tonight with grave concerns of citizen's safety with the staffing shortfall as response times for ambulances have changed. He said that in recent ambulance calls, they have had to call in for mutual aid because their staffing has been cut and he felt this was unacceptable to the citizens and should also be unacceptable to the Council. He also stated that he had received conflicting information from the City Administrator regarding the cutting of the staffing to four. Mr. Ashmore stated the Fire Department staff sick time usage has gone up due to the increased work load and cuts in staff. He also said that there has been no operational plan given to the department but just the action of a cut in staff. Mr. Ashmore had received a letter from the City Administrator asking for \$561,000 of cuts to help the city. Mr. Ashmore also noted the department's hope for keeping the staffing at a six person minimum and that the Fire fighters are willing to give up money through contract concessions for citizen safety. Mr. Ashmore mentioned that he had met with the City Administrator several times offering concessions and wondered if the discussions had been shared with the Council.

Mayor Wolff invited Mr. Ashmore to do a presentation at the next scheduled Council Retreat on May 18, 2010. Mr. Ashmore expressed concerns of the format of a retreat and city business and if they follow the open meeting law. Mr. Ashmore felt that it would work best if the Council would meet individually with the union at the fire hall.

Clerk Garrity asked to share some responses by pointing out that the big picture is that the Governor has reduced Legal Government Aid and Taconite Aid to the tune of \$1.9 million and the Governor is looking at making more cuts. The Clerk also mentioned that the Supreme Court has now stated the Governor abused his authority on making those cuts. The City has made \$1.3 million cuts already and yet we have not laid-off one employee. Clerk Garrity told Mr. Ashmore that it is hurtful to imply that we are cutting staff. This council is working hard and has not filled any positions. Clerk Garrity said that the City has a 42-person fire department with 24 full-time and 18 paid on-call staff. Clerk Garrity also responded to the comment of the staffing cuts as the Council did not change the shift to four, rather the Council agreed to call backs at four. He explained this type of staffing by saying that this means there are six or seven people on shift and staff can get called to the fire hall when down to four. Clerk Garrity stressed the number one focus is safety and security. He also said the City has not laid anyone off and are not trying to force people to retire. We lost \$451,000 in taconite aid and we can't keep ahead of this. We need new businesses to create revenue.

Clerk Garrity stressed the point that that City is trying to keep a safe and proud community. It is not true that we are down to 4 people because the shifts are staffed with 6 or 7. Clerk Garrity explained that dispatch notifies both the paid staff and the paid on-call and it bothers him to read the false statements in the paper about the lack of response due to the staffing. The City is worrying about every cut we've made and are making. Clerk Garrity also wanted to clarify that a Council Retreat is legal and is an excellent place for a presentation. The Clerk mentioned that he has already met with Mr. Ashmore and two other gentlemen from the fire union on a Sunday night and discussed the city finances. Clerk Garrity said that he has a sincere concern of safely manning the fire department along with the police department and public works and he needs the public to believe that the City is doing the best we can. As of this date, no one from the fire union has given these concessions to the Council as stated by Mr. Ashmore. Clerk Garrity reiterated that there are 42 fire fighters and ambulance personnel with 24 paid full-time and 18 paid on-call and that all staff will need to work together toward the safety of the community.

Mayor Wolff agreed with what Mr. Petrack said about answering to the people in Hibbing. The Council has to answer to not only the community but to all of the departments of the City and that needs to be balanced. Mayor Wolff said that public safety is our top priority and we will not compromise that. He noted that efficiency and dollars that can be saved need to be looked at as well as other ways to do business. Mayor Wolff encourages all City departments to find ways to save money and to be accountable not just the Fire Department. The situation in St. Paul is unclear and with the negotiations between governor and legislature there may be additional cuts. We are committed to making this work.

City Administrator Redshaw commented that the City departments need to cut overtime and if the fire department continues as is the overtime projections will be approximately \$109,000 over budget and for this reason of financial and budgetary concerns, the Chief has had go to the 4 person call back to keep control over the escalating costs of this financial and fiscal challenge.

Mayor Wolff expressed his appreciation for Mr. Petrack's and Mr. Ashmore's input and encourages additional conversations.

IV. BIDS AND QUOTES:

V. DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Building & Housing Department – Pat Green, Building Official

- a) **Planning Commission Recommendation – Conditional Use Permit Petition of Alan Vine**
Councilor Harkonen, supported by Councilor Shafer moved concur with the Planning Commission recommendation to approve the Conditional Use Permit Petition of Alan Vine.
Motion CARRIED

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

a) **2010 City Paving Program**

Currently the City Paving Budget includes \$100,000 from the general fund capital improvements, \$44,000 from the Cemetery Budget, and \$250,000 from the State Aid Maintenance funds. Mr. Suihkonen stated the priority project cost equals \$85,000 to be used toward non-participating items on the 11th Avenue East State Aid Project adjacent to the Lincoln Elementary School and he also reviewed the other paving projects. He is asking for Council direction for the amount to proceed with for project bids.

Councilor Bigelow asked for consideration for the area between 29th and 31st Street and 6th Avenue East for mill and overlay. Mr. Suihkonen will review for a budget cost for that project. Clerk Garrity also asked to include intersections that need to be fixed before there is additional damage for instance the corner of 1st Avenue and Howard Street.

Mr. Suihkonen requested Council authorization for \$85,000 for the state aid projects and would provide a cost value of the other projects at a future meeting.

Councilor Harkonen, supported by Councilor Bigelow moved to authorize the \$85,000 toward the State Aid Project and to proceed with the bid process for the 2010 City Paving

Program. Discussion: Council members will contact Mr. Suihkonen with any additional areas to be considered. Motion CARRIED.

b) Public Works Lighting / St. Louis County Proposal

The St. Louis County proposal to change the lighting fixtures to high efficiency fluorescent lighting at the Public Works Facility shows a payback of 2.95 years. The total cost of the project is \$20,995 and the City share is 38% or \$7,980.

Councilor Bigelow, supported by Clerk Garrity made motion to move forward with the Central Range Public Works Facility Lighting Project proposal from St. Louis County with the project cost share of the City of Hibbing at 38% or \$7,987.10. Motion CARRIED

c) 2010 City Sidewalk Program

Currently the City Sidewalk Program is budgeted for \$25,000. During the past two years, seven residential petitions for sidewalk work have been accumulated. Mr. Suihkonen is requesting Council direction to move forward with directing funds towards these petitioned projects or to hold them until a future time.

Mayor Wolff, supported by Councilor Harkonen moved to authorize the use of City Sidewalk Program funds towards the petitioned residential sidewalk projects. Motion CARRIED

d) Municipal State Aid Street System Revisions

The Office of the State Aid has issued a directive to member cities to review the systems for non-existing segments that have been on the system more than 30 years. Mr. Suihkonen has determined two segments that will not be built and should be deleted from our system as well as three segments that should be added to other streets and reconstructed.

Councilor Tim Harkonen, supported by Councilor Frank Bigelow moved to concur with City Engineer John P. Suihkonen: To delete the following segments from the Municipal State Aid Street System Revisions:

- 19th Avenue from 41st Street to O'Rourke Road
- 12th Avenue from 31st Street to 34th Street

And To add the following segments from the Municipal State Aid Street System Revisions:

- 41st Street from 4th Avenue East to Highway 169/73
- 3rd Avenue from 37th Street to 39th Street
- 4th Avenue from 39th Street to Highway 169/73

MOTION CARRIED

e) Graysher Cleaning and Televising Proposal

S.E.H. has provided three proposals for the cleaning and television project in Graysher Addition. Funds for this project are available from the remaining funds in the \$750,000 in the 2009 IRR Taconite Tax Grant.

Councilor Lund, supported by Councilor Shafer moved to award the bid for the Graysher Cleaning and Televising Project to Ritter and Ritter in the amount of \$27,805.88. Motion CARRIED

3. **City Attorney's Office – Richard Sellman, Attorney**

a) **City of Hibbing – Tower Lease with SBA Structures, Inc.**

Mr. Sellman brought forth a utility amendment request to amend the lease between the City and SBA Structures in pay a \$20 per month lease and to pay retroactively for electric usage since the year 2000.

Chief Pogorels reported that the building had housed equipment for five radio systems for the fire, police, and public works. The original agreement provided that Hibbing would be responsible for the electric power necessary for the five radios but the radios were not separately metered and SBA has been paying for the entire electric bill since taking over the tower lease. He reviewed the history of the meter and with the seasonal heating and cooling the monthly utility bill varies from \$70 - \$170. He also noted that in the near future with the upgrade to the 800 MHz this equipment would be obsolete and the City would no longer have a need to house equipment in the tower. SBA has proposed that the City either pay \$20 per month or install a meter for the equipment.

Mayor Wolff, supported by Clerk Garrity moved to approve the utility amendment for the Maple Hill Tower Lease to pay SBA Structures, Inc. \$20 per month and retroactive charges to January 1, 2000. Motion CARRIED

5. **City Administrator's Office – Brian Redshaw, City Administrator**

a) **Staffing Efficiency Recommendations for the Public Works Department Vacancies**

Mr. Redshaw reported that the Public Works Department has one employee out on a leave of absence and has a full time vacancy due to a termination. He also reviewed the current staffing of the Public Works Department. The Staffing Efficiency Committee is requesting approval for three internal hires to fill those vacancies.

Councilor Frank Bigelow, supported by Councilor Jack Lund moved to concur with the Staffing Efficiency Committee to authorize the internal hire of Jeff Lang as Equipment I Operator to replace Robert Vance at the Public Works Department. Motion CARRIED

Councilor Frank Bigelow, supported by Councilor Jack Lund moved to concur with the Staffing Efficiency Committee to authorize the temporary internal hire of Chuck Lindberg for Equipment II Operator at the Public Works Department. Motion CARRIED

Councilor Frank Bigelow, supported by Councilor Jack Lund moved to concur with the Staffing Efficiency Committee to authorize an internal hire for a Temporary Skilled Laborer to replace the position held by Chuck Lindberg at the Public Works Department. Motion CARRIED

VI. LICENSES AND PERMITS

- None at this time.

VII. BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**1. Historic Preservation Commission: Mayor's Appointment**Member of Hibbing Historical Society (1 Vacancy, 3-year term)

- *Applicant:* Pru Lolich
Mayor Wolff, support by Councilor Lund moved to appoint Pru Lolich for a term of three years (April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2013). Motion CARRIED

Member - Local Architect (1 Vacancy, 3-year term)

- *Applicant:* Roger Saccoman
Mayor Wolff, support by Councilor Shafer moved to appoint Roger Saccoman for a term of three years (April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2013). Motion CARRIED

Member from City Assessor's Office (1 Vacancy, 3-year term)

- *Applicant:* Bruce Sandberg
Mayor Wolff, support by Councilor Lund moved to appoint Bruce Sandberg for a term of three years (April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2013). Motion CARRIED

Member At Large (1 Vacancy, 3-year term)

- *Applicant:* Trish Grahek Durie
Mayor Wolff, support by Councilor Harkonen to appoint Trish Grahek for a term of three years (April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2013). Motion CARRIED

VIII. OTHER

1. Mayor Wolff pointed out a recent newspaper article in the Hibbing Daily Tribune reporting that there may be a shortage of volunteers at the Hull Rust Mine View and the Greyhound Bus Museum this tourist season. He stated that volunteers are our greatest ambassadors and if anyone has time to devote to two of our community treasures, please contact them.
2. Councilor Bigelow asks the citizens of Hibbing to be patient with the street crews and the projects this summer.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the Council, Councilor Lund, supported by Councilor Sater moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

CITY OF HIBBING

Richard M. Wolff, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Patrick L. Garrity, Clerk-Treasurer