

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH IN THE COUNTY OF CHISAGO AND IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

REGULAR SESSION

December 8, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The North Branch City Council met in regular session and Mayor Lindquist called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Councilmembers present were Kathy Blomquist, Theresa Furman, Ronald Lindquist and Trent Jensen. Councilmember Joyce Borchardt was absent. Staff members present were City Administrator Konrad, GIS Specialist Sondrol, Fire Chief Grote, Finance Director Hill and City Attorney Squires.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Claims
- Resolution No. 090-12-08-14– Budget Transfer
- Minutes – October 27, 2014 Regular Session
- Minutes – November 6, 2014 Work Session
- Minutes – November 20, 2014 Work Session
- Transient Merchant License – Custom Remodelers
- Staffing Service Contract Agreement – Amendment for Affordable Care Act
- Authorize Closed Session on Labor Negotiations.

Motion by Furman, seconded by Jensen, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

NONE

COMMITTEE/COMMISSIONS:

6A PLANNING COMMISSION

A1 Planning Staffing

Konrad noted that the Planning Commission has asked the Council to discuss going out for an RFP for planning services. The City Attorney reviewed the contract with the County and reported that the contract does have a hard end date of December 31, 2014. Konrad presented a draft contract amendment which would extend the contract until December 31, 2015 but would allow for a three month notification to terminate the contract early.

Blomquist is okay with extending the contract 90 days. She feels this is a joint effort with the County and the City.

Lindquist said he is in favor of 90 days.

Konrad indicated that she spoke to the County and the position is in both the City and County's 2015 budget.

Furman said she would like to give staff three months to decide what to do.

Jensen said that Borchardt suggested saving money by contracting and the other option was to hire for more time.

Lindquist said that the County makes its decision on December 17.

Jensen said he does not understand the concern.

Motion by Blomquist, seconded by Jensen, to extend the contract with the Planner for 2015.

Konrad noted there is a three-month termination contract.

Blomquist would like to extend the contract to March 31, 2015 with the incoming Council to determine how to proceed.

Blomquist withdrew her motion.

Furman asked if there is a union involved with this position. City Attorney indicated that this is a contract for services with the County so the union concern is not relevant.

Motion by Blomquist, seconded by Jensen, to approve First Amendment to the Contract for Planning Services with Chisago County through the end of 2015 with option to terminate with three-month notice. Ayes – 2, Nays – 2. Motion failed.

Furman said she would agree to a three-month extension.

Jensen said if he knew he had 90 days he would be out looking for a job.

Furman asked about renewal of the contract automatically. City Attorney indicated that the contract has a hard end date of December 31, 2014.

Motion by Furman, seconded by Jensen, to extend the Contract 90 days and notify County Board of reason for the action. Member voted: Ayes – 3, Nays – 1(Blomquist). Motion carried.

Konrad noted that the matter would be placed on the first work session of the year for further discussion on options.

6B ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
B1 Minutes **INFO**

6C PARK COMMISSION
C1 Minutes **INFO**

C2 Sale of Parklands

Sondrol outlined the sites chosen by the Park Commission for possible sale and explained that the type of funds used to purchase the property or if the lands were obtained through park dedication dictates how any sale funds are used. He provided copies of the City Attorney's opinion on properties where the sale would be allowed. Sondrol noted that the Park Commission is not recommending any action on sale of park land.

Jensen would rather keep land open than give it back to a developer.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Blomquist to accept the Park Commission recommendation to no pursue sale of any park lands. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

6D WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSION **NONE**

STAFF REPORTS:

7A ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS **NONE**

7B ADMINISTRATION

B1 Fire Department Vehicle Purchase – DNR Vehicle

Fire Chief Grote indicated that the Fire Department was notified of DNR vehicles for sale and there is one vehicle that staff believes will improve grass fire equipment. It is a 2004 Ford F350 with 78,000 miles for \$6,500. If the DNR sells it to a fire department, there is a 30% discount off the sale price and then there is safety equipment of \$4,200 for a total of \$8,750 for the purchase of the vehicle and equipping it.

Furman asked for a budget update and where the funds would come from. Hill indicated that expenses for 11 months are in and there is some remaining balance.

Furman commented that she had asked if there is money left over she had wanted it to go toward a second vehicle. Chief Grote indicated that there is not a second vehicle available to purchase.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Furman, to approve the purchase of the used DNR vehicle totaling \$8750 with purchase, pain and lights.

Blomquist said she wishes that something new could be purchased.

After discussion, all voted AYE. Motion carried.

7C BUILDING NONE

7D FINANCE

D1 2015 Final Budget & Levy

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Furman to approve Resolution No. 091-12-08-14, "A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2014 BUDGET AND TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN 2015, FOR THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH, CHISAGO COUNTY, MINNESOTA." All voted AYE. Motion carried.

D2 Financial Report

INFO

Hill noted that revenues are about on plan and expenses through 11 months are at 85%.

7E LEGAL NONE

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:

NONE

Blomquist indicated that Facebook connections continue to grow.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

12A Upcoming Agendas

INFO

12B Commission Appointments

Motion by Blomquist, to appoint Laurie Warner to the Parks, Trails & Open Space Commission. Motion died for lack of a second.

Blomquist stated there was only one woman on our commissions and felt we needed more women on our commissions.

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Motion by Furman, to appoint Tessa Hill to the Parks, Trails & Open Space Commission. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Furman, to appoint Charlie Heinzl to the Parks, Trails & Open Space Commission. Members voted: Ayes – 3, Nays – 1(Blomquist). Motion carried.

Motion by Blomquist, to appoint Robert Walz to the Planning Commission. Motion dies for lack of second.

Motion by Furman, seconded by Jensen, to appoint Tom Borchardt to the Planning Commission.

Blomquist said that she thinks it sends the wrong kind of message to have a husband and wife on the Planning Commission and the City Council.

Jensen said he had a concern about that but the fact that Joyce Borchardt was elected with her husband already on the Planning Commission factors in.

After discussion, Ayes – 3, Nays – 1(Blomquist). Motion carried.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Furman, to appoint Matt Falk to the Water & Light Commission.

Blomquist said she is disappointed in this Council because the family relationships in this case are the same as the Planning Commission, in her opinion.

After discussion, Ayes – 3, Nays – 1(Blomquist).

Motion by Blomquist, to appoint Dennis Johnson to the Economic Development Authority. Motion dies for lack of second.

Motion by Furman, seconded by Jensen, to appoint Bob Streater to the Economic Development Authority. Members voted: Ayes – 3, Nays – 1(Blomquist). Motion carried.

12C Rush Line Update

Blomquist provided information on the park and ride in Forest Lake.

Konrad thanked Mayor Lindquist and Councilmember Jensen for the time and leadership provided to the City. She then presented Certificates of Appreciation.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Furman to recess to closed session for labor negotiations and City Administrator performance review.

Meeting reconvened at 8:26 p.m.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Blomquist, to approve the Teamster's Supervisor's 2014-2015 Contract as written. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

Council reported that the City Administrator's review was conducted . Motion by Jensen, seconded by Furman, to approve 1% COLA January 1, 2015 and a step increase effective July 1, 2014, and a 1% COLA January 1, 2015, and a step increase July 15, 2015 for Administrator Konrad. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

Furman acknowledged that Konrad is doing additional work and it is appreciated. Konrad thanked the Council for this consideration.

Motion by Furman, seconded by Jensen to adjourn. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

ADJOURNED: at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgitte Konrad, City Administrator
jrl/TOSS