

**City of Stewartville  
City Council Regular Meeting Minutes  
Stewartville City Hall  
June 14, 2011**

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) OPEN MIC**

**III. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL** –Mayor King called the meeting to order on June 14, 2011 at 7:00 pm. Present: King, RHanson, Miller-Beach, Stensrud and JHanson. Also Present: City Administrator Schimmel, Finance Director Neubauer, Public Works Director Stevens and City Clerk Roeder.

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Motion by JHanson, second by Stensrud to approve the amended agenda. Unanimously approved.

**V. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by RHanson, second by Miller-Beach to approve the amended regular meeting minutes of May 24, 2011. Unanimously approved.

Motion by Stensrud, second by Miller-Beach to approve the City/Township(s) meeting minutes of May 25, 2011. Unanimously approved.

Motion by RHanson, second by JHanson to approve the City/High Forest Township meeting minutes of May 25, 2011. Unanimously approved.

**VI. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Motion by JHanson, second by Miller-Beach to approve the accounts payable excluding Birch Concrete, which would be discussed later in the meeting. Voting in favor: JHanson, Miller-Beach. Voting against: RHanson, Stensrud and King. Motion failed.

Motion by RHanson, second by Stensrud to approve the accounts payable as submitted. Voting in favor: RHanson, Stensrud and King. Voting against: JHanson and Miller-Beach. Motion carried.

**VII. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

**VIII. PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARING**

Rebecca Gisel representing Alliant Energy presented Council with a 2010 Energy Assistance rebate check in the amount of \$6,982.47. Gisel informed Council that Sean Hale started investigating ways to save energy on the city's well pumps and due to his hard work the City was able to save 32,140 kilowatt hours/year or \$4,500 in energy cost reduction for each year. She not only praised Hale but thanked Schimmel, Stevens and Neubauer for their work. Mayor King thanked staff for always looking for ways to save us money.

**IX. MOTIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS**

**A. Variance Randy Swanson – 110 10<sup>th</sup> St. NW** -Swanson has submitted a variance request from the maximum building height of 15' to build a garage with a 18'4" peak and for a variance from the 1200 sq. ft. maximum to build a 1600 sq. ft. garage. The Planning Commission is recommending approval of the two variances.

Motion by RHanson, second by Stensrud to approve the request and adopt the Findings of Facts as submitted by the Planning Commission. Unanimously approved.

**B. 4<sup>th</sup> St. Sidewalk Updates** – JHanson reported that she had talked with Mr. Finley and Mr. Crook about the sidewalk in front of their homes. She noted that both Stensrud and King have also viewed these areas. JHanson feels that we were not in compliance with our ordinances or with ADA guidelines. JHanson read portions of the ordinance pertaining to the 2% grade to street side, noting that she felt we violated this section.

RHanson stated that Chad Birch was a very experienced contractor and that our Public Works Director has decades of experience. He stated that he trusts staff and the contractor that it was done correctly.

Stensrud stated that our ordinance allows for variations and that they may be approved by our Public Works Director.

King stated that he requested that Dave Strauss from Yaggy Colby Assoc. and Bill Angerman from WHKS view the sidewalks and asked them to report any concerns back to him. He noted that both parties had no concerns due to the retro-fit in this case. He asked JHanson where all this is coming from stating that 1% to 2% isn't a big problem and doesn't understand why she wants to make it a problem. King asked which property owners weren't satisfied and JHanson responded that she wasn't satisfied.

Miller-Beach noted that she has been getting e-mails from Finley and felt that he was satisfied. She stated that she understands starting from scratch vs retro-fitting a sidewalk and feels that some areas need to be grandfathered in.

Schimmel addressed Council stating that customer satisfaction deals with their property and noted that City right of way would be the Council's concern. He referred back to Council's decision to proceed with the sidewalk project, reminding them that they had two goals in mind. One was to fix a bad sidewalk and the other was to provide a safe route to the pool. He stressed that Council has achieved both goals. He stated that MnDOT provides guidelines that are used throughout the State, which are followed with new sidewalks and are followed to the best ability with retro-fitting but should be understood that they are only guidelines. He also reminded Council that during the discussion leading up to the approval, they never requested that this project be engineered.

**C. High Forest Township Road Agreement** – Schimmel stated that High Forest Township was requesting that the Council give formal approval at tonight's meeting.

Motion by RHanson, second by Stensrud to include the following language in the Road Maintenance Agreement with High Forest Township for 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW: Any major reconstruction or maintenance that arises, the two parties will meet and come to a mutual agreement. Voting in favor: RHanson, Miller-Beach, Stensrud and King. Abstaining: JHanson. Motion carried.

**D. Council Workshop** – Schimmel asked Council what type of workshop they wanted. He indicated there were three options:

- Discussion on future objectives/goals
- Discussion with staff on future objectives/goals
- Bringing in a facilitator to discuss working together and how to come up goals/objectives

Miller-Beach stated that she wanted to work on objectives/goals. RHanson and Stensrud agreed. JHanson stated that she has issues on how the City conducts business. King stated that the Council needs to get together on what we are doing for the City and not ourselves. He stated we need to

decide if we want to move this City forward or kill it as we have been doing the last six months. He stated it was time to get down to business. Council agreed to meet on June 22 at 9:00am to discuss future objectives/goals.

**F. Oxidation Ditch Gear Box-** The gear box that is used in the oxidation ditch at the WWTF has been rebuilt and is ready to install. Three bids have been received with Al Lynse Construction being the low bid at \$5,240.

Motion by RHanson, second by Stensrud to award the bid to Al Lynse Construction. Unanimously approved.

**G. EDA Loan – G. Johnson -** Schimmel stated that a letter was received from Johnson stating that the loan would be paid within 10 days. Since the letter was received Johnson indicated that the money was in a trust fund and the attorney was making disbursements. Schimmel stated that no payment has been received. RHanson indicated that it's been 12 months since the last payment and thought Council should follow the recommendation of the EDA and call the loan for 30 days.

Motion by RHanson, second by Stensrud to proceed calling the loan with interest. Voting in favor: RHanson, Stensrud, Miller-Beach and King. Voting against JHanson. Motion carried.

## **X. MAYOR, STAFF AND CONSULTANTS REPORTS**

**A. Mayor** – King commented on the following:

- Sympathy to the families of: Janice Marshall, Dorothy Meyer, Betty Timm, Pauline Frie, Janet Hajek and Bill Griebenow
- Congratulations to Darrell & Julie Jaeger – 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary
- Congratulations to Bill & Margo Mestad – 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary
- Congratulations to Zion Luther Church – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Congratulations to Dr. Thompson on the Administrator of the Year by Mn Assoc. of Educational Office Professionals
- High Forest Old Settlers Day – Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>
- Thank you to Public Works for their hard work in getting the community gardens ready this spring – it turned out to be very challenging with all the rain we've had
- Thank you to the SHS Building Construction Class and Instructor Ernie Moeller for constructing the raised garden beds for the Care Center

**B. Administrator**– No report

**C. Finance Director** – Attending the LMC Conference and Safe Routes to School application has been submitted.

**D. Public Works Director** –Reported:

- 2010 CIP – final lift next week
- 6<sup>th</sup> St. Traffic light project has started
- Well# 3 should be back on-line next week

**E. Library Director** - No report

**F. Fire Chief** - No report

## **XI. COMMITTEE, COMMISSIONS AND BOARD REPORTS**

- Care Center- No report
- Chamber of Commerce – June Newsletter
- City Beautification/Mn Design Team – No report
- EDA/HRA - No report
- Emergency Operations Task Force – No report
- Finance- No report
- Heartland Express- Monthly Update
- Library- No report
- Park Board- Minutes of June 8th
- Personnel- No report
- Public Safety/Safety Committee – Regional Mtg Minutes of May24th
- Planning & Zoning – No report
- Public Works- No report
- RAEDI- No report
- ROCOG- No report
- SCCC/STEW19 – No report

## **XII. COMMUNICATIONS**

- June Newsletter
- Charter Communications
- Lions Cert. of Appreciation

**XIII. ADJOURN** – Motion by Miller-Beach, second by JHanson to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Roeder, City Clerk