

August 9, 2010
City Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Staner, Council members Henry, Knepper, Moriarity and Soppe answered roll call, Boffeli was absent. Motion Soppe, 2nd Knepper to approve the agenda – all ayes.

Merlin “Whiskers” McDermott asked when sidewalks will be started and what areas were decided upon. Council member Henry indicated that the Sidewalk Committee will meet on Monday night. McDermott asked for a copy of the list of all sidewalks that were determined to need repairs or replacing and asked if the meetings were open to the public. Henry responded that he could get a copy and that the meeting would be open to the public.

Motion Moriarity, 2nd Soppe to file the Park Board minutes – all ayes.

Ed Recker, 913 3rd Ave SE reported on the condition of the house at 209 Madison St SE and asked the Council to begin the process for condemnation and demolition of the property. Susie Volk, 905 3rd Ave SE added that they have been “living next to a dump” and have been to City Hall several times to ask for the upkeep of the property. Administrator Lansing reviewed the process for condemnation. Council member Henry favors moving forward with this property and would like to include other properties in similar condition in this process. Merlin “Whiskers” McDermott questioned why the property on 1st Avenue next to McLees Plumbing was notified to make repairs and this property was not given that chance. Lansing reported that an individual named Jason Ramsey looked at the Madison St property and is interested in rehabbing it only if the City does not condemn. Council member Henry would like a timeframe put in place for the necessary repairs. Council member Moriarity would like a reasonable amount of time given for this person to make livable. Motion Soppe, 2nd Knepper to send the owner of 209 Madison St SE a nuisance letter – all ayes.

Bill Schmidt, 717 7th Ave SW would like the City to divert the water coming from the southwest water tower to the west side of McKinley St. Schmidt spoke with Jones County Engineer Mike McLean and Jones County would be in favor of this possibility since there is already an easement on that side. Pat Kearney, 805 7th Ave SW indicated that the City is draining approximately 175,000 gallons of water every time hydrants are flushed and this seems like a tremendous waste. Kearney asked if an agitator or pump or some type of upgrade could be added to both towers to eliminate drainage. Kearney asked what the estimates were to divert water. Lansing reported that to divert the water along the east side of McKinley it would be around \$15,000 and to divert on the west side about \$7,200. Marcus Behnken, 609 7th Ave SW feels the lack of drainage of the rear yards has gotten worse over the last four years and he feels it is due to the lack of drainage of the yards further east of the tower. Behnken would like elevation readings taken of the yards to determine flows. Motion Henry, 2nd Moriarity to contact the manufacturer of the water towers to see what options and costs there are for an upgrade and then inform the property owners of these options – all ayes.

Council discussed the water problems along McKinley St NW. Council member Moriarity indicated that curb and gutter would be a good solution. Moriarity also questioned if curb and gutter would help the problems that the City is having on 2nd & 3rd Ave NW. Motion Moriarity, 2nd Henry to price curb and gutter on both sides of McKinley St NW and contact the property owners – all ayes.

Motion Soppe, 2nd Henry to begin the process of the vacation and sale of the unused right-of-way along Industrial Street SE – all ayes.

Motion Moriarity, 2nd Henry to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance 13-10 vacating a portion of 2nd Ave NW from Tyler St NW 200’ west to its dead end. Henry, Knepper, Moriarity, Soppe – all ayes.

Motion Henry, 2nd Soppe to table Resolution 50-10 establishing stipends for certain ambulance crew members until we can find out what the dollar amount other similarly sized cities pay their Director and Records Keeper – all ayes.

Bids for 2nd Ave NW curb were received as follows: 3M Construction, Cascade \$3,360 and McCabe Construction \$4,675. Motion Henry, 2nd Moriarity to approve Resolution 51-10 awarding a contract to 3M Construction, Cascade for the replacement of 120' of sinking curb & gutter on 2nd Ave NW. Moriarity, Soppe, Henry, Knepper – all ayes.

Bids for improvements to the pool bathhouse were received as follows: 3M Construction, Cascade \$1,663, McCabe Construction, Cascade \$1,985 and Dave Benke Home Improvement, Cascade \$2,370.50. Motion Henry, 2nd Moriarity to approve Resolution 52-10 awarding a contract to 3M Construction, Cascade for installation of soffit & fascia on the pool bathhouse. Soppe, Henry, Moriarity, Knepper – all ayes.

Motion Henry, 2nd Soppe to approve a \$1,575.40 change order with Midwest General & Mechanical Contractor Inc. on the Polk St Lift Station Project – all ayes.

Administrator Lansing reported that the City must pay for all salt ordered by the City and received at the terminal in Dubuque this coming winter season. In the past the City only paid for salt that the City took delivery of.

Motion Henry, 2nd Moriarity to approve payment to Howard McDermott for basement clean up and wall repairs due to the City's water service line leaking at the west well house and turn the claim into the City's insurance for reimbursement – all ayes.

Motion Moriarity, 2nd Knepper to appoint Steve Sauser, 1204 6th Ave SE to the Planning & Zoning Commission – all ayes.

Motion Henry, 2nd Knepper to approve the August bill list, the 7/26/10 Council minutes and the July Treasurer's Report and Fund Balance Report – all ayes.

Motion Henry, 2nd Moriarity to file correspondence – all ayes.

Chief Heim reported the department could get a laptop computer and software as well as a light bar donated from Dubuque. Chief Heim also reported that repairs to the squad car continue to build and would like the Council to consider a new car.

Administrator Lansing reported that the City Hall Gym roof is still leaking and will have Weber Urethane do a more thorough inspection to determine what repairs are needed. Clean up of the floods is done and there were no property damages reported. There is 2' of sand on Kerpers flat that the City will pay to have hauled. There is a sidewalk committee meeting on Monday, 8/16 at 5:30 pm. at City Hall. Lansing would like to schedule a Street and Alley Committee meeting this week. The City received \$10,400 of additional I-Jobs funds and will look at what alleys to use this on.

Motion Henry, 2nd Knepper to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. – all ayes.

Shelley Annis, City Clerk