

CITY OF GILBERT
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2011
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor Bellerud called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Bellerud, Councilors Garrity, Gentile, Nemanick and Omersa.

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Attorney Lindsay, City Engineer Jamnick, Police Chief Skelton, Operations Director Lautigar, Library Director Prieve, Campground Caretaker Smith, City Clerk Darrow and Confidential Secretary Devich.

Mayor Bellerud led the audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Garrity second by Omersa to approve the following additions to the agenda:

1. Approve minutes of Closed Council Meetings of September 26, 2011.
2. Approve minutes of Cemetery Advisory Board Meeting of October 6, 2011.
3. Approve additional bills and payroll.

All approved.

Motion by Nemanick second by Gentile to approve minutes of Regular and Special Council Meetings of September 26, 2011. Motion carried with Councilor Omersa abstaining.

Motion by Garrity second by Omersa to approve minutes of Library Board Meeting of September 7, 2011. All approved.

No public input.

Councilor Nemanick announced a new business, "So Wild", has moved into the building by the liquor store on Dakota Avenue East. Council requested the City Clerk to send a welcome letter to the owner of the new business.

Councilor Nemanick commented on the most recent "onion" sent to the Mesabi Daily News and requested people not to make personal attacks on the City employees.

Councilor Garrity questioned if the summer casual laborer employees were done for the season and City Clerk Darrow confirmed they had completed their shifts.

Councilor Garrity welcomed Sam Lautigar into his new position as Public Works Operations Director. Council discussed the necessity of hiring another Equipment II Operator now that Lautigar is the Operations Director and Ken Kuitunen will be retiring in January 2012. Lautigar agreed there is a need to replace him because he cannot do his old job and new job both.

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Motion by Garrity second by Nemanick to post an Equipment II Operator job opening with the City of Gilbert with the same list of qualification and requirements as when Lautigar was hired for the position. All approved.

Councilor Garrity stated issues with the hours worked by the City Clerk and noted the Clerk's employment contract states he is to work Monday through Friday. Councilor Omersa inquired about hours worked by City employees as well as the hours worked by the City Clerk.

Councilor Garrity stated he wanted to have it officially recorded on record that the City Clerk did not follow up on a motion passed by the City Council to have the lights erected in the Lake Ore-Be-Gone development. Councilor Garrity asked if additional poles, not approved by the Council, were purchased. City Clerk Darrow indicated that they have not been purchased.

Councilor Gentile stated the Council should not go into personnel performance issues, as discussed by Councilor Garrity, during a Regular Council Meeting. City Attorney Lindsay agreed the performance related issues need to be addressed at a Closed Council Meeting. Councilor Garrity stated he would retract his previous statements pertaining to the City Clerk.

Councilor Omersa questioned what should be done to mark the different layout at the beach for snowmobilers. Police Chief Skelton agreed that red ribbon should mark areas snowmobiles should not go through. Operations Director Lautigar stated he has planned to take the rope out by the beach but leave it at the fire pit area and mark with reflectors.

City Engineer Jamnick updated the Council on the various projects.

Police Chief Skelton explained the Police Department has not upgraded weapons in over 20 years and would like the Councils approval to trade in the old weapons against the cost of new weapons.

Motion by Gentile second by Omersa to authorize the Police Chief to purchase new weapons for the department and to trade in the old weapons against the cost of new ones. All approved.

Operations Director Lautigar updated the Council on projects the Public Works Department is working on and requested the City advertise for rink attendants. Council questioned Lautigar if the department would be able to do a fall cleanup. Lautigar stated he did not have the men to spare for fall cleanup. Councilor Omersa questioned if there was money in the budget to hire workers for the fall cleanup noting the City should supply services for the people in the community. Councilor Gentile responded the community will have to do without a fall cleanup this year and requested the picnic tables by the beach be picked up before the snow starts.

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Library Director Prieve expressed thanks to Councilor Nemanick and City Clerk Darrow for attending the last Library Board Meeting to help explain the budget process. Prieve updated the Council on various projects at the Library. Councilor Gentile questioned Director Prieve on the status of the floors at the Library. Prieve explained repairs are needed because some tiles are damaged but the cost is too much unless the City and/or the Library Foundation help with paying for the repairs. Councilor Garrity stated the Community Center roof needs tuckpointing soon or the re-roofing will have been pointless. Prieve replied Clerk Darrow and he are looking into grant opportunities for the tuckpointing.

Motion by Gentile second by Omersa to authorize the City Clerk to advertise for Rink Attendants at rate of \$10.00 per hour and authorize the Operations Director to hire. All approved.

Campground Caretaker Smith reported on Sherwood Forest Campground earnings for the 2011 season noting the City Clerk would give a complete report later. Smith noted when considering the cost of fuel, State shutdown, weather conditions and tourism down everywhere it was still a good season for Gilbert.

Mayor Bellerud stated City Clerk Darrow has not been with the City a full year yet but has gotten almost a million dollars in grant monies and funding for Gilbert. Bellerud stated the Clerk's hours should not be in question as he has seen him working late and does not put in for overtime.

Motion by Nemanick second by Gentile to approve payment of bills and payroll subject to audit by Mayor and Clerk (check no. 10854-10921). All approved. Councilor Garrity stated he has questions regarding the bills but will save them for a closed meeting with City Clerk Darrow.

Motion by Gentile second by Nemanick to approve the January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2013 AFSCME and LELS Union contracts with the wording changes noted at the Special Council Meeting earlier upon review by the City Attorney. All approved.

Motion by Nemanick second by Gentile to approve Resolution in Support of the Eveleth-Gilbert Public School District's Proposed Operating Referendum. All approved.

City Clerk Darrow gave an update on the 2011 projects and 2012 planned projects. Darrow noted the following projects were 100% funded through grants by the IRRRB, St. Louis County and Inland Mining Co: City of Gilbert Downtown Plan, City of Gilbert Comprehensive Planning Project, Lake Ore-Be-Gone Beach and Boat Landing Improvements, Minnesota Department of Health Grant Water Treatment Grant, Iowa

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Avenue Improvements, Summit Street Improvements and Indiana/Wisconsin Avenue Improvements projects.

City Clerk Darrow stated the City received the following two bids for the Catch Basins Repairs on Nebraska, Ohio and New Jersey Avenues:

Jola and Sopp Excavating, Inc.	\$58,590.00
Utility Systems of America, Inc.	\$79,810.00

Motion by Nemanick second by Omersa to accept the bid from Jola and Sopp Excavating, Inc. for a total not to exceed the amount of \$58,590.00 for the Catch Basins Repairs on Nebraska, Ohio and New Jersey Avenues as recommended by the City Engineer. All approved.

Motion by Garrity second by Omersa to formally support the City Clerk to submit the following grant applications to the IRRRB by October 17, 2011:

Alaska Avenue Improvements	Not too exceed \$500,000
Infrastructure Improvements	Not too exceed \$200,000
Joint Application Mesabi Road Improvements	\$75,000 * joint application with Virginia and Eveleth

All approved.

City Clerk Darrow recommended the Council approve submittal of a Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant through the Department of Employment and Economic Development and a Landscape Partnership Grant through the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Darrow explained the purpose of the Business Development Grant is to stimulate economic development activity through the assistance of public infrastructure funds and the Landscape Partnership Grant will be used to improve the landscape design at the north end of TH 135 and TH 37 and southern end of TH 37. Councilor Nemanick questioned if there are any grant monies available for the buildings that need to be taken down. Darrow replied not until next spring for residential buildings but he will check with the County to help with funding the hazardous removal process. Nemanick noted he does not want the taxpayers of Gilbert paying for anything on private property.

Motion by Nemanick second by Gentile to authorize the City Clerk to submit a grant for the Business Development Public Infrastructure Program through the Department of Employment and Economic Development and also a grant request to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Landscape Partnership Grant. All approved.

City Clerk Darrow explained in order to get a reduction on insurance rates for 2011 and 2012, the City is required to designate three council members and two Planning and Zoning members to review a land use incentive program webinar.

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Motion by Gentile second by Omersa to designate Mayor Bellerud, Councilors Garrity and Nemanick along with City Clerk Darrow, Zoning Administrator Wedge and Planning and Zoning member Mark St. Lawrence to review a land use incentive program webinar at cost of \$30.00 per person. All approved.

Motion by Garrity second by Gentile to authorize the City Clerk and City Engineer to prepare the necessary information for Council review at the October 26, 2011 Regular Council Meeting to get a reduction on insurance rates for 2011 and 2012 through the LMCIT Sewer Incentive Program. All approved.

City Clerk Darrow explained Minnesota Power has not billed the City of Gilbert for DC Line MISO charges from July 2010 to June 2011. This was brought to Minnesota Power's attention in July of 2011. Rather than billing the City of Gilbert for the entire year (July to July), Minnesota Power Management has decided to only recover the DC Line MISO charges from July 2010- June 2011 and waive the first 6 months of 2010 DC Line MISO charges. The total DC Line MISO charge from July 2010 to June 2011 is \$8,764. Minnesota Power is agreeing to waive \$4,560.52. The new balance would be \$4,203.48.

Motion by Gentile second by Omersa to use the True-up credit, interest free until July 2012 and if the City does not receive a true-up the City will pay \$4,203.48 prior to July 1, 2012. All approved.

City Clerk Darrow stated an interested party is inquiring if the City would consider selling a parcel of land located along lower Wisconsin Avenue by the Skenzich Arena. The individual would like to build a home with geo-thermal energy used as the heat source which is why the need for a larger parcel of land. The parcel would require a zoning change and possibly a variance. Further discussion followed.

Motion by Gentile second by Nemanick to authorize the City Clerk to move forward with the inquiry to sell the parcel of land located along lower Wisconsin Avenue. All approved.

City Clerk Darrow explained the Wandering Pines is interested in expanding their restaurant and is requesting the City assist with the concept plan and survey of the property in order to move forward with the proposal. City Engineer Jamnick noted the RLK previously surveyed the property but pins are missing because of construction. Council agreed it is the responsibility of the property owner to have the property surveyed and noted the City had it surveyed when the property was sold but is not responsible to help with paying to have it surveyed it again regardless of the reasons.

Mayor Bellerud noted the City Charter Commission revisions to the City Charter and stated no action needed at this time.

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Lengthy discussion followed concerning the request from the City of Eveleth to discuss joint police services with the City of Gilbert. Council agreed to have Mayor Bellerud, Police Chief Skelton and City Clerk Darrow meet with the City of Eveleth and report back to the Council.

Motion by Gentile second by Nemanick to approve minutes of Closed Council Meetings of September 26, 2011. Motion carried with Councilor Omersa abstaining.

Motion by Nemanick second by Gentile to approve minutes of Cemetery Advisory Board Meeting of October 6, 2011. All approved. Mayor Bellerud expressed his gratitude to the volunteers who helped with the mapping of the cemetery.

Motion by Nemanick second by Omersa to approve payment of additional bills and payroll subject to audit by Mayor and Clerk (check no. 10922-3). All approved.

Motion by Gentile second by Omersa to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. All approved.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

The aforementioned is a summary of the action items from this meeting. To listen to the full transcript of this meeting, please contact City staff at 218.748.2232.