

CITY OF GILBERT
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

Present: Mayor Kutsi, Councilors Pontinen, Skalko, Bol & Liimatta.

Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Attorney Bonnie Thayer, City Engineer Jamnick, Chief Techar, Public Works Operations Director Lautigar, Library Director Miller and City Clerk/Treasurer Sakrison.

Mayor Kutsi led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion by Skalko second by Liimatta to approve the agenda. All approved.

Public Input:

Beth Milos gave her thoughts on the following issues:

- Possible Budget/Finance Oversight Committee.
 - She thinks it is a good idea.
 - She felt that if people weren't losing their homes, paying high taxes, or drowning in debt, the City would be doing well and not need the public's help.
 - She does not see how having a Budget/Finance Oversight Committee could be a bad thing. The citizens are overtaxed, the property values are plummeting, so she wants to know why this would be a bad idea. She feels the City is not doing well at all and drowning in debt.
- First Responder Training.
 - Again, she thinks this is a good thing.
 - She mentioned that her mother-in-law was in charge of the First Responders for 10 years and never got paid. But did it as a service to the community.
 - She asked Steve Peterson, who is currently in charge of the First Responders, when did he start to get paid for that position. Steve Peterson stated that it was approved in June 2015. She then asked him how many calls he had been on and meetings he had been to since September 1. Steve said he would have to check his time sheets. Beth stated that she had his timesheets and that he had not been to any calls or meetings since September 1 and she has an issue with that. She would like him to look into that and report back at the next meeting. She believes that if he is getting paid for the position there should be time being put in.
- Beth stated that she knows of two companies that would like to come to Gilbert but won't because of the high taxes.

Councilor Bol also hoped that the other Councilors would approve the Budget/Finance Oversight Committee as he believes it is a good idea.

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Kate Giese also spoke about the Budget/Finance Oversight Committee and that they would like to also find ways to grow the businesses and generate revenue, in addition to overseeing the budget.

Nick Ouke questioned the charges to the City from the City Attorney and City Engineer for the DNR trail easement. City Attorney Thayer stated that she negotiated with Arcelor for the easement for the DNR Trail, and City Engineer Jamnick did the sketches and survey for the easement. He also questioned costs for the digester, which Public Works Operations Director Lautigar explained is for the sewer plant and that is was for services provided when the digester was failing. He then questioned the Lower Florida Infrastructure and the engineering fees charged for that. Lautigar stated that the engineering fees are included in the total cost of the project, and a lot of the projects have been paid for with grant money. He also wanted to know how the Councilors were going to vote for the Budget/Finance Oversight Committee. Mayor Kutsi stated that is an item on the agenda for tonight's meeting and would be discussed at that time.

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to approve December 22, 2015 Regular City Council Minutes. Approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Liimatta to approve Resolution 2016-01 Official Designations.
Discussion: Pontinen questioned on the appointment of the City Attorney and asked if there were other firms asked to give proposals for that position. City Clerk Sakrison noted that Colosimo Patchin & Kearney was the only proposal received and that she was not directed to send out an RFP to receive any others. Pontinen also stated that he only wants the attorney present at one meeting a month and the City would save \$250/month. Mayor Kutsi stated that he feels their presence is needed at both monthly Council meetings and it will be kept the same.
Approved 3 ó 2.

Motion by Bol second by Skalko to approve 2016 Regular Council Meeting Schedule. Approved.

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to approve City Attorney Colosimo Patchin & Kearney to do Property Title Work, and City Engineer JPJ Engineering to do any right-of-way work needed to complete the Property Title Work. Councilor Bol asked what the cost estimate of the city attorney would be. Attorney Thayer said that with a preliminary look at the work she does not believe it would be an excessive cost. Councilor Pontinen asked what the cost estimate for the City Engineer work would be. City Engineer Jamnick stated that it would depend how the land was platted. Estimates could be given before work was done once it was looked into. Motion was amended to just include the Attorney Property Title Work. Approved.

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to NOT WAIVE the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes, Section 466.04, as recommended by the City Attorney. Approved.

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Motion by Skalko second by Liimatta to renew the City's membership in RAMS for \$700. Pontinen wanted to know if we are getting \$700 worth of services. Skalko noted that at the recent meeting you can see a positive change in the organization and there was a lot of power in that room, and that representation is important. Mayor Kutsi feels that the organization has really turned around and they do a lot of lobbying. Approved.

Motion by Bol second by Pontinen to form a Budget/Finance Oversight Committee.

Discussion: Bol feels that more eyes the better. Pontinen stated that there are 11 people willing to help the City. Mayor Kutsi would like to follow the Charter. Bol feels if this is turned down, the City will continue to run inefficiently. Liimatta agrees that there are already boards to provide oversight that are not filled, that were set up and designed to advise the council, he believes the oversight is already set-up and to fill the existing boards. Skalko noted that this is not the first time this has been discussed, and it has been turned down before, he feels that this would start interfering with people doing their jobs and that we need to keep trying to move ahead. Kate Giese stated that there are 11 people that are willing to kick start the City and come up with ideas to help give advice to the City to troubleshoot, people want to change, we can do what we want to needle into your business, it's all public record. Skalko asked why it could not stay as an Economic Development Committee. Ouke stated that we can talk about economic development all we want, no one will come until the City lowers taxes. Bol publicly supports forming this committee and feels if it is prevented that people are afraid of what the committee will bring forth. Kutsi feels that he finds the time to do what he was elected to do. Beth Milos asked the councilors if they are too good to accept the help?

Motion Failed 2 - 3. Pontinen ó Aye, Skalko ó Nay; Kutsi ó Nay; Bol ó Aye; Liimatta ó Nay.

Motion by Liimatta second by Kutsi to approve two of the Gilbert First Responder members to attend some of the Arrowhead EMS training from January 21, 2016 to January 24, 2016 not to exceed \$1,000. Approved 4 ó 1.

Councilor Pontinen stated that he is disappointed that the Budget/Finance Committee was voted down.

Mayor Kutsi spoke with Senator Tomassoni on the IRRRB Feasibility Grant. He was invited to a meeting Thursday to discuss the new sulfate standards. And he was invited by the MPCA to go down to the Twin Cities on Thursday to meet with the Governor and he declined as it was just a photo op. Discussed changing chemicals at the water plan to transition from lime, but need pilot testing done to see if chemical would work with existing equipment at plant.

Councilor Bol thanked whoever took care of the potholes at the Holiday Gas Station. He also was disappointed in the Budget/Finance Committee not being formed. He wants the council to strongly reconsider forming the committee. Why turn down free help?

City Attorney Thayer thanked the council for the appointment of City Attorney for another year.

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City Engineer Jammick noted that the Contractor on Hwy135 project is responsible for the maintenance at the project site. He updated on the funding cycles. The CDBG application has been submitted and the 15 minute presentation is January 14, 2016 for the sanitary sewer work in Genoa. The IRRRB is seeking a public works project grant.

Chief Techar noted that he gave out the December activity report.

Public Works Operations Director Lautigar stated that the two rink attendants are set up and are running on their own and working out well. Pontinen asked what they do when it's not snowing. Lautigar stated there are a lot of maintenance issues that they are catching up on, organization, painting walls, waxing floors, interior maintenance and sanding.

Library Director Miller

- Adult Winter Reading Program ó Hot Reads for Cold Nights is in progress. Adults can enter into a drawing for each book they read for a chance to win a prize from the Library Foundation, held the first week of March
- Anima Club meets on Friday, January 15, 2016
- Closed January 18, 2016 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Magic the Gathering will be January 21, 2016 @ 4:00 p.m.
- The movie *Minions* will be on January 22, 2016
- Coloring Club on January 25, 2016
- Councilor Skalko asked if they were getting any feedback on being closed on Saturdays. They have not heard much.

Motion by Skalko second by Liimatta to require hard copies of Land Use Permits to be kept at City Hall. Approved.

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to approve bills and payroll subject to audit by Mayor and Clerk. Approved 4 - 1.

Mayor Kutsi acknowledged the 2016 Meeting Schedule for the Planning and Zoning Board.

Motion by Skalko second by Bol to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Debra Sakrison, City Clerk

ATTEST:

Robert Kutsi, Mayor