

CITY OF GILBERT
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

Present: Mayor Skenzich, Councilors Nemanick, Skalko, Kusti and Schutte.

Absent: None.

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

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

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

Public Hearing held to consider the grant application for the proposed MNTH 135 Utilities project. City Engineer Jamnick discussed the proposed project and that the 2010 Census qualifies the City of Gilbert for the St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) because the low to moderate income guidelines are met. Two projects are being considered. The first project is lower Virginia Avenue and Florida Avenue utility replacement, the city had received IRRRB funds for part of this project last year. The second project would be to replace the water meters throughout the city of Gilbert, with remote electronic read. Approximate cost for the Virginia/Florida Avenue project would be \$383,000, and the water meters would be about \$240,000 for the residential portion of the water meter replacement project. Applications are due December 1, 2014. Mid to end of January 2015 is when the city would find out if it was awarded. Mayor Skenzich noted that he would like to see the water meter replacement project move forward if this grant money was received, because part of the stipulation of the CDBG grant is that property owners cannot be assessed fees when using these grant dollars so the utility infrastructure and street project could not be assessed to affected property owners. Schutte also likes the water meter replacement project because it helps everyone in the community. The inability to assess would be a detriment to doing the street infrastructure project. There was no public comment for or against either project. Motion by Schutte second by Kutsi to close the public hearing. All approved.

Jessica Sandnas, a resident of Gilbert, is concerned about the 2015 Proposed Budget. She feels that the police have gained a lot, and that residents are losing "City Services". Police Chief Techar explained their budget numbers for the police department have to do with being contracted with the City of Biwabik. City Clerk/Treasurer Sakrison explained that the budget for the Public Works Department did not cut any "City Services", but was not able to include money for equipment that they would like to upgrade or replace. She also wanted to know what the city is doing to attract businesses, like a grocery store, etc. Mayor Skenzich explained that there once was a grocery store in town that the residents did not patronage so it closed. She asked about if it would save money to have another company provide electricity to the city, such as Lake Country Power. It was pointed out that it would cost more to have another company come in and provide electricity, but the City Charter requires a vote by the residents and they would have to vote to sell the city's system.

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Jerry Samargia, a resident of Gilbert, asked about getting wind turbines on the hill for power that could generate money. It was noted that turbines are not as efficient as MN Power thought they would be because the wind is insufficient. He also asked when his curb stop water shutoff was going to be located. Public Works Operations Director Lautigar said he is on the list. Mayor Skenzich asked that he get to it as soon as he can.

Motion by Kutsi second by Schutte to approve the application from Steve Makowski as a First Responder Volunteer. All approved.

Motion by Schutte second by Kutsi to approve the November 12, 2014 Regular Council meeting minutes. All Approved.

Motion by Kutsi second by Skalko to approve payment of \$10,350 to the Eveleth Fee Office for the permanent easement for Enterprise Drive across the SE ¼-NW ¼, Section 25, NE ¼-NW ¼, Section 35 and SW ¼-NW ¼, Section 35 all located within Township 58 North, Range 17 West. All approved.

Motion by Schutte second by Mayor Skenzich to approve Resolution 2014-20 Supporting Grant Application for US EPA Brownfield Assessment. All approved.

Motion by Nemanick second by Kutsi to approve Resolution 2014-21 Adopting Assessment for Unpaid Charges. All approved.

Motion by Schutte second by Skalko to approve Resolution 2014-22 Authorizing Application to St. Louis County for CDBG, amending the Resolution to only include the utility meter replacement project. All approved.

Motion by Schutte second by Nemanick to approve liquor, club and tobacco licenses and to issue same provided all paperwork is completed, property taxes are paid and license fees are paid to the following:

- The Gladiator – On Sale Liquor
- Devo’s Sand Bar – On Sale Liquor, Sunday Liquor and Off-Sale Liquor
- Jim’s Seldom Inn – On Sale Liquor, Sunday Liquor and Off-Sale Liquor
- Nick’s Bar – On Sale Liquor, Sunday Liquor and Off-Sale Liquor
- Yo-r Mudders Place – On Sale Liquor, Sunday Liquor and Off-Sale Liquor
- The Whistling Bird – On Sale Liquor, Sunday Liquor
- VFW Post #4456 – On Sale Liquor, Sunday Liquor
- Woody’s Knotty Pine – Off-Sale Liquor Store and Tobacco
- Holiday Station Store – Tobacco
- Dugout – On Sale Liquor, Sunday Liquor and Off-Sale Liquor

All approved.

Motion by Schutte second by Kutsi to again table the Rental Ordinance. All approved.

Mayor Skenzich noted that the Roller Derby Girls donated \$100 to the city for their 2014 use.

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Councilor Kutsi asked about the damage done to the street by the contractor for the new house on Ore-Be-Gone Court. Public Works Operations Director Lautigar noted that an estimate will be done and a letter will need to be sent to the contractor that did the damage.

Motion by Schutte second by Kutsi to have City Clerk send letter to the contractor regarding damage to Ore-Be-Gone Court. All approved.

Attorney Kearney noted that they are available for anything that comes up with the Rental Ordinance and they are still working on the Udovich item.

City Engineer Jammick needs to get a meeting scheduled with the contractor, Utility Systems of America.

Motion by Schutte second by Skalko to hire Vernon Ryberg and Richard Mattson as rink attendants for the 2014-15 winter season. All approved.

Public Works Operations Director Lautigar reported various projects: The work being done on the wells by Peterson Well Drilling, silt was starting to come into the well, but they are trying a few things to get it cleaned up; 6,000 tons of lime has been hauled out of the lime pond and Mesabi Bituminous had fill hauled in to construct roads & berms in the lime pond.

Library Director Miller noted that they are closed November 27 & 28. There is another MnSure Q&A session scheduled for December 2, 2014 @ 5:30 p.m. The Christmas Tea will be on December 11, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Santa will be at the library on December 12, 2014 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Councilor Nemanick thanked Library Director Miller for all her programming as that is why the library is gaining support.

Motion by Schutte second by Kutsi to approve bills and payroll subject to audit by Mayor and Clerk. All approved.

Motion by Kutsi second by Skalko to acknowledge the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting minutes of October 6, 2014; and the EFGSD Joint Powers Recreation Board meeting minutes of October 8, 2014. All approved.

Motion by Kutsi second by Skalko to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. All approved.

Michael Skenzich, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra Sakrison, City Clerk