

CITY OF GILBERT
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

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

Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Attorney Michael Kearney, Police 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 Liimatta second by Skalko to approve the agenda with deleting items 4.B. & 4.C. All approved.

Public Input: None.

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to approve the September 8, 2015 City Council Work Session meeting minutes & the September 8, 2015 Regular City Council meeting minutes. All Approved.

Mary Lou Sixberry discussed her request to construct a chain link fence at her home in the Ore-Be-Gone Development and the differences between the info she received on-line and the Ordinance passed in 2007. The Ordinance states no chain link fence is allowed, but other types of fences would be O.K. Attorney Kearney recommends to deny the request and send it back to the Planning Commission. The Land Use permit can be extended at no charge.

Motion by Mayor Kutsi to deny the request of Mary Lou Sixberry to construct a chain link fence at her home in the Ore-Be-Gone Development and to send it back to the Planning Commission.

It was suggested that the Planning Commission call a special meeting to act on a variance request.

Motion by Mayor Kutsi second by Bol to deny the request of Mary Lou Sixberry to construct a chain link fence at her home in the Ore-Be-Gone Development and to send it back to the Planning Commission for a Variance Request. Approved.

Motion by Bol second by Skalko to rent the Community Center kitchen and dining room to the Gilbert Community Church for their annual pasty sale fundraiser for a reduced fee of \$100/day. Approved 4 to 1.

Motion by Pontinen second by Bol to set the 2015 Preliminary Levy at 0% increase. Roll call: Pontinen – Yes; Skalko – No; Mayor Kutsi – No; Bol – Yes; Liimatta – No. Motion fails 2 - 3

CITY OF GILBERT
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor Kutsi noted that the preliminary tax levy can be lowered once set, but it cannot be raised once set. Councilor Bol would like it to be more fairly distributed across all taxpayers. If something catastrophic happened and the levy was set at 0% increase, there would be a major shortfall for the next budget year. City Clerk/Treasurer Sakrison explained that a budget hearing would be set and the public is invited.

Motion by Mayor Kutsi second by Liimatta to set the 2015 Preliminary Levy at 10% increase, \$1,168,695 – Resolution 2015-17 Certifying the Proposed 2015 Tax Levy. Roll Call: Mayor Kutsi – Yes; Liimatta – Yes; Bol – No; Skalko – Yes; Pontinen – No. Approved 3 – 2.

Motion by Liimatta second by Bol to set the 2016 Budget Public Hearing for Monday, December 7, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m. Approved.

Motion by Pontinen second by Skalko to approve 2016 Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities membership and payment of dues of \$3,801. Approved.

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to approve scheduling the Fall Clean-Up for November 2 – 6, 2015. Approved.

Motion by Pontinen second by Skalko to read into record the 1st reading of the Amended Ordinance Chapter 54 – Electrical Systems. Approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Liimatta to approve the Market Based Electric Service Agreement with Minnesota Power effective September 1, 2015 with a term ending December 31, 2024. Roll call vote: Skalko – Yes, Liimatta – Yes, Bol – Yes, Pontinen – Yes, and Mayor Kutsi – Yes. Approved.

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to acknowledge the Revenue & Expense Financial Reports through August 31, 2015. Approved.

Motion by Bol second by Liimatta to set a Budget Work Session meeting for Wednesday, October 7, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m. Approved.

Councilor Skalko noted that Laverne Hogland is retiring from the Quad Cities Food Shelf and that there is an article in the paper regarding her tenure. It was a good one.

Mayor Kutsi

- He attended the Range Youth in Action meeting and they are doing good things.
- Mayor Kutsi met with U. S. Representative Nolan's aid Jordan Metsa and spoke to them about the mercury issues and the City's budget concerns.
- He met with the IRRRB and the City of Gilbert is going to reapply for a grant.
- He met with Senator Tomassoni and 3 members of the MCPA regarding the mercury issues. Deb Sakrison, Sam Lautigar and John Jannick were also at the meeting. He voiced the concerns on the cost.

CITY OF GILBERT
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
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- Talked to City of Eveleth to discuss sanitary sewer.
- He thanked Officer Smith and the Genoa Trail Board for the ATV trail markings.
- He thanked the City Crew for the wood chip clean-up on the roads from the semi-truck that had them dumping out.
- He would like the Land Use permits numbered and have approved permits forwarded to the Planning Commission.

Councilor Bol complimented the city crew for tree planting along the highway and to also thank them for the wood chip clean-up.

Public Works Operations Director Lautigar updated that the rock wall at the cemetery was shored up and the drain tile put in, a little work left to finish it up. The damage was due to a spring under the rock wall. There are 8 trees left to plant along the highway. Phase 1 was started today at the water plant to repair the water trough in the accelerator room.

Mayor Kutsi thanked Mike Sailor for finding the grant that provided the funding for the trees being planted along the highway through MNDOT.

Discussed the rock houses, and possibly setting up a bank account for people to donate money to restore the houses.

Library Director Miller:

- Adult murder/mystery was full and all the characters were taken. Everyone like it.
- 9/25/15 is movie night at 5:30 p.m., will be *Live Action Cinderella*.
- A Coloring Party will be on Monday, 9/28/15 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Lego Club meets Wednesdays starting 9/30/15 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. thru November. This is for Grades 3 and up.
- Anima & Monga Club meets monthly starting 10/9/15 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Liimatta second by Bol to approve bills and payroll subject to audit by Mayor and Clerk. All approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Liimatta to acknowledge the EFGSD Rec Board minutes of August 12, 2015. All approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Mayor Kutsi to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Debra Sakrison, City Clerk/Treasurer

ATTEST:

Robert Kutsi, Mayor