

**Minutes of Council Work Session and the Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday, January 22, 2013**

Mayor Skenzich called the Council Work Session to order at 6:03 p.m. All Councilors were present, as was Clerk Harper.

After discussing the adding of delinquent utilities to the property tax rolls, Council directed the Clerk to write a policy with costs for reconnection to the utilities, a statement of by what dates payments were to be brought to zero and then return the policy to Council. Council's general consensus was that residents should pay the bills owed to the City utilities, which would help bring the water and sewer into a positive bottom line number.

Council received the Computer/Technology Use Policy and will discuss it at a future meeting. Motion by Councilor Schutte to adjourn the Council work session, seconded by Councilor Nemanick. The work session was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Mayor Skenzich called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. All Councilors were present. Also present were Attorney Brunfelt, Engineer Jamnick, Police Chief Techar, Library Director Miller and Clerk Harper.

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

There were no additions to agenda.

Motion by Councilor Nemanick to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 8, 2013, seconded by Councilor Kutsi. Motion carried unanimously.

Peter and Taryn Greiner of the Vineyard Church, Iron Range Campus, discussed with Council the use of the Community Center for Sunday school and Sunday church services. They would like to rent the upstairs and downstairs of the Center. There may be an occasional use of the kitchen and Council asked the Greiner's to be on their honor to let us know their usage (to cover utility costs). The Greiner's agreed. The City expressed concerns about cleaning the Center for the Church's use if there was a party the night before in the Community Center. The Greiner's felt that they would be able to handle the cleanup if and when it was necessary. They also have a member who is moving to Gilbert, so asked for the resident fee of \$125 a day. Motion by Councilor Nemanick, seconded by Councilor Kutsi to allow/approve the usage of the Community Center by the Vineyard Church at the residential rate. Motion carried unanimously.

Allen Larsen, Operations Supervisor, Iron Range OHVRA (DNR) and Sam Johnson, Acquisition and Development Specialist, Trails & Waterways (DNR) discussed the IROHVRA Connecting Trail's need for use of City property for a reroute of their trail. This also would cause a reroute of the Mesabi Bike Trail. Larsen said that the land acquisition was complete with the wetland delineation and permitting continuing. They are monitoring the Highway 53 reroute if a northern route is chosen, as it may affect the Trail route. The proposed Trail route is along the Hwy. 135 right of way – cross under the highway via the underpass – head towards the mine entrance along with the Mesabi Trail – across City property and then along the power line. They may be shifting the Mesabi Trail south twenty feet. Council mentioned that Gilbert has already placed a 500 foot noise berm on City property because of the Trail. Johnson stated that the 'jersey barriers' used during traffic construction would separate the Trail from the pedestrian, bike, skater users of the Mesabi Trail. Johnson said that a landowner was charging the DNR \$10,000 a year for Trail land use so the DNR decided to find a way to obtain land ownership for the Trail. There is also a sliver of RGS owned land they will not let the DNR use. Johnson asked for either fee title to the City land, a permanent easement or a lease or joint powers agreement for Trail use

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of City property. Mayor Skenzich asked to see the route staked so he and other new Council members can understand exactly where the reroute will go before any decision is made.

Motion by Councilor Nemanick, seconded by Councilor Schutte to approve Roy Breeden as the Gilbert representative to the Joint Recreation Board Mayor's request for public input. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Skenzich asked Council to approve the appointment of Tom Smith to the Genoa Trail Committee. Motion by Councilor Schutte to so approve, seconded by Councilor Skalko. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Skenzich asked Councilor to approve the reappointment of John Zupancic to the Gilbert/Biwabik Police Commission. Motion to so approve by Councilor Schutte, seconded by Councilor Kutsi. Motion carried unanimously.

Skenzich said that real estate agent Donovan Goblirsch, who also sits on Gilbert's Planning and Zoning, is interested in becoming the real estate agent for Gilbert. He will submit a proposal to Council for these services.

Mayor Skenzich asked those in the audience and those watching by television to consider volunteering for a city committee and to please call him or city hall.

John Shega from the Aspire Insurance Agency presented Council with a quarterly update. He stated that he had been working on the City's inventory for additions or subtractions to the insurance policy, including adding the utility poles and transformers to the insurance; he estimates the value for the 232 electrical transformers in Gilbert at ~\$1,100,000 and the 850 utility poles at \$2,100,000. He continues to work on signs for the beach. The safety committee and Aspire are working together on a safety awards banquet, with the public invited and a date to yet be set. Shega also said that he is now the Chair of the Library Foundation and he is looking for the City's vision for the community center building where the library is housed. The Foundation also needs board members.

Mayor Skenzich called for reports from Council members, and staff. Councilor Nemanick asked that the public be more aware of their dogs barking because he has had residents complaining to him about the noise. Councilor Skalko stated that he has been working with the county on a plan to rid the City of the lime lagoon down by the Water Treatment Plant. He also is willing to distribute the minutes of the meetings to different places around Gilbert instead of publishing them in the paper because the cost is higher than expected. Anyone wishing to receive the minutes by mail or email is encouraged to call City Hall and get on the list. Councilor Kutsi said that although it is important to support smaller businesses in Gilbert and nearby cities, he thinks staff should keep in mind the best price possible for their purchases and use the big box stores too. Councilor Schutte said that she also is getting phone calls about barking dogs and dogs running at large in the City. She emphasized that the City does have a leash law.

City Attorney Brunfelt stated that the detachment case with four Gilbert residents is scheduled for a hearing on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. here in the City Council Chambers. Brunfelt said that a date is yet to be determined for another mediation session from AFSCME grievances. He and Mayor Skenzich discussed the need for a hold harmless agreement/licensing agreement with De Care for their use of the parking lots on city property.

City Engineer Jamnick stated that the De Care parking lot lights did not have a power source connected to the building yet, so are not yet functioning as predicted. Jamnick said that the expansion project is ahead of schedule with De Care expecting to move into the new building in

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February. The WWTP digester issue and MPCA requirements are close to final. In response to Councilor Nemanick's questions, Jamnick said that the sluice gate for the WWTP is not here yet and he will contact Jola and Sopp to get an update.

Police Chief Techar asked for Council approval for a grant from the St. Louis County Health Department to have a prescription drug drop box for public disposal with no charge for the service, at the Gilbert Police Department. Motion by Councilor Kutsi, seconded by Councilor Schutte to approve the grant as stated by Techar. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Harper mentioned that a pump three replacement will be needed at the WWTP. *{not a pump, but a drive, clarified by Lautigar the next work day}* Harper also mentioned the possible need for an electrical substation to serve the Water Treatment Plant due to a drop off in electrical service. Minnesota Power has provided a recorder so Gilbert can see if that is the problem. Library Director Miller updated Council on the continuing events at the library. She has begun a Family Gaming night which begins on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>.

City Clerk Harper asked Council to decide on which energy rebates the city wants to offer. This item was directed to the Fee Schedule Committee for discussion. Due to the publishing costs for putting the minutes in the newspaper, Councilor Kutsi made the motion to rescind his previous motion to publish the minutes in the Gilbert Herald, seconded by Councilor Skalko who seconded the original motion. Motion carried unanimously. Councilor Skalko mentioned his willingness to put copies of the minutes out into the community and to have the available at City Hall's front desk. The LGA estimate for 2014 was acknowledged as possibly being between cuts of ~\$18,000 to ~\$54,000. Harper said that the governor's budget came out today and more information on LGA will soon be available.

Erik Wedge came before Council to discuss the tuck pointing history at the Community Center to help Council decide to de-obligate or use the USDA loan to tuck point the Community Center. Dennis Tabbert from the USDA met with the mayor and clerk and said that the project could be downsized to fit the reduced budget needed because the tuck pointing bids were so high. Wedge also said that the bidding for tuck pointing should be done now before the company's season gears up, which may have something to do with the high bids last time because they were bid in August. Motion by Councilor Nemanick to hire Eric Wedge to continue to be the project manager for the tuck pointing project, seconded by Councilor Schutte. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Councilor Schutte, seconded by Councilor Skalko for Wedge to post the tuck pointing project for bids or quotes. Motion carried unanimously.

After a brief presentation by Erik Wedge from Planning and Zoning, the motion to accept and approve the Land Use Plan was offered by Councilor Kutsi, seconded by Councilor Nemanick. Motion carried unanimously. Wedge asked Council if they would like Planning and Zoning to review and update the zoning ordinance, which is currently from the 1980's. Motion by Councilor Schutte to so approve, seconded by Councilor Kutsi. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Councilor Kutsi, seconded by Councilor Schutte to approve the payment of bills and payroll as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Under the Correspondence section of the agenda: Council denied a request for funding from the

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Iron Range Youth in Action because it does not meet the public purpose clause for expending city monies. Council acknowledged the minutes of the E.F.G.S.D. Joint Powers Recreation Board Meeting of January 9, 2013; the minutes of the Gilbert Planning & Zoning Commission meeting of January 7, 2013; and the minutes of the East Range Cable Advisory meeting of December 7, 2012 with the edits intact by Steve Peterson who attended the meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Schutte, seconded by Councilor Nemanick. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Skenzich adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

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Mayor Michael Skenzich

ATTEST:

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Susan M. Harper, 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.