

CITY OF GILBERT
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

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

Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Attorney Bonnie Thayer, City Engineer Jamnick, 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 Skalko second by Bol to approve the agenda. All approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Bol to accept Kutsi's resignation as councilor to accept the Mayor's position. All approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Mayor Kutsi to accept Resolution 2015-01 Appointing Jeremy Liimata to fill the term of Councilor Kutsi until the term expires on December 31, 2016. Pontinen nominated Beth Milos as a candidate for Council Member and wanted to hear both candidates tell what they can do for the City and do a presentation. Bol also stated that he would like to hear from both candidates before making a decision. Mayor Kutsi stated that neither Pontinen or Bol were ever interviewed on camera to become Council Members. Skalko spoke to Beth Milos this afternoon and stated it was the first he had heard that she was interested in the position. Roll Call: Pontinen – No; Skalko – Yes; Bol – No; Kutsi – Yes. Attorney Thayer noted that the Charter states if there is a tie, then the Mayor appoints. The Charter does not require any process to have to occur. Mayor Kutsi appointed Jeremy Liimata as Councilor.

Resident Mike Peterson approached the City Council about organizing an Economic Development Board. He would be willing to serve on the board as a local business owner and he has a couple other business owner's that would be interested in serving on the board as well.

Resident Beth Milos also agreed about organizing an Economic Development Board. She wants to concentrate on existing businesses as well as new businesses and to make Gilbert a destination. She noted that there are many options for advertising such as Facebook, etc. She doesn't think that just advertising in the local newspaper generates anything. She noted that in Chisholm the 1st 2 years the City pays \$250 towards their mortgage and \$1500 towards signage. She talked about having coupons available for other local businesses.

Motion by Skalko second by Mayor Kutsi to approve the December 16, 2014 minutes for the Council Work Session. All Approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Mayor Kutsi to approve the December 23, 2014 Regular Council meeting minutes. All Approved.

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Motion by Skalko second by Mayor Kutsi to table Resolution 2015-02 Adopting Designation of Official Depositories, Designation of Collateral Authority, Designation of Official Newspaper for the City of Gilbert and Appointment of Acting Mayor and Legal Counsel. Motion tabled.

Attorney Brian Lindsay with the Trenti Law Firm, along with Joe Leoni, made a presentation to the City Council regarding their bid packet for becoming the City of Gilbert's official law firm. They would have a fee of \$250/month with attendance at one regular council meeting and be available for routine questions that the City Council or Administrators may have. Brian Lindsay would be the primary attorney. He stated that the city would gain the experience of their entire firm. Mayor Kutsi stated that he would prefer to have the attorney present at every regular council meeting.

Attorney Thayer noted that they wrote their contract for attendance at two meetings a month as that is what the City of Gilbert requested. If the City requested less time their cost could be adjusted.

Council Pontinen believes that accepting Trenti Law Firms bid would save the City of Gilbert a lot of money.

Motion by Skalko second by Mayor Kutsi to accept Resolution 2015-02 Adopting Designation of Official Depositories, Designation of Collateral Authority, Designation of Official Newspaper for the City of Gilbert and Appointment of Acting Mayor and Legal Counsel. Approved 3 – 1 vote.

Motion by Skalko second by Mayor Kutsi to approve the 2015 budget as presented. Bol asked about the budget being adjusted throughout the year or if it is set in stone. City Clerk Sakrison stated that it can be amended. Pontinen also stated his concern about the budget and wanted it to be known that he had nothing to do with setting the budget or the levy as it was set by the previous council. Mayor Kutsi stated that he would take full responsibility and that all the Department Heads and City Clerk worked very hard together with the council to set the budget. Approved 3 – 1.

Resident Beth Milos questioned how we can prevent the budget from not being ready on time in the future. Mayor Kutsi noted that they were waiting on approval of IRRRB grant monies to set the budget, so the approval of that item was why it was delayed. This could not have been prevented by the city.

Motion by Bol second by Skalko to authorize payment to the Eveleth Fee Office, Inc. in the amount of \$400 for calendar year 2015 for rent for a parcel of land in the SW-NW of Section 35, Township 58, Range 17. All approved.

Motion by Bol second by Skalko to re-appoint Donovan Goblirsch to the Planning Commission for a three year term to expire 01/31/2018.

Mayor Kutsi declared a vacancy on the Planning Commission due to the resignation of Erik Wedge. Wedge prefers to be staff advisory only, which would open up a seat to be filled on the Commission. Anyone willing to fill this position is asked to come forward.

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Motion by Skalko second by Bol to remove from the table action on Pay Estimate #7 to Utility Systems of America and to approve payment of \$17,677.27 for the 2013 Street/Infrastructure project. All approved.

Motion by Pontinen second by Skalko to authorize a loan to Mesabi Bituminous up to \$40,000 from the Storefront Loan Fund. All approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to approve Resolution 2015-03 Authorizing the City of Gilbert to Participate in the Minnesota Greenstep Cities Program. All approved.

Motion by Bol second by Skalko to authorize the City Attorney and City Engineer to proceed with acquiring an easement from the mining company for the requested length along the sound berm for the OHV connector trail. All approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to approve contracting with AAI for the services of monthly printing utility bills, folding, inserting both invoices and return envelope, sealing, storing and delivery to the post office for a price of \$190/thousand plus the cost of paper and envelopes. All approved.

Resident Beth Milos asked about sending out some tips to the residents about how to prevent water lines from freezing.

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to approve charging residents for running their water to prevent water lines freezing unless the utility customer has received permission from the city to run the water. All approved.

Councilor Pontinen introduced himself, read a statement and asked the public to contact him with their input or concerns.

Councilor Skalko had received a letter from Tim Olson regarding the rock houses. He would like to do something with the buildings. He will pursue this and report back.

Councilor Bol introduced himself. He has a heart for serving the people, and also asked the public to share their input with him.

Mayor Kutsi met with Commissioner Keith Nelson regarding the Highway 53 Bridge to combine the Mesabi Trail, snowmobile trail and ATV trail to connect to Virginia. Nelson is trying to get all of the cities on board with this mission. They want the bridge to be wide enough for the groomer.

Motion by Mayor Kutsi second by Skalko to send a letter supporting an addition to the Highway 53 bridge for the Mesabi Trail, snowmobile trail and ATV trails. All approved.

Mayor Kutsi and City Engineer Jamnick attended the CBDG Grant Hearing that gave a description on the water and electric meters. There will be a second meeting on January 15, 2015.

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Motion by Bol second by Pontinen to authorize the special meeting with the Council and the Planning & Zoning Commission to set up a meeting with Kraig Sortedahl due to violations. All approved.

City Engineer Jamnick gave an update on the Enterprise Trail project, improving the road access to Mesabi Bituminous. Bids should be in February. Still working on easements, drafts have been sent out to all of the owners involved. He did send a status report to the City Clerk's office.

Motion by Bol second by Skalko to approve the Criminal Justice System Services Agreement between Dakota County and the Gilbert Police Department for access to CJIN. All approved.

Public Works Operations Director Lautigar reported that they are working on a lot of small projects, nothing major is going on.

Librarian Nicole Miller reported on their events:

- 1/15/15, Thursday, Final MNSure Q & A @ 5:30 p.m.
- 1/20/15, Tuesday, Nicole will be teaching an ereader class at 5:30 p.m.
- 1/23/15, Friday, Movie Night – The Box Trolls @ 6:00 p.m.
- 1/24/15, Saturday, National Read-A-Thon Day – 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Soup & sandwiches will be available. Just come and read a book, you can bring your own book.
- Hot Reads for Cold Nights Drawing – every book checked out is entered into a drawing for a Kindle Fire HDX, Drawing will be held 3/2/15 or 3/3/15.

Leon Schanlaub's term is expiring on the Library Board at the end of January.

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

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to acknowledge the meeting minutes of Planning Commission meeting of November 3, 2014. All approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Bol to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Robert Kutsi, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra Sakrison, City Clerk