

CITY OF GILBERT
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor Kutsi called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Attorney 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 Skalko second by Pontinen to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Input:

Bill Addy discussed the car show scheduled for September 12, 2015 at the Wandering Pines. He is requesting to close a portion of Dakota Avenue East to allow vehicles to spin their tires. Chief Techar stated that he has no problem allowing it from a law enforcement standpoint. He raised the question of there being a potential liability to the City. Insurance Agent John Shega discussed the risk versus the reward of allowing the event. He discussed getting a special event policy to cover any potential liability. Attorney Kearney stated that it would need to be added to the next agenda to make a motion on it. Councilor Skalko suggested looking into moving the event across the highway in case any damage may be caused to the street.

Representative Jason Metsa discussed cliff jumping at Lake Ore-Be-Gone and the potential liability to the City. He feels that the cliffs are an asset to the community. He discussed the Laurentian Vision Partnership Grant through the IRRRB that may be available. He encouraged the City to look into the grant and stated that Deputy Commissioner Finnegan of the IRRRB also supports it. He stated that the City could initially look into a grant that would cover a feasibility study. He stated that he would be willing to help assist with the process.

Beth Milos discussed the Library Budget. She stated that it is currently at \$103,500, yet in 2009 it was at \$117,500. She wants to look at getting more businesses into town to get a revenue stream into the City.

Mike Peterson discussed the potential revenue stream that Lake Ore-Be-Gone could be. He feels that we should move forward with the feasibility study.

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Motion by Liimatta second by Bol to approve the August 11, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes and the August 17, 2015 Special City Council Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to acknowledge receipt of the 2014 Financial Statement Audit prepared by Walker, Giroux & Hahne, LLC, dated August 13, 2015. Motion carried.

Motion by Bol second by Liimatta to approve Lisa Staudaharø's variance request with the following findings of fact:

- Reasonableness: The request to construct a garage addition 24ø x 26ø garage on this lot was found reasonable. With today's modern family it is reasonable to believe that a two car garage fits the use of the property.
- Unique Character: When Lots 15 and 16 Block 5 were originally platted it was done before the adoption of the current city zoning ordinance of 1985. The current ordinance didn't take into consideration the old town and the small platted lot sizes. The unique topography to the east and existing retaining wall would be in question if structurally they could hold the weight of a new garage. Alley access to the east of lot would be prohibited.
- Character of Neighborhood: The adjacent property owners both east and west have 2 stall garages on old town platted lots. The request fits the character of the neighborhood.

Motion carried.

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to approve Richard Homola's variance request with the following findings of fact:

- Reasonableness: The request to build an 8ø high solid fence for privacy was found to be reasonable.
- Unique Character: The slope of the neighbor's property to south of fence has a grade change in excess of the site lines from the home into the Gulbranson property makes this request reasonable.
- Character of Neighborhood: The new fence will be constructed of wood similar to other fences in the neighborhood. The request fits the character of the neighborhood. Most neighbors in this area are surrounded by vegetation, trees, bushes, and shrubs taller than 8ø.

This variance approval includes the caveat that a utility easement exists, and if necessary, the fence may need to be taken down for access to the electric lines overhead. The City will not be responsible for any damage done to the fence or be responsible for re-installing the fence.

Motion carried.

Motion by Skalko second by Bol to approve Tom and Sharon Anderson's variance request on the following findings of fact:

- Reasonableness: The request to build an 8ø high solid fence for privacy was found to be reasonable.

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- Unique Character: The slope of the neighbor's property to the west has a grade change in excess of the site lines from the home into the Anderson property makes this request reasonable.
- Character of Neighborhood: The new fence will be constructed of wood similar to other fences in the neighborhood. The request fits the character of the neighborhood. Most neighbors in this area are surrounded by vegetation, trees, bushes, and shrubs taller than 8'0".

This variance approval includes the caveat that a utility easement exists, and if necessary, the fence may need to be taken down for access to the electric lines overhead. The City will not be responsible for any damage done to the fence or be responsible for re-installing the fence. Motion carried.

Motion by Pontinen second by Skalko to approve the quote from Water Tower Clean and Coat Inc. for the renovation of the accelerator trough located at the water treatment facility in the amount of \$28,000. Motion carried.

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to authorize making an application to the MN Rural Water Association for \$10,000 to seal and cap abandoned wells #1 and #2 at the water treatment facility. Motion carried.

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to approve Trudy Salo's request to attend the American Water Works Association Conference in Duluth September 17-18, 2015 and to pay the related costs of registration, lodging, meals, and mileage. Motion carried.

Public Works Operations Director Lautigar discussed the issue with the electric service on Summit Street. He stated that he spoke with Eric Alafita from MN Power and he suggested having the City's electrician try to help locate more specifically where the break is. Motion by Skalko second by Liimatta to authorize up to \$1,500 toward locating the break and then having MN Power repair the problem. Motion carried.

Motion by Skalko second by Liimatta to accept Jeana Ocepek's resignation from her position as Administrative Assistant, acknowledging her last date of employment will be September 1, 2015. Motion carried.

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to approve Resolution No. 2015-13 Resolution Accepting Bid for East Industrial Park Enterprise Trail. The lowest responsible bidder was Mesabi Bituminous. The base bid was \$117,608. Add Alt 1 was \$41,750. Motion carried.

Motion by Skalko second by Liimatta to approve Resolution No. 2015-14 Resolution Accepting Bid for MN T.H. 135 Water Main/Lower Florida Avenue Infrastructure. The lowest responsible bidder was Bougalis, Inc. The Lower Florida Avenue bid was \$293,840. The MN T.H. 135 Water Main bid was \$325,170. Add Alt 1 Summit Street was \$30,090. Motion carried.

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Motion by Liimatta second by Pontinen to approve Resolution No. 2015-15 Resolution authorizing the City of Gilbert to make application to and accept funds from the IRRRB Development Infrastructure Grant Program for the East Industrial Park project. Motion carried.

Motion by Skalko second by Bol to approve Resolution No. 2015-16 Resolution authorizing the City of Gilbert to make application to and accept funds from the IRRRB Development Infrastructure Grant Program for the Kansas Plat Site Preparation project. Motion carried.

Mayor Kutsi discussed the request by The Upper Midwest Trial Event to allow camping at the MN DNR OHV Park for the Moto-Trials in the summer of 2017. He stated that camping is not allowed at the OHV Park unless the City approves it, as part of an agreement between the DNR and the City. Steve Peterson discussed requiring that Sherwood Forest Campground be at full capacity before allowing overflow to stay at the OHV Park. Councilor Bol suggested asking for a percentage of the camping fees from the OHV Park. Steve Peterson stated that event participants are hoping to camp for free at the OHV Park due to the ATV registration fees they are already paying. Motion by Bol second by Liimatta to table the discussion. Motion carried.

Motion by Skalko second by Bol to have Mayor Kutsi and Clerk/Treasurer Sakrison contact the DNR regarding the Moto-Trials event. Motion carried.

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to set a City Council Work Session for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 8, 2015 for the purpose of discussing the City's preliminary levy for 2015. Motion carried.

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to acknowledge the City of Gilbert's achievement of becoming a Step 1 Level Green Step City. A letter will be sent to Tiffany to thank her for her work. Motion carried.

Motion by Skalko second by Liimatta to appoint Rebecca Robich to the Gilbert Public Library Board for a term ending January 31, 2017, finishing out Verna Yaklich's term. Motion carried.

Engineer Jammick discussed his meeting with Utility Systems of America. He stated that some cleanup work remains.

Councilor Bol inquired about repairing John Judnick's wall. Public Works Operations Director Lautigar stated they will get to it this fall.

Library Director Miller stated that the next Library Board Meeting will be Tuesday, September 1, 2015.

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Library Director Miller stated that winter hours will begin September 8, 2015. Winter hours are Monday-Thursday 10:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; Friday 10:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; and Saturday 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Motion by Skalko second by Liimatta to approve payment of bills and payroll. Motion carried.

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to acknowledge the July 8, 2015 EFGSD Joint Powers Recreation Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Skalko second by Liimatta to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried.

Debra Sakrison, Clerk/Treasurer

ATTEST

Rob Kutsi, Mayor