

**ORTONVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNTY OF BIG STONE, STATE OF MINNESOTA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
DIALYSYS BUILDING-435 EASTVOLD AVENUE  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2007  
7:00 P. M.**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Blair Johnson called the regular meeting of the Ortonville City Council to order at 7: 00 P. M. Roll call was taken with the following present: Mayor Blair Johnson, Nick Anderson, Mike Dorry, Dan Oakes, John Cunningham, Artie Arndt, and Bob Meyer. Staff present: City Administrator David Lang, City Attorney Craig Ash and Administrative Assistant Susan Lundell. Media present: Mike Swenson, (*Ortonville Independent*) and Julie French, (*KDIO Radio*). Also present: Planning Commission Chair Scott Simonitch, Golf Board Chair Terry Gere, Craig Randleman, David Dinnel, and Marcy Stotesbery of Central Park Restoration.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL:**

**8.c. Approve Appointment of Marcy Stotesbury to the Tree Board (not the Park Board)**

**10.c. Update: Historic Preservation Commission-Craig Randleman**

**12.e. Barricading Alley for the Haunted House**

*Motion by Oakes, second by Anderson to approve the Agenda as amended.*

**All in favor 7-0. MCU (motion carried unanimously)**

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS& RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**3.a. Update: Big Stone Lake Weed Removal**

City Attorney Craig Ash indicated there was nothing new to report on this item.

**3.b Update: Water Contract with Big Stone City**

Craig Ash stated the Big Stone City Council was also meeting this evening, and may be considering this matter at that time. He will follow up with the legal counsel for Big Stone City later this week.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

There were no concerns brought forward during this portion of the meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*Motion by Dorry, second by Cunningham to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the following items:*

**8.a. Approve Minutes of September 11, 2007 City Council Special Meeting**

**8.b. Approve Expenditures**

**8.c. Approve Appointment of Marcy Stotesbery to the Tree Board, Replacing Vicki Oakes**

**All in favor 7-0. MCU**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF CITIZEN BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS:**

**9.a. Discussion & Clarification: The proposed Dirt Bike Trail on the former Strege Property.** The Park Board is seeking direction and clarification from the City Council on whether or not to proceed with the project. The following concerns regarding a city-owned Dirt Bike Trail were identified by the Council: noise, liability, and a busy intersection in the area. Arndt noted the site is in a commercial zone and has a railroad around part of the property to serve as a sound barrier. He stated the Park Board has put together information on the Trail and asked that the Park Board hold a Town Meeting on the matter. Bob Meyer stated some citizens are opposed to such a trail. It was noted that the City of Appleton has a dirt bike and four-wheeler park that is successful and there was interest in contacting the City of Appleton for information regarding liability issues. It was the consensus of the Council to have the Park Board continue to work on determining the feasibility of this project.

**9.b. Approval of Acquisition of Ambulance Defibrillator Equipment - \$12,099.00****Resolution 07-110, Resolution Approving Acquisition of Ambulance Defibrillator Equipment**

**Motion by Dorry, second by Anderson** to approve Resolution 07-110, Resolution Approving the Acquisition of Ambulance Defibrillator Equipment at a Cost of \$12,099.00.

**Roll Call: Aye: Anderson, Cunningham, Dorry, Johnson, Meyer, Arndt and Oakes. Nay: None. Motion Carried 7-0. MCU.**

**REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES****10.a. Discussion and Update: Golf Clubhouse Deck-Terry Gere.**

Terry Gere presented updated materials pricing for the proposed handicapped accessible deck to the south side of the golf course clubhouse. Gere reported that there is a substantial savings using pressure treated lumber rather than cedar. The approximate materials cost excluding the footings is between \$22,500.00 and \$26,000.00. He noted the Couples Committee has approximately \$25,000.00, and the Men's Club has approximately \$5,000.00 available. Gere explained the anticipated cost of having a contractor install the footings is approximately \$12,000.00, and stated he will obtain additional quotes for that portion of the project. In view of the potential overall cost of the improvement, Gere requested a \$9,000.00 expenditure from the existing City Golf Fund capital reserves to enable the project to proceed. He noted the footings most likely will be installed in the Spring of 2008, with the deck to be constructed by volunteers shortly thereafter.

**Resolution 07-111, Resolution Approving Construction of the Golf Club House Deck and Approving an Expenditure of \$9,000.00 From the existing City Golf Fund Capital Reserves**

**Motion by Cunningham, second by Johnson** to approve Resolution 07-111, Resolution Approving Construction of the Golf Club House Deck and Approving an Expenditure of \$9,000.00 from the existing City Golf Fund Capital Reserves

**Roll Call: Aye: Anderson, Cunningham, Dorry, Johnson, Meyer, Arndt and Oakes. Nay: None. Motion Carried 7-0. MCU.**

**10.b. Report: League of Minnesota Cities 2008 Fall Regional Meeting – Bob Meyer**

Councilor Meyer summarized the topics covered at the September 27, 2007 meeting attended by Councilor Dorry, City Administrator Lang and himself. Topics discussed were: Minnesota Law changes and how they affect cities, open meeting laws, planning for pandemic flu outbreak and the pros and cons of joint powers agreements. He noted the meeting was very educational and worthwhile.

**10.c Update: Heritage Preservation Commission - Craig Randleman**

Randleman state the Commission in now meeting twice a month on Tuesday afternoon. On September 18, 2007, four Commission members attended a Main Street Minnesota seminar in Isle, MN. Last Tuesday, some Commission members toured the Columbian Hotel and the Odd Fellows Building.

**REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont.)****10.c. Update: Heritage Preservation Commission – Craig Randleman (cont.)**

The consensus is both buildings need to be preserved. He noted this is a key moment in the history of Ortonville with both of these properties becoming available to the City via tax forfeiture. This week, 2 members will attend a portion of the National Historic Preservation Conference in St. Paul, MN. Randleman stated this is part of the educational process of becoming an effective commission. He indicated Ortonville has very positive assets other cities are not so fortunate to have such as: Big Stone Lake, a comprehensive health care system, good schools and a historic downtown.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS****11.a. Approve Agreement of Consulting Contract with Stewart Wirth Consulting for Law Enforcement Contracting Services.****Resolution 07-112, Resolution Authorizing Approval of Law Enforcement Contracting Services Consulting Contract with Stewart Wirth Consulting - \$2,850.00 plus Reimbursable Expenses.**

Mayor Blair Johnson asked for discussion of the matter. Discussion and questions followed. It was suggested county department heads, city council members and county commissioners do this work rather than hiring a consultant. Johnson and Meyer stated they felt an outside consulting service could provide an objective opinion. Oakes stated it would be best to rely on the expertise of a consulting service. The consultant could begin his work on October 22.

**Motion by Oakes, second by Cunningham** to approve Resolution 07-112, Resolution Authorizing Approval of a Law Enforcement Contracting Services Consulting Contract with Stewart Wirth Consulting-\$2,850.00 plus Reimbursable Expenses.

**Roll Call: Aye: Cunningham, Johnson, Oakes, Arndt, and Anderson. Nay: Dorry and Meyer. Motion Carried 5-2.**

**11.b. Schedule Budget Committee Meetings**

City Administrator Lang will contact Budget Committee members to schedule the next meeting.

**11.c. Schedule Utility Committee Policy Meeting**

City Administrator Lang will contact Utility Committee members to schedule the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS****12.a. Approval of Election Judges For November 6, 2007 General Election****Resolution 07-113, Resolution Approving Election Judges for November 6, 2007 General Election.**

**Motion by Dorry, second by Arndt** to approve Resolution 07-113, Resolution Approving Election Judges for November 6, 2007 General Election.

**All in favor 7-0. MCU.**

**12.b. Policy Discussion: Allowing Partial Prepayment of Special Assessments**

With the impending 2007 Rita Road Street Improvement special assessments pending, it has been suggested citizens be allowed to prepay a portion of the unpaid special assessments once a year. Discussion and questions followed. **It is a consensus of the Council to direct the City Attorney to draft a resolution to implement this proposed policy of allowing citizens to partially prepay special assessments**

**12.c. Approval of Acquisition of Real Property from the Lundell Family**

Note: Susan Lundell left the room at 7:48 P.M.

It was noted the Economic Development Authority (EDA) does not have the money to fund this purchase. Consequently, the City would have to lend the money to the EDA. City Attorney Ash noted any real property acquisition must be referred to the Planning Commission to determine whether or not the proposed acquisition is compatible with the Comprehensive Plan. The Council requested Lang to obtain a very preliminary engineering estimate to construct roads and install water and wastewater lines in the parcels.

**Motion by Anderson, second by Oakes** to refer this matter to the Planning Commission for further study and compatibility with the Comprehensive Plan.

**Motion carried 7-0.** MCU Note: Susan Lundell returned to the room at 8:00 PM.

**12.d. Discussion: Board of Appeal and Equalization.** The City of Ortonville currently conducts the local Board of Review meetings. To date, the City has declined the option of turning this function over to Big Stone County. In order to keep the meetings at the City level, there must be one trained individual on the Council who can attend the Board of Review meeting. With Councilor Arndt deciding not to run for re-election, the Council will not meet the State of Minnesota requirements. Arndt stated that the training is good for 4 years and felt that the City should continue to hold the meetings. **It is the consensus of the Council to invite the County Assessor to the next Council meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the matter.**

**12.e. Barricading the Alley behind the Heritage Printing Building for the Jaycees Haunted House.**

**Motion by Dorry, second by Cunningham** to allow the barricading of said alley for the Jaycees Haunted House on Friday, October 26, 2007 and Saturday, October 27, 2007.

**Motion carried 7-0.** MCU.

**CITY CLERK-ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.a. MN Senate Capital Committee Bonding Bill Visit – November 8, 2007.

Lang noted the Committee visit to review the 2007 application for Lakeside Park is scheduled for 11:30 AM on Thursday at the Public Library.

13.b. Broadband Internet Webinar and Broadband Conference-November 8, 2007

Lang stated this free Blandin Foundation seminar is also slated for November 8<sup>th</sup>. Because adequate broadband availability is important for economic development growth, Councilor Cunningham will endeavor to attend this conference.

13.c. Missouri River Energy Services Area Meetings

Lang noted the upcoming regional meetings, and offered to register those wishing to attend.

13.d. City of Ortonville Wellhead Protection Program

Lang indicated the Wellhead Protection Plan acceptance has been sent to the Minnesota Department of Health.

13.e. 2008 Budget Preparation

Lang noted the 2008 General Fund Budget has been completed and approved by the Council, and likely will be re-visited prior to certification of the final levy in December. Work on the enterprise fund budgets will continue during October and November.

13.f. Update: Affordable Housing Work Group

Dan Oakes indicated the Attraction/Promotion Committee and provided an update. Discussion and questions followed regarding exterior and billboard signage, and making the entrances to Ortonville more attractive.

**CITY CLERK-ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS (cont.)**

13.g. Update: Small Cities Development Grant Application

The City is in the process of making an application to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (MNDEED) for a housing and business rehabilitation grant. The MNDEED expressed concern the City may not have the staff to manage this grant, however Clerk-Administrator Lang stated he had extensive experience affordable housing program experience and Administrative Assistant Susan Lundell would be available help with financial administration of the grant if Ortonville is successful in its application.

13.h. City Office Relocation - October 5, 2007.

Because of the scheduled remodeling this month of the City Office space in the Armory, the City Office will be relocating to one-half of the upper level of the Sealy Real Estate Building. The move will be effective Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Arndt, second Oakes to adjourn the Meeting at 8:20 PM.**

**All in favor 7-0. MCU.**

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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Blair Johnson  
Mayor

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David A. Lang  
Clerk-Administrator