

**ORTONVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**CITY OFFICE MEETING ROOM**  
**315 Madison Avenue, Ortonville, MN**  
**Monday, February 2, 2009**  
**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, Craig Randleman, Bob Meyer, John Cunningham, and Mike Dorry. Absent: Steve Berkner. Staff Present: City Administrator David Lang, Deputy Clerk Susan Lundell, OAHS Administrator Rick Ash, Ambulance Coordinator Tom Scoblic, City Attorney Craig Ash. Media Present: Mike Swenson (*Ortonville Independent*). Others Present: Dan Oakes, David and Susie Dinnel, Kathy Korth, Rusty Dimberg, Marcy Stotesbery, Alice Radermacher, Kim McCrea, Penny Hormann, Dave Meyer and other interested citizens.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL:**

**Motion by Randleman , second by Cunningham to approve the Agenda as amended. All in favor. 6-0. MCU. (Motion Carried Unanimously).**

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**3.a. Resolution Approving Adoption of Guide for Members of the Public Requesting Information from the City of Ortonville.**

**Resolution 09-013, Approving Adoption of Guide for Members of the Public Requesting Information from the City of Ortonville.**

**Motion by Cunningham, second by Anderson to adopt Resolution 09-013, Approving Adoption of Guide for Members of the Public Requesting Information from the City of Ortonville.**

**Upon roll call vote the following voted Aye: Johnson, Anderson, Dorry, Meyer, Cunningham, Randleman.**

**All in favor. 6-0. MCU.**

**3.b. Resolution Approving Adoption of Legal Disclaimer & Website Policies, City of Ortonville.**

**Resolution 09-014, Approving Adoption of Legal Disclaimer & Website Policies, City of Ortonville.**

**Motion by Randleman, second by Cunningham to adopt Resolution 09-014, Approving Adoption of Legal Disclaimer & Website Policies, City of Ortonville.**

**All in favor. 6-0. MCU.**

**RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS:**

**6.a. OAHS Monthly Financial Report-Rick Ash, OAHS Administrator**

Rick Ash OAHS CEO gave the monthly presentation. He reported that OAHS had a one percent positive variance year-to-date through December 2008.

**RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS: (Cont.)**

This is three months into the budget year. The draw procedure for the rebuild project is now set and operating. The provider-based clinic transition has also gone well.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

7.a. Penny Hormann stated she was speaking on her own behalf and in no way were her stated opinions those of her husband's, Police Chief Hormann. She stated that she was not a citizen of the City but the decisions made by the City affect her life. She is never sure that her husband's job is secure and this has affected her health. She stated she is always waiting for the "ax to fall." She had several questions as follows: Why doesn't the City Administrator live in Ortonville? Why does the swimming pool charge out-of-town residents more to use the swimming pool and why does the City not use the same billing practise for the Golf Course? Why were so many extra positions created for the Clerk's office? If you can combine the Police with the County Sheriff, why can't you combine the City Administration with the County Auditor's office? She stated that she may be losing her job soon. How can the city afford the following perks: Golf Course, buying more land, creation of full-time EDA position, fraudulent mileage claims? She stated the City should be focusing on essential services.

7.b. Deputy City Clerk Susan Lundell expressed concern that the City planned to cut benefits to regular part-time employees. She stated the League of Minnesota Cities Human Resources Manual encourages cities to offer benefits to regular part-time employees to attract and retain qualified applicants. She asked the Council to consider increasing fees and to look to capital expenditures for cuts.

7.c. Former Mayor Dave Dinnel stated that something has to happen as far as cuts are concerned. He asked the council to consider cutting capital expenditures. This solution will not affect personnel so much. He suggested calling State officials to see if the Trail Head Project could be delayed. Dinnel reminded the Council that the current staff may be paid more and receive more benefits because they are responsible for the electric utility. Funds are taken from the electric fund to pay their wages. He stated that, contrary to popular opinion, the past EDAs did start the ball rolling on the historic preservation of the downtown area and got the Fairway View Project completed. Dinnel stated that the administrative structure and economies of scale should be looked at.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**8.a. Approve Minutes of City Council Regular Meeting January 20, 2009**

**8.b. Approve Minutes of City Council Workshop Meeting January 20, 2009**

**8.c. Approve Gambling Permit-Big Stone County Pheasants Forever, Chapter 43- at National Guard Armory-03-28-09**

**8.d. Approve Hangar/Tie-Down Lease Agreement with Bryan & Kristi DeLage Motion by Dorry, second by Meyer to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**

**All in favor. 6-0. MCU.**

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

**9.a. EDA Recommendation: Resolution Appointing the Economic Development Authority as the Implementing Authority for the Small Cities Development Program**

**Resolution 09-015, Appointing the Economic Development Authority as the Implementing Authority for the Small Cities Development Program**

**Motion by Cunningham, second by Randleman to adopt Resolution 09-015, Appointing the Economic Development Authority as the Implementing Authority for the Small Cities Development Program.**

**Upon roll call vote the following voted Aye: Johnson, Anderson, Dorry, Meyer, Cunningham, Randleman.**

**All in favor. 6-0. MCU.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

11.a. City Council Committee Structure-Mayor Blair Johnson  
Tabled due to the absence of Council Member Steve Berkner.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**12.A. APPROVE EXPENDITURES**

**Motion by Anderson, second by Randleman to approve the expenditures as presented.**

**5-1. Nay: Dorry. MC.**

**12.b. Employee Annual Cost of Living Increase and Step Wage Increase Mayor Johnson.**

**Two Step Increase for Hourly Employees. Discussion and questions followed. Nick Anderson is not comfortable with a two-step increase at this time. Mayor Johnson believes the best way to resolve this is through a review of the pay equity system by an outside consultant. It was noted the Personnel Committee would review this in the future.**

**Resolution Approving One Step Pay Increase for Nick Golden and Matt Hipple.**

**Resolution 09-016, Approving One Step Pay Increase for Nick Golden and Matt Hipple.**

**Motion by Anderson, second by Cunningham to approve Resolution 09-016, Approving One Step Pay Increase for Nick Golden and Matt Hipple.**

**Upon roll call vote the following voted Aye: Johnson, Anderson, Meyer, Cunningham, Randleman. Nay: Dorry. 5-1. MC**

**12.c. Discussion: Ambulance Service Full-Time Emergency Medical Technicians**

**The proposal as drafted by the Ambulance Service was withdrawn. Ambulance Director Tom Scoblic recommended the Council not accept this idea due to fiscal constraints.**

**Motion by Cunningham, second by Randleman to accept the withdrawal of the Ambulance Proposal**

**All in favor. 6-0. MCU.**

**NEW BUSINESS (Cont.)**

12.d. 2009 Budget Discussion. There were 3 areas targeted for cuts due to the impending 2009 and 2010 Local Government Aid cuts.

Three Budget Committee Recommendations: Pool Cuts as recommended by the Summer Recreation Director, Eliminate Part-time Employee Benefits and Implement Golf Course Savings as recommended by Golf Course Superintendent Travis Strasser. It was noted that decisions regarding pool and golf cuts could be deferred until later this month. Difficult budget reduction decisions will need to be made. Council Member Randleman asked about the funds in escrow for capital outlay funds. Clerk-Administrator Lang stated \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 could come from capital funds. David Dinnel suggested freezing all budget items across the board. Ambulance personnel reported that their decision to buy a new "used" ambulance was weighed carefully with budget cuts in mind. Mayor Johnson stated the City is not ready to cut part-time benefits at this time and would like some research done on what benefits other cities are providing their part-time employees. The issue of budget cuts will be referred back to the Park and Golf Boards and the Council will schedule another work session with the full Council present. Council Member Randleman expressed his appreciation for citizens coming to the City Council with ideas regarding Local Government Aid cuts and resulting budget issues.

**CITY CLERK-ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

13.a. Update: Small Cities Development Grant Program-EDA authorized to implement the Grant

13.b. Update: Upper MN River Regional Park Improvement Project Grant-May delay the project due to budget concerns.

13.c. Update: Columbian Hotel

13.d. Ortonville TIF District Creation and Potential TIF Bond Issue-Pay As You Go process being considered.

13.e. Update: Acquisition of Water Meter Heads with Absolute Digital Encoders

13.f. Economic Stimulus Information

13.g. Capital Improvement Projects

13.h. Minnesota Cities Participation Program Grant-\$180,000 loaned out. Council Member Dorry stated that this homebuyer grant was used by the City in past years also.

13.i. Surviving the Recession Workshop-Council Member Randleman reported 14 business people were at the meeting where business improvement projects were discussed.

13.j. Electric Utilities During Construction on McCloud Street-Sewer Project-Conduit will be installed behind the curb thus avoiding damages to electric lines during the project.

13.k. Ortonville Municipal Airport FY-2009 DBE Goal

13.l. 2009 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting-April 1, 2009-5:00 P. M. to 5:30 P.M. Big Stone County Courthouse-Clerk-Commission Room

**CITY CLERK-ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:  
(Cont.)**

13.m. Sanitary Sewer Forcemain Improvements along Big Stone Lake; Street and Utility Improvements on McCloud Street-Engineering work being completed.

13.n. Water Treatment Plant Performance Optimization-Backwash optimization plan.

13.o. Conditional Use Permit Public Hearing-Asphalt Plant - L. G. Everist, Inc.- Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 7:30 P. M. Clinton Memorial Building

13.p. Ortonville Community Development Update

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: (If Needed)**

Mayor Johnson recessed the Regular Meeting at 7:56 PM.

**CLOSED MEETING:**

15.a. The Council went into a Closed Meeting at 8:00 PM for preliminary consideration of allegations against an employee. The Closed Meeting ended at 9:05 PM.

**REGULAR MEETING:**

Mayor Johnson called the Regular Meeting back into session at 9:06 PM. David Meyer addressed the Council regarding various employment-related concerns. He was referred to OAHS Administrator Rick Ash to address those concerns.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by Anderson, second by Randleman to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:36 PM.**

**All in favor. 6-0. MCU.**

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Blair Johnson  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
David A. Lang  
Clerk-Administrator