

ORTONVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
CITY OFFICE MEETING ROOM
315 Madison Avenue, Ortonville, MN
Monday, September 14, 2009
6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Mayor Blair Johnson called the Special Council Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Roll Call was taken with the following present: Mayor Blair Johnson, Nick Anderson, Steve Berkner, Mike Dorry, Bob Meyer, Bill Powell, Craig Randleman. Staff Present: City Administrator David Lang. Media Present: Mike Swenson (*Ortonville Independent*). Also Present: JoAnn Jurgens.

RESOLUTION: APPROVE PRELIMINARY 2010 CITY BUDGET:

Mayor Johnson reviewed the spreadsheet summary of the few changes made by the Budget Committee subsequent to the full City Council Budget Workshop that was held on September 8, 2009. Nick Anderson led the discussion of prospective 2010 rates, and reviewed a spreadsheet that he had prepared and distributed at the meeting this evening. Discussion and questions followed.

Bill Powell suggested that the City government consider whether or not it should continue to be in the recreation business, especially with respect to the summer rec program and the swimming pool. It was stated that in many communities, the summer rec program is provided and administrated by the local public school district. The combined net annual outlay from both the summer rec program and the pool is approximately \$100,000.

It was suggested that perhaps this is a good time to consider the purpose or purposes of City government, and what it should be involved in. Mayor Johnson suggested that perhaps one function of City government is to provide amenities that attract citizens to live in or move into town. Randleman noted that these amenities are even more important in the present time than they were in years past. Powell stated that we then need to explain to the public about the value of these amenities, and why property taxes need to be at a level appropriate to support both core functions as well as amenities. Discussion and questions followed. One a separate note, Powell suggested that group purchasing of administrative supplies for the various City departments be implemented, including possible involvement in this with OAHS.

With respect to economic development and community development, Dorry would like to see the Economic Development Authority 2010 budget reduced by \$40,000. He also noted that the EDA and EDA staff needs to develop a second phase of the Fairway View Senior Community. Berkner noted that there has been growth in the EDA, Planning and Zoning and Heritage Preservation budgets, and would like to see those budgets reviewed next year for the 2011 budget cycle.

Powell commented that the EDA needed to function as the economic development arm of the community. He believes an emphasis should be place on dealing with dilapidated houses, and the creation of new construction in-fill housing within existing neighborhoods. This effort will lead to an increase in our tax base along our existing infrastructure grid. Discussion and questions followed.

Mayor Johnson noted that part of the increase in the EDA budget is because one-fourth of the City Administrator's budget is being allocated to the EDA as he also functions as the EDA Director which enhances the City's efforts to grow the tax base. Johnson noted that the EDA is requesting \$5,000 less in City funds in 2010 than it requested in 2009. Dorry stated that he would like to make the City Administrator's position a half-time position.

Randleman stated that the EDA is Ortonville's proverbial ace in the hole with respect to building for the future. He indicated that if the EDA budget is reduced, we would find ourselves slipping backwards. Randleman stated that we needed to believe in our own hearts what is the best direction for the future of Ortonville, and then create a positive attitude even in these difficult economic times. Powell noted that the key is being able to clearly explain the budget decisions to the public. If the budget is explained well, the public most likely will embrace the City Council's direction and decisions regarding the budget.

Motion by Randleman second by Powell to Adopt Resolution 09-116 Approving Proposed 2010 City Budget - \$2,602,848.00.

Discussion and questions followed.

Upon Roll Call vote the following voted Aye: Johnson, Anderson, Powell, Randleman, Berkner. Nay: Dorry, Meyer.

5-2. MC.

RESOLUTION: APPROVE PRELIMINARY 2009 TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN 2010:

Motion by Powell second by Randleman to Adopt Resolution 09-117 Approving Proposed 2009 Tax Levy, Collectible in 2010 - \$603,750.00.

Discussion and questions followed.

Upon Roll Call vote the following voted Aye: Johnson, Anderson, Powell, Randleman, Berkner, Meyer. Nay: Dorry.

6-1. MC.

APPROVE VERTICAL SOLUTIONS INTERNET SERVICES CONTRACT:

Motion by Berkner second by Randleman to adopt Resolution 09-118 Approving Contract with Vertical Solutions for Internet Services at a Rate of \$30.00/Month Per Site if Paid on an Annual Basis.

Discussion and questions followed. Clerk-Administrator Lang was asked to look into a telephone system based on the internet for the City Office and other City locations.

Upon Roll Call vote the following voted Aye: Johnson, Anderson, Dorry, Powell, Randleman,

Berkner, Meyer. Nay: None.
All in favor. 7-0. MCU.

SET 2009 TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING DATES (IF NEEDED):

Motion by Randleman second by Powell to set the 2009 Truth In Taxation Hearing Dates as follows:

Initial Truth In Taxation Hearing: 6:30 P.M., Monday, December 7, 2009

Continuation Hearing (If Needed): 6:00 P.M., Monday, December 14, 2009

All in favor. 7-0. MCU.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting by consensus at 7:00 P. M.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Blair Johnson
Mayor

David A. Lang
Clerk-Administrator