

**Clearwater City Council
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Clearwater City Council Chamber
March 2, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Edmonson called the regular council meeting of March 2, 2015 to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

- Present: Mayor Edmonson, Council Members Crandall, Lange, Ranum and Ritzer.
- Absent: None
- Staff present: Interim City Administrator Derus and City Engineer Kevin Bittner
- Public Present:
- Others Present: Ken Francis, Clearwater Tribune

A quorum was declared present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Lange, seconded by Crandall, to approve the agenda as submitted, with the following changes:

- Remove the Home Growth Incentive Program
- Regarding the Banner Quotes a Quote from Franklin Sign was also added

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Theisen from Flinstones briefly explained that Flinstones is sponsoring the disc golf event.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Ritzer, seconded by Crandall, to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. Claims/Accounts Payable
- b. Approval of 2-2-15 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
- c. Approval of 2-17-15 Special Meeting City Council Minutes
- d. Confirming Auditing Services Agreement with KDV
- e. Approving 2014 LGA Amounts, as per recommendation of AEM
- f. Approving the Landlord's Release Form with Falcon National Bank, Subject to Review and Approval by the City Attorney, Provided Falcon Bank Agrees to Cover Attorney's Fees
- g. Resolution 2015-08 Approving Tax Exempt Gambling Permit for Ducks Unlimited; 4-9-15 at Eagle Trace Event Center
- h. Approving the Resignation of Scott Gjevre from the EDA
- i. Request by Wesley Newman, Clearwater Masonic Lodge #28 for Tax Exempt Gambling Permit for on June 6, 2015 and to Block Main from Main Street from Oak to Riverside Park
- j. Request by St. Cloud Disc Gold Club to Waive Park and Pavilion Fees

Motion carried unanimously.

WRIGHT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPUTY REPORT

No Wright County Sheriff Department Deputy at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

AEM Services Agreement, for Financial Services and Staff Training

Interim Administrator Derus pointed out that, with the hiring of Kevin Kress as City Administrator in Training, because of Kress's financial experience, the City should be able to revise the original agreement with AEM. Derus suggested that the contract could be significantly reduced, but it has to evolve with discussions with Mr. Kress.

MOTION by Lange, seconded by Ritzer, to table until Mr. Kress is on board.

Motion carried unanimously.

Update Special Assessment Policy

The Council briefly discussed the Special Assessment Policy. Derus explained that he asked Engineer Bittner to work on the update. Mr. Bittner participated in the discussion.

MOTION by Lange, seconded by Crandall, to table until the next meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Request by Eric Kask for Appointment to the EDA

MOTION by Crandall, seconded by Ritzer, to Appoint Eric Kask to the EDA.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Funding Bike Trail and Engineer Fees for Trail Project out of Local Option Sales Tax Fund

MOTION by Ritzer, seconded by Crandall, to fund the Bike Trail and Engineer Fees for Trail Project out of Local Option Sales Tax

Motion carried unanimously.

Northern Lights Display Banner Quote

Mayor Edmonson introduced the two quotes that had been received for Banners from Northern Lights and from Franklin Outdoor Advertising. The Franklin quote was the low quote at \$3,959.25. Edmonson mentioned that the Rodeo intended to donate \$1,000 to the banner's cost. Edmonson also mentioned that there is a MNDOT required permit and he did not think there was a cost.

MOTION by Crandall, seconded by Lange, to authorize staff to order the banners from Franklin Outdoor Advertising at their quoted price of \$3,959.25.

Motion carried unanimously.

Request Change in Policy Requiring 90 Day Wait before Qualifying for City's Health Benefit

Interim Administrator Derus mentioned that the City's current policy of waiting 90 days to apply for health insurance for new employees is an ill-advised policy. He pointed out that; he did not think it made sense to subject a new employee to this gap in health insurance; also this is not a common policy for cities. He also noted it is not a significant budget item. Council briefly discussed, pointing out that the 90 day wait is common for the private sector.

MOTION by Crandall, seconded by Lange, to change the personnel policy so that health benefits begins on March 16 for Administrator Kress.

Motion carried unanimously.

In a related discussion staff was directed to revisit the personnel policy regarding health insurance.

Jill Dalager Brunner, Clearwater/Clear Lake Area Food Shelf (FEHN Grant)

Jill Dalager Brunner, new Board Chair of the Clearwater-Clear Lake Food Shelf Food shelf was at the meeting and briefly discussed a grant that the Food Shelf was awarded in the amount of \$7,000 from the Foundation for Essential Needs (FFEN). This grant will be used to improve the electrical infrastructure at the food shelf and purchase additional refrigeration and freezer space. Through Second Harvest the Food Shelf has been paired with Coborns in Clearwater and Target in Monticello to receive rescue food such as produce and bakery items that would otherwise be wasted. The grant will enable the food shelf to utilize high efficiency appliances with glass doors and much needed addition refrigeration storage, giving clients the ability to see what is available before opening the doors. She also thanked the Council for the City's support of the Food Shelf. The Council thanked her for the report and for her service for the Food Shelf.

Reports

Mayor Edmonson reported on the following items:

Sewer Authority

Mayor Edmonson reminded Councilors to go to the city website, click on "Email the Governor" and complete the steps to contact Governor Dayton, encouraging him to include our bonding grant request in this year's legislative bonding bill.

Initiative Foundation

Mayor Edmonson reported that the City of Clearwater was awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Initiative Foundation for our Hotel Feasibility Study. After meeting with an expert in the field, recommended by the Initiative Foundation, we discussed the ingredients necessary for a hotel to be successful in a community, and whether those things currently existed in Clearwater, or will exist in the near future. At this time, he suggested the Council put our hotel study on hold, until our new administrator is in place, and until our vision committee has commenced with its recommendations for Clearwater.

Clearwater Heritage Days Planning Meeting

Thursday March 12th- 7:00pm- Meeting at city hall.

Check with Pete on this one

Boards – Park Board Minutes

The Council briefly discussed the Park Board Minutes. They suggested Kevin Kress look at adjusting the bylaws. Also, it was noted that the Park Board Open House was Thursday, March 5 at 6:00 PM.

Planning Commission

Kris Crandall mentioned that Breanne from WSB said she had the final Comp Plan draft completed. Next Planning meeting is on March 24.

Staff

Derus said the new Administrator had requested a contract, which Derus also recommended. The Council was open to looking at a contract. Derus suggested they negotiate this directly with the Administrator.

Fire Contract for 2016

Council acknowledged the spreadsheet sent to the townships.

OTHER

Next Meeting

The next Meeting is Monday, March 16, 2015 at 7:00 PM

ADJOURN

MOTION by Crandall, seconded by Lange, to adjourn the council meeting, at 7:59 p.m.

Motion Carried unanimously.

Robert Derus, Interim City Administrator

Pete Edmonson, Mayor

Date Approved