

**Clearwater City Council  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
Clearwater City Council Chamber  
September 8, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Edmonson called the regular council meeting of September 8, 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 Ritzer, Crandall, and Lange
  - Absent: Ranum.
  - Staff present: Administrator Kress
  - Public Present: Dan Niehoff, Vern Scott, Josh Ablen, Wally Eisenschenk, Diane Eisenschenk.
  - Others Present: Kevin Bittner – Bolton-Menk and Ken Francis – Clearwater Tribune
- A quorum was declared present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION by Crandall, seconded by Ranum, to approve the agenda as submitted.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

NONE.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION by Crandall, seconded by Ranum, to approve the following Consent Agenda items and to pull item f (Resolution 2015-42 Preliminary 2016 EDA Levy for discussion:**

- a. Claims/Accounts Payable
- b. Approval of 8-17-15 Regular City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
- c. Approval of 8-17-15 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
- d. Resolution 2015-40 Invisible Fence of Central Minnesota Donation
- e. Resolution 2015-41 Lime Street Access Removal Acknowledgement

**Motion carried unanimously.**

- f. Resolution 2015-42 Preliminary 2016 EDA Levy

**Kress explained to the Council that in previous years the EDA levy was approved with the preliminary budget and levy for the general funds. The legislation has changed and the EDA levy has to be approved by September 15<sup>th</sup> each year. Kress added that the General Fund Levy is to be approved and submitted to the County by September 30<sup>th</sup> each year.**

**MOTION by Ritzer, seconded by Lange, to approve Resolution 2015-42 Preliminary 2016 EDA Levy.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**WRIGHT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPUTY REPORT**

Deputy Wilmes was present to update the City Council on criminal activity in the City. Wilmes informed the Council that there continues to be a number of break-ins and thefts from vehicles. Wilmes added that there has been a number of fraud complaints received. Wilmes encouraged the Council and residents to continue to report suspicious activity.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Discussion on replacing trees**

Administrator Kress opened the discussion on the replacement of trees. Kress informed the Council that the policy he had been working on was lost when his computer drive crashed. Kress added he still hopes to have a policy for review at the next meeting. Kress then asked the Council what their thoughts were on allowing residents to take the trees that are located in Eldorado Park. Kress added that a number of the trees are in poor condition and are not the most aesthetically pleasing. Member Ranum suggested the best time to remove the trees would be before April 15<sup>th</sup> of next year. Ritzer asked what the downside of leaving the trees grow if nobody wants them. Mayor Edmonson informed the rest of the Council that the trees are located in an area that the City plans to develop. Members were in favor of putting a note in the spring newsletter next year.

### **b. Discussion on the appointment process for Fire Chief**

Kress gave an update on the appointment process for the Fire Chief as outlined in his staff memo included in the Council packet. So far, there are 3 candidates that applied for the position. The interview panel will be hosting interviews next week and hope to have one candidate for recommendation at the next Council meeting.

### **c. Update on Eldorado Park Access**

Mayor Edmonson led the discussion on the Eldorado Park access. Edmonson, along with Kress and City Engineer, Bittner met with Wright County last week to discuss the potential access off of County Road 7. Edmonson informed the Council that the County was not in favor of allowing access to the park from County Road 7. Instead, they suggested accessing the park by means of the private driveway for the Cedar Ridge Apartments. If this were to take place the City would likely have to get an easement or purchase the driveway and make it a road. It would be a similar situation if the City were to try and gain access off of County Road 7. Member Ritzer was opposed to using the driveway access as there is a large number of children and traffic that frequents the area. Members Lange, Crandall, and Ranum were also not in favor of using the private driveway to access the park. Members asked that Administrator Kress contact the Apartment about gaining more access from the existing park entrance as well as the private driveway.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Discussion on 265 Bluff Street Water Bill (agenda request)**

Wally and Diane Eisenschenk addressed the Council about a bill they received from J & S excavating, Inc. for the repair of their water line. The Eisenschenks explained to the Council that during the North Area Street and Utility project they had water coming through the ground in their driveway. Public Works Supervisor, John Schmidt coordinated a contractor to review the leak. A flare fitting was deemed to be the cause of the leak. The Eisenschenks asked that they be able to see the pipe for inspection. Member Ritzer stated that flare fittings commonly fail and the City has not reimbursed residents. The Eisenschenks were also concerned about the large amount of sand that made its way into their home and damaged some of their appliances. Staff will follow up with the Eisenschenks.

### **b. Discussion and update on North Area Street and Utility Project**

- c. **Staff** – Kress asked the Council if they desired to install the water fountain at Lions Park this year of next spring. Kress informed the Council that the dog bag receptacles have been installed as well. The garage door at Lions Park will also be painted in the next couple weeks. The tennis court at Lions was recommended to be replaced by the Public Works department rather than be patched. Council asked that this item be referred to the Parks Commission. The new park equipment is also expected to be installed in the next couple of weeks. The Public Works department also recommends waiting to paint lines on Ash and instead get quotes to chip seal and then paint. Kress also mentioned that the banners have been installed, light poles will be installed near the shopping center and that the pond on Main Street will be drained soon.

**MOTION by Lange, seconded by Crandall, to use Sales Tax money and install the water fountain next spring.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Other**

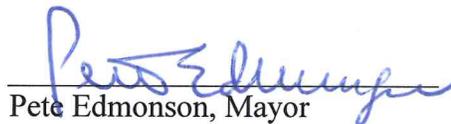
- a. **Next Meeting – Monday, September 14, 2015**

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION by Ritzer, seconded by Lange, to adjourn the council meeting, at 8:34 p.m.**

**Motion Carried unanimously.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Kress, City Administrator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pete Edmonson, Mayor

5-21-15

Date Approved

City Engineer Bittner informed the Council that a walkthrough was conducted and a punch list was created in regards to issues with the project. Staff was presented the punch list and there was a brief review of some of the problem areas. Resident Dan Niehoff addressed the Council and expressed his concern about the concrete that was laid. Niehoff stated that if the concrete surface was exposed and rocks are showing that the concrete would crumble and fail prematurely.

**c. Discussion on City and County Archery Park Collaboration**

Kress briefly walked through his memo that was included in the Council packet. Kress informed the Council that he was interested in working with Wright County to develop an archery park within City limits. Council was in favor of collaborating with the County to create the park. Council encouraged Kress to continue to pursue the creation of the park.

**d. Discussion on Fire Chief Attending MN Annual Conference**

Members briefly reviewed the letter submitted by Fire Chief, Doug Nieters to attend the annual conference.

**MOTION by Crandall, seconded by Lange, to approve the request by Nieters to attend the conference as well as the new chief if possible at a cost of \$250 per person and a hotel rate of \$140 per person.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**e. Discussion on purchasing flag pole for City Hall**

Kress walked the Council through this item that was included in his staff report in the Council packet. Member Lange suggested attaching a solar light at the top of the flag pole if possible. Members were not in favor of attaching a solar light as there are lights that shine on the flag from the ground. Members also asked that staff install a larger flag.

**MOTION by Ritzer, seconded by Lange, to purchase a 28' flagpole for the front of City Hall at a cost of \$1,482.50 from Twin Cities Flag Source.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**f. Discussion on Paving the Hockey Rink Parking Lot at Lions**

Kress walked the Council through this item that was included in his staff report in the Council packet. Kress explained that the Public Works department preferred using Minnesota Blacktopping because they have larger equipment to complete the project. Members were in favor of the suggestion by Public Works department. Mayor Edmonson asked if this paving would wrap around to where the warming house is expected to be placed. Staff informed the Council that this was not part of the bid. Resident Vern Scott asked why the Council was not replacing the curb at the same time as the paving was occurring. Bittner and staff didn't see any advantage to placing curb at this time and was not in favor of using sales tax money to install the curb.

**MOTION by Crandall, seconded by Ranum, to pave 4,500 square feet of parking area near the hockey rink at a cost of \$9,000.00 to be paid from the Sales Tax account.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**REPORTS**

**a. Mayor and Council – NONE.**

**b. Boards – NONE.**