

MINUTES STREATOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STREATOR CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKSHOP) MEETING OF MARCH 8, 2011, HELD AT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 1:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jimmie D. Lansford presiding.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Benner, Brozak, Hart, Williamson and Mayor Lansford

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: City Manager, Paul C. Nicholson; City Attorney, Sheryl Kuzma, Acting Deputy City Clerk, Gayle Reynolds, Jeremy Palm, City Engineer, David Fussell, Director of Public Works.

CONSIDERATIONS:

1.) DISCUSSION REGARDING ANDERSON FIELD COURSE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion.

Paul C. Nicholson, City Manager, reported on this item and summarized the contract recommending that the City enter into a golf course management contract for the 2011 season at a cost of \$24,000 per year or \$3,000 in 8 installments. He noted the basis for the recommendation was due to the retirement of the part-time course superintendent, Harry Park. Eric Isermann, Golf Course Manager presented a summary of costs between MGCM, Inc. and a cost breakdown estimated by Harry Park. Williamson questioned, in the case of an emergency, which of MGCM, Inc., clients would get service first when all clients needed the same service; ie: drought, excessive rainfall. Mayor Lansford suggested that the contract be reviewed by the city attorney and stated that contract service is our only option at this time

2.) DISCUSSION REGARDING PERMIT FEE POLICY – NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion.

Nicholson stated that he conducted a survey of members of ILCMA as to whether or not they reduce or remove all building permit fees for not-for-profit entities. None of the respondents provided exemptions to not-for-profit entities; the only exception was other governmental entities which is same as the present City policy. Ed Brozak stated that mainly the organizations requesting the fees be waived consist of volunteers; Sheryl Kuzma suggested that all persons and organization should be treated equally. Following further discussion, the Mayor indicated that matter should be dropped from further consideration.

3.) DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS – MARILLA PARK

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion. Nicholson reported that there were three park issues to be addressed; (1) the condition of the Marilla Park bridge, (2) the requested opening of the top of the park, paving of the hill, and (3) sanitary sewer issues which need to be addressed. David Fussell addressed the issue of the restrooms; stating that they are in a flood plain and cannot have a traditional sewer line. He suggested a sealed pump system. The City is presently out to bid on this project. He also stated that currently the condition of the road on the hillside is unsafe.

Jeremy Palm reported that the bridge at the main entrance to Marilla Park was recently inspected by IDOT and received a rating for only 5 tons which is the lowest possible rating available. He stated that replacing the bridge at its current location would cost \$500,000.00. He suggested that the entrance and parking be changed to the east side, at the top of the hill and a new road to the bottom portion of the park at a cost of \$250,000. Palm also stated that residents at the top of Marilla Park are having problems with the 5 tons weight limit.

4.) DISCUSSION REGARDING TRACTOR PARADE JUNE 14, 2011

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion. Councilman Brozak stated that there are 300 tractors scheduled to be in Streator for the Heritage Tractor Parade, the route is to be announced at a later date.

Councilman Brozak also announced that on October 9, 2011 the anniversary of the first Transcontinental Flight that stopped in Streator, Illinois at Anderson Field will be celebrated; the plans are currently underway.

5.) DISCUSSION REGARDING PLAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION – WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion. Paul Nicholson reported that he concurred with the recommendation of the Plan Commission on Wind Energy Conversion Systems as it relates to a waiver of screening requirements for roof-mounted wind conversion systems based on his discussions with several municipalities who have previously adopted similar regulations.

6.) DISCUSSION REGARDING FIRST AMENDMENT TO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AS TO SEWER SERVICES BETWEEN READING TOWNSHIP AND THE CITY OF STREATOR

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion. Palm reported that Reading Township is seeking a flat fee for the Reading Township Volunteer Fire Department building instead of usage based because they refill their tanker trucks with water inside the building and it does not go down the sewer.

Councilman Benner stated that he would like to get a billing issue between Donna Mikolocyk and Reading Township corrected prior to voting for the amendment. Councilman Williamson concurred with Councilman Benner.

7.) DISCUSSION REGARDING OWENS-ILLINOIS REQUEST TO RESCIND “SPECIAL USE PERMIT”

Jeremy Palm reported on the situation of the parking lot located on the corner of Bronson Street and North Shabbona Street, owned by Owens-Illinois; stating that in 1969 O-I obtained a “special use permit” to allow use of the property as a parking lot for “cars” only. Palm stated that O-I is now requesting that the permit be “rescinded” to allow the parking of trucks. Paul C. Nicholson stated that Owens-Illinois needed to go through the formal special use application process; petition, legal notice, public hearing before the Plan Commission and City Council action in order to rescind the 1969 “special use”.

SHORT SELECTED SUBJECTS

A.) STREET LIGHT REPAIR STATUS

Nicholson stated the Jeff Hettrick, ComEd, has responded to the list of street lights in need of repair. David C. Fussell, Director of Public Works, reported that the City maintains the street lights that have the concrete bases, and progress was being made with Hettrick who is obtaining credit for the non-working lights to be maintained by Com Ed.

B.) CITY WEBSITE IMPLEMENTATION

Nicholson reported that the City’s new website was fully functional and that Eric Isermann will be hosting a Webinar at Anderson Field. Nicholson stated that so far the website had a very favorable response.

C.) FY 2011-2012 BUDGET

Nicholson stated that budget meetings will be scheduled for the end of March.

D.) SNOW REMOVAL PLAN

Nicholson stated that no report was ready at this time regarding a snow removal plan. Councilman Williamson questioned what the additional costs to the City were with regards to the February snow storm. Nicholson reported that there was an additional \$31,000.00 in wages, fuel and salt, and \$19,000.00 in third-party snow removal contract costs.

E.) TREE REPLACEMENT INITIATIVE – POST TORNADO

Nicholson reported that the 2nd Phase of the Oakland Park tree replacement project by Danchris Nursery will occur in spring or fall which will be covered by the insurance monies collected and from private donations. Nicholson also briefed Council regarding the replanting of trees in connection with the Kent Street Interceptor project' with plantings to be done on private property and not in the right-of-way. He also noted that the City needed to move forward with the proposed donation of trees to replace those lost along the tornado route.

F.) PROPOSED “SHOW YOUR STREATOR PRIDE” CAMPAIGN

Nicholson stated that a letter written by Kyle Mitchell, 324 East Main Street, was received by the City. Mr. Mitchell outlined a “Show Your Streator Pride” campaign. City Council responded that they are generally supportive of such a public effort, but that the proposed format involving city council candidates was not an appropriate forum in which to discuss and consider such a public project.

G.) ISO RATING – CITY OF STREATOR

Nicholson reported that the City's ISO rating had been increased by one class which became effective August 1, 2010.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

MCMULLEN LETTER – PARKING

Mayor Lansford commented on a letter from Gene McMullen regarding parking issues on Short Street created by various High School events and activities. He indicated that the staff and council should review these issues in conjunction with the review of parking issues at all elementary schools.

FARMER'S MARKET PROPOSAL

The City Manager commented on a new proposal for a City Farmer's Market which was received on March 8th. Council members were given copies and asked to review.

VERMILION RIVER BANK STABILIZATION – GRANT AGREEMENT

The City Engineer, Jeremy Palm, informed Council that the City is in receipt of the FEMA/IEMA river bank stabilization grant. The next step will be consideration of the local match portion of the grant which will occur during the forthcoming budget discussion.

F.) PLACEMENT OF REFUSE CARTS

Councilman Benner noted that the new refuse and recycling carts should be placed three feet apart in order to enable the refuse company's automated equipment to operate most efficiently.

KERR CLOCK – CBD

Councilman Brozak noted that the clock was not chiming properly. Mr. Palm will follow-up and correct.

POLITICAL SIGNS

Councilmen Williamson and Hart commented on the placement and removal of political signage.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION [5 ILCS 120/2 (5) (6)] For the purpose of discussion of the acquisition of real property and the possible sale of real property.

Mayor Lansford requested a motion and second to adjourn to closed session.

MOTION: Benner made a motion to adjourn to closed session. Brozak seconded the motion.

ROLL: Ayes: Benner, Brozak, Hart, Williamson, and Mayor Lansford.

TIME: 3:11 p.m.

RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION: 3:23 p.m.

No action was taken regarding the closed session.

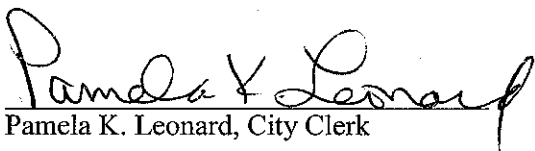
ADJOURNMENT: With no further items for discussion, Mayor Lansford called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Hart moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting, seconded by Brozak.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Benner, Brozak, Hart, Williamson, and Mayor Lansford.

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Pamela K. Leonard, City Clerk