

## MINUTES STREATOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

### **PROCEEDINGS OF THE STREATOR CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKSHOP) MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 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, Stephen C. Myers; Deputy City Clerk, Linda Underwood, Jeremy Palm, City Engineer, Jeff Anderson, Chief of Police and David Fussell, Director of Public Works.

#### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

##### **1.) DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 7, CHAPTER 5.40 – RAFFLES.**

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion.

Paul C. Nicholson, City Manager, reported that following the Council workshop meeting of December 9, 2010, when there was Council consensus to regulate raffles; the City Attorney drafted the proposed changes as contained in their packets. City Attorney, Stephen C. Myers, explained the proposed changes which provide for a tiered classification of raffles. Raffles are still subject to all of the other provisions of the State act. Councilman Williamson stated that he preferred two classifications instead of the proposed three and the exemption of all raffles except the ones for large amounts of money. Councilman Benner stated that sometimes the aggregate amounts, when added up over a year, would cause the organization to fall in the second proposed group. Councilman Brozak suggested that the limit for raffles presumed to be applied for and approved without an application fee be established at \$25,000.00. Mayor Lansford suggested just making it \$50,000.00 before a permit fee is required. Following further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that the raffle ordinance be re-drafted to reflect two classifications of raffles of (1) any amount under \$50,000.00 – no fee required: and (2) over \$50,000.00 with bond required. Councilman Brozak also suggested that a letter be sent to all organizations notifying them of the changes once the ordinance is changed.

##### **2.) PARKING AFTER SNOWFALL – MANDATORY PARKING PROHIBITION**

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion.

Nicholson requested David Fussell, Director of Public Works to report on this item. Fussell reported on operational problems encountered by Public Works while removing snow throughout the City. For example: citizens and private contractors pushing snow into the street or onto neighbor's rights-of-way. Fussell also stated that many communities are moving to a city-wide parking ban when there is 2" or more of snow. Councilman Brozak questioned where citizens who had apartments in the Central Business District would park. Councilman Williamson questioned where citizens would park, who own homes on some of the streets in town where there is no available off street parking. He stated that 2" of snow is to low an amount to trigger a parking ban. After further Council discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that a snow parking ban be limited to truck routes when there is snow of 3 to 4 inches or more. Councilman Williamson stated that plowing problems might be alleviated by certain streets being designated as "No Parking" on one side and requested that staff look at the situation and make recommendations.

### **3.) DISCUSSION REGARDING REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITIONS OF SNOW REMOVAL – CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT**

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion. Councilman Williamson expressed his view that this discussion is a reaction to one (1) person's complaint regarding sidewalks in the downtown business district. He further stated he would like it if the owners of property in the Central Business District take responsibility for the sidewalks in front of their buildings/businesses. Councilman Brozak suggested a meeting with the SDAB (Streator Downtown Area Businesses) regarding snow removal in the Central Business District. Councilman Williamson stated that he was not in favor of any regulation of the snow removal situation and that he thought the property owners need to hire private snow removal if they don't want to do it themselves.

### **4.) DISCUSSION REGARDING PRIVATE SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACTORS – REQUIREMENTS: REGISTRATION, LICENSING, CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE**

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion. The City Manager summarized local authority for licensing or registering private snow removal contractors. He and the Director of Public Works summarized a variety of issues associated with such activities, including private contractors on public sidewalks and public property. Following Council discussion, it was the consensus of the Council not to register snow removal contractors as it was a business that was totally driven by seasonal weather conditions.

### **5.) DISCUSSION REGARDING PARTY WALL RESTORATION – AUTHORITY & LIMITATIONS.**

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion. Following discussion, Council decided that it did not wish to enact any legislation regarding this issue. The City Engineer, Jeremy Palm suggested that the City simply include a restoration component in all future demolition bids in order to obtain the cost of wall restoration and allow the City to then determine on a case-by-case basis whether the restoration was feasible and cost-effective.

### **6.) DISCUSSION REGARDING BUSINESS REGISTRATION – REQUIREMENT TO REGISTER**

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion. Nicholson reported on the item. Councilman Williamson stated that the Fire Department did a downtown business inspection once a year and had a listing of each business and the owner's name. It was the consensus of the Council to not enact legislation regarding this item. The City Manager advised he would review this data base and advise the Council as to whether it constituted an acceptable form of business registration.

### **6.) DISCUSSION REGARDING CLOSING HOURS FOR LIQUOR LICENSEES**

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion and reported that he wanted some of the language regarding this item clarified and cleaned up. There was no other discussion of this item.

### **8.) DISCUSSION REGARDING A PROPOSED ORDINANCE -WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS (Wind Turbines)**

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion. Nicholson summarized the proposed ordinance and Jeremy Palm, City Engineer stated that the purpose for the modification of the zoning ordinance. They pointed out that the City currently does not have any regulations governing either domestic or commercial wind system within the city limits. He reported that it would be subject to a public hearing which the Plan Commission would be hearing next month at the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and that it would show up for Council's approval at the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**9.) DISCUSSION REGARDING A PROPOSED ORDINANCE – PRISONER MEDICAL SERVICES REIMBURSEMENT.**

Mayor Lansford presented the proposed ordinance for discussion. Police Chief Jeff Anderson reported on his reasons for requesting the ordinance. Steve Myers, City Attorney stated that he was not sure how much leverage it afforded the City, but it was better than having nothing on the books.

**SHORT SELECTED SUBJECTS:**

Nicholson reported on:

- The progress made with regards to vacant building program.
- Complaints received from citizens regarding parking problems around Sherman School at dismissal times.
- That the City's new website should be up and running on February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Stated that City Council needs to consider discussion of the re-dedication of either James Street Park or Southside Diamond in honor of the deceased Mayor Ray Schmitt.

Councilman Williamson questioned whether the City had officially received the grant dealing with riverbank subsidence and if the City was going to be able to receive any grants to cover the City's cost share portion. Jeremy Palm stated he was waiting on paperwork.

Councilman Benner stated he had a call from a citizen on Liz Mar Street who called the police dispatch and the dispatcher was unaware that Liz Mar Street was in the corporate limits. Benner stated he was concerned that they did not know all of the properties annexed to the City. Benner also requested additional informative signage at the North Shabbona and Fourth Street intersection.

Councilman Brozak requested "Museum Parking Only 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. M – F" in front the Historical Society. Council consensus was favorable to the signage. Brozak also stated that Tourism had revised their brochures.

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

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Linda Underwood, Deputy City Clerk