

Crystal Falls, Michigan

December 14, 2009

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Crystal Falls was held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall on Monday, December 14, 2009 at 5:00 P.M. Central Time.

Roll Call: Mayor Hendrickson, Councilors Hagglund, Burke, Bicigo, and Smokevitch.

Absent: None

Also Present: Interim City Manager Olson, City Attorney Lawrence, and Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Peltoma.

VISITORS: Lynn Perry, Robb Anderson, Jeff Sjoquist, Scott NcNelis, Mary Lahna, Maria Valesano, Kristin LaChapelle, Kaitlin LaChapelle, Daryl Arcand, Alexandra LaChapelle, Gerard Valesano, Vince Babcock, Larry Bicigo, Robert Sherwin, Dick Hendrickson, Randy Hegstrom, Bill Todish, Joan Havens.

Mayor Hendrickson led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Bicigo seconded by Councilor Burke moved that the items on the Consent Agenda be approved as noted below:

1. The minutes of the regular meeting of November 9, 2009 and special meetings of December 1, 2009 and December 7, 2009 as written.
2. The following reports for the month of November 2009:
  - A. Joint Fire Authority report, as submitted by Fire Chief Ahola, indicating answering two (2) fire calls; spending approximately 39.5 man-hours fighting fires; and holding one (1) practice and training sessions.
  - B. Police report, as submitted by Police Chief Robert Sherwin, indicating 166 complaints, of which 4 were closed by arrest, and logging of 2,229 miles on patrol duty.
  - C. Public Works Department activity report as submitted by Foreman Kelly Stankewicz.
  - D. Treasurer's Revenue Report as submitted by Clerk/Treasurer Dorothea Olson.
3. Payrolls and disbursements in the amount of \$372,611.92 be approved, and instruct the City Clerk to draw checks on the City Treasury in payment of same.

Ayes: Mayor Hendrickson Councilors Hagglund, Smokevitch, Burke and Bicigo. Nays: None

Motion carried.

Mayor Hendrickson seconded by Councilor Hagglund moved to approve the request for disbursement of funds to the Michigan Department

Crystal Falls, Michigan

December 14, 2009

of Environmental Quality for the 2009 CWRP Project in the amount of \$180,226.00.

Motion carried.

Randy Hegstrom commented on various issues regarding sidewalks, Fire Authority, and taxes.

Comment from Lynn Perry on what a wonderful job the city does regarding the snow plowing.

Approval of the amended DDA budget was motioned by Councilor Burke with a support by Councilor Bicigo.

Motion carried.

There was discussion in the DDA meeting about city water ordinances, concerns on how the city interprets it, and ordinances for snowmobiles on city streets. A review of the ordinances will be conducted by City Attorney Geoffrey Lawrence.

The city has been informed that the Crystal Manor Developer, Hovey Company has made arrangements with MISHDA to produce a Notice to Proceed.

Scott McNelis gave a brief update regarding design and permits. Fore the upcoming water project. Mayor Hendrickson motioned with a second from councilor Bicigo to pay \$1,390 for a County Erosion and Sedimentation Control Permit.

Motion carried.

Jeff Sjoquist commented on the water ordinances specifically the water surcharge and explained that the water is there and ready to serve and is a benefit for the water customers. If the water surcharge is reduced or taken off, then the rest of the active water customers need to make up the difference.

Sjoquist also reported that plans are in good shape for the Water Project. An operating budget needs to be presented to Rural Development. The books need to be turned over to the City's auditor and this will show what kind of shape the water fund is in. A spreadsheet was handed out and reviewed by Sjoquist showing a comparison of water system debt which showed that with the lower interest rate incurred with the new loan, the payments would actually decrease the annual payment by approx. \$3,000 and a 4 million dollar project would be still be included.

Crystal Falls, Michigan

December 14, 2009

The date of the joint City/Township meeting regarding fire protection issues will be Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Auditorium.

Discussion on the channels and the rapid reduction of the cable subscribers went on. Olson will report at February meeting with details of the costs for next year.

Mayor Hendrickson seconded by Councilor Bicigo moved to grant the request for a nonexclusive and perpetual easement for ingress, egress, and utility purposes, being 60 feet in width, for the benefit of Government Lot 5, Section 20, T43N, R32W, over, on, and along a strip of land traversing the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 20, T43N, R32W, to and from Fairbanks Road to the North, providing that said easement is located to the eastern most edge of said strip of land.

Motion carried.

Councilor Burke seconded by Councilor Smokevitch moved to authorize Olson to employ part time help in the City office at a minimum wage rate of pay, as she sees fit, during the period that the City is without a full time City Manager.

Motion carried.

Councilor Hagglund seconded by Councilor Burke moved to approve the payment of an invoice from Basso & Basso for \$440 for services regarding the Crystal Manor redevelopment.

Ayes: Mayor Hendrickson, Councilors Hagglund, Smokevitch, Burke.

Nays: Councilor Bicigo.

Motion carried.

Councilor Smokevitch seconded by Councilor Burke moved to approve the addition of Mastodon Township to the Crystal Falls Community Library as a participating municipality.

Motion carried.

Paul Sundquist request for a waiver from the requirement to connect to the City water supply due to the difficult terrain between his house at 776 Urban Ave and the water main on Urban Avenue will be tabled until next meeting.

Interim City Manager Olson reported on the deterioration of the rope on the little hill at the Ski Hill noting it will cost

Crystal Falls, Michigan

December 14, 2009

\$3,888.00 for 1200 feet of rope. The excess 525 feet could be used for splicing in when needed. The rope has been ordered and Crystal Falls Township has offered to pay for half. Councilor Bicigo motioned to support the ordering of the ski hill rope with Mayor Hendrickson seconding.

Motion carried.

Mayor Hendrickson motioned to set the Ski Hill annual rate to \$30 with a \$5 daily pass; Councilor Bicigo seconded.

Motion carried.

Crystal Falls Township will provide a person for the big tow. Mayor Hendrickson motioned to have a paid person at minimum wage for the little tow and that the city would pay the Food license for the concession stand to be run by volunteers if there is interest with Councilor Smokevitch supporting.

Motion carried.

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Peltoma reported on the possibility of online bill pay and the benefits to the city. Mayor Hendrickson motioned to set up online bill pays through the City of Crystal Falls billing system, Tyler Technologies to host web page and ETS providing the third party handling of credit card transactions; Councilor Smokevitch supported.

Motion carried.

Interim City Manager Olson received information to plat section in the Western Locations, advocating it as a way to promote the city and increase tax base. Mayor Hendrickson recommended to table this until next month with Hagglund and Burke in agreement.

Interim City Manager Olson asked if the Council would be interested in looking at selling any harvestable timber on city owned lands. Mayor Hendrickson agreed. Gerard Valesano commented that there is a lot of harvestable timber. Mayor Hendrickson directed Olson to make some phone calls and look into what could be done.

A letter from Lee and Beverly Margatter regarding a lot in the Western Location asking for an extension for building on the lot was tabled until next meeting.

Motion from Mayor Hendrickson and seconded by Councilor Bicigo to

Crystal Falls, Michigan

December 14, 2009

go into closed session pursuant OMA P.A. 1976, no. 267, Section 8 to discuss strategy for negotiations with the unions. Vince Babcock was asked to stay with health insurance information.

Motion carried.

Meeting temporarily adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

Councilor Smokevitch seconded by Hagglund moved to adjourn this meeting.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

PRESIDING OFFICER \_\_\_\_\_

PRESIDING CLERK \_\_\_\_\_