

Crystal Falls, Michigan

August 10, 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, August 10, 2009 at 5:05 P.M. Central Time.

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

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Nordeman, City Attorney Lawrence, and City Clerk/Treasurer Olson.

Visitors: Marion Hawks, Edna Heikkinen, Roger Major, Jay Gore, Mark Simeoni, Tara Peltoma, Lindsey Hawks, Steven Fabbri, John Ahola, Robert Sherwin, Brett Niemi, Mary Lahna, Jeff Sjoquist, Scott McNeilis, Angelo Diqui, Larry Bicigo, Jeff West, Tracy and Doug West and family, and Gigi Nousianinen.

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 July 13, 2009, and special meetings of July 15, 2009 and July 20, 2009 as written.
2. The following reports for the month of July 2009:
 - A. Joint Fire Authority report, as submitted by Fire Chief Ahola, indicating answering two (2) fire calls; spending approximately 38 man-hours fighting fires; and holding no (0) practice and training sessions.
 - B. Police report, as submitted by Police Chief Robert Sherwin, indicating 248 complaints, of which 9 were closed by arrest, and logging of 2,427 miles on patrol duty.
 - C. Public Works Department activity report as submitted by Foreman Kelly Stankewicz.
 - D. Electric Department activity report as submitted by Supervisor David Graff.
 - E. Treasurer's Revenue Report as submitted by Clerk/Treasurer Dorothea Olson.
3. Payrolls and disbursements in the amount of \$518,057.07 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 suggested an amendment to the agenda to move New Business item 10 (b) up for immediate attention.

Councilor Hendrickson seconded by Councilor Hagglund moved to adopt the following:

OF
MAXINE "PACKY" ECKOLA

WHEREAS, the Council for the City of Crystal Falls is deeply saddened by the passing of Maxine "Packy" Eckola, an exceptional citizen of this City, and

WHEREAS, the Council for the City of Crystal Falls wishes to recognize the late "Packy" Eckola for her dedication through her tireless efforts while serving on the All American City Presentation Committee as an ambassador for the City in the campaign for a top ten finalist position in the 1994 All American City Awards competition, and

WHEREAS, "Packy" put her artistic talents to use with the creation, and as the director, of the VJ Day Variety Shows, revealing the previously hidden talents of many citizens of the community, young and old alike, to create some wonderful shows full of laughter and beautiful music, and

WHEREAS, "Packy", always the optimist, had a vision for our community and continued to promote her infinite ideas for the downtown while serving as a member of the Downtown Development Authority from 1996 to 2002, and

WHEREAS, "Packy's" talents as an artist are evident throughout the community, especially in the historic painting that graces the wall of the Crystal Falls City Council Chambers, and

WHEREAS, this community will forever be indebted to the culture, the ideals, and the enrichments that "Packy" selflessly showered upon us during her life here in Crystal Falls,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council for the City of Crystal Falls hereby honors the memory of the life of this visionary, Maxine "Packy" Eckola, truly a shining example of the City's slogan, "City of Community Pride", and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Crystal Falls City Council wholeheartedly thanks "Packy's" family for sharing her with this grateful community, allowing her efforts and talents to have so positively impacted its citizens, making Crystal Falls an ever better place to live.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED THIS 10TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2009

Tracy West, Packy's daughter, thanked the Council, noting how much her mother had loved the City Crystal Falls.

Mary Lahna expressed a Thank you to the City Council and City work crews for their assistance in getting the Lincoln Park Playground equipment in place. Mayor Hendrickson also thanked the Playground Committee for all their hard work and commitment to raising the funds for the park.

Jay Gore, a property owner on Sheridan Drive in Crystal Falls Township, asked about an option to bring cable TV to their area. Manager Nordeman said that the city would need to know how many homes would actually subscribe to the cable and suggested that a petition of interested parties would be helpful in determining what it would cost to run the cable to the area.

Roger Major, also a Sheridan Drive property owner voiced his complaint about the cutting down of trees along the power lines. Manager Nordeman and Attorney Lawrence were instructed to try to resolve Mr. Major's issues.

There was no DDA meeting update as the meeting did not take place due to the lack of a quorum.

Mayor Hendrickson seconded by Councilor Bicigo moved to amend Ordinance No. 1.12 as follows:

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO CITY CHARTER PROVISION 2.13
AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 1.12

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A SERVICE CHARGE IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR A PROPOSED MULTIPLE FAMILY DWELLING PROJECT FOR PERSONS OF LOW INCOME TO BE FINANCED OR ASSISTED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ACT OF 1966, AS AMENDED

Declaration of Emergency pursuant to Charter Provision 2.13:

The emergency that exists is that the Michigan State Housing Development Authority on Thursday,

August 6th, 2009 advised the City of Crystal Falls that in order to close the loan on the Crystal View Apartment project the City would need to delete Section 10 of Ordinance 1.12. As the project affects property belonging to the City and any delay could jeopardize the project, the city Council considers this amendment an emergency and is acting under section 2.13 of the Charter to enact this emergency ordinance.

This section currently reads:

SECTION 10. Acknowledgment

The City hereby acknowledges that it will receive documentation from the Authority indicating that the Authority's participation with the housing development is limited solely to the allocation of tax credits under the LIHTC Program.

THIS AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE WILL READ:

ALL PROVISIONS IN SECTION 10 ARE DELETED FROM THE ORDINANCE.

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

Motion carried.

Councilor Bicigo seconded by Councilor Hagglund moved to set date of September 14th, for a public hearing on the amendment to Ordinance No. 1.12.

Motion carried.

Scott McNeilis advised that the mapping is nearly complete for the water project. Jeff Sjoquist advised that the loan closing on the water project will be in Feb 2010.

Jeff Sjoquist advised that the ICE grant for the automated meter project was denied.

Manager Nordeman reported that the closing process on the manor redevelopment project is more complicated than anticipated, however, it is moving along.

Due to lack of support there was no action taken on the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget.

Councilor Hendrickson seconded by Councilor Burke moved to adopt the following:

TAX LEVY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chapter V of the Charter of the City of Crystal Falls, the City Manager has caused to be prepared a budget which was presented to the Council; and

WHEREAS, said budget, after due notice and public hearing has been adopted; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said budget it is necessary that FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$431,900) for General Operation be raised by taxation; and

WHEREAS, the Taxable Valuation for the City of Crystal Falls is TWENTY TWO MILLION SIX HUNDRED THIRTY TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$22,632,325); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Crystal Falls levy 19.0863 mills to be assessed against all real and personal property located in the City of the aforesaid municipal purposes.

END OF RESOLUTION

Resolution adopted.

Brett Niemi of WPPI explained the need to revise the residential surcharge to satisfy MPSC requirements.

Councilor Hagglund seconded by Councilor Smokevitch moved to approve the

revised format for the residential surcharge to be \$0.00146/Kwhr.

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

Nays: Councilor Bicigo.

Motion carried.

Manager Nordeman reported that the COPS grant was turned down pending additional funding from the federal government.

Gigi Nousianinen representative of Iron County Samaritan Services explained their request for a letter of support in order that they may conduct a raffle.

Councilor Hagglund seconded by Councilor Burke moved to direct Manager Nordeman to send a letter of support to the Iron County Samaritan Services.

Motion carried.

The request from Mr. Casanova for easement across City owned property was referred to the Crystal Falls Planning Commission for review and comment.

Manager Nordeman reported on the proposed rate increase of WE Energies on their residential customers.

Councilor Bicigo seconded by Councilor Burke moved direct Attorney Lawrence to proceed with negotiations regarding the development of a new Fire Authority contract between the City and Township.

Motion carried.

Councilor Hendrickson seconded by Councilor Hagglund moved to meet in closed session pursuant to P. A. 1976, No. 267, Open Meetings Act, 15.268, Section 8 (c) to discuss strategy for union negotiations, and Section 8 (d) to discuss the purchase of real property for the public parking area adjacent to the Crystal View apartments.

Motion carried.

Meeting temporarily adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m

Councilor Smokevitch seconded by Councilor Hagglund moved to adjourn this meeting.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

PRESIDING OFFICER _____

PRESIDING CLERK _____