



COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF WELLS, MINNESOTA

MINUTES

Regular Session of City Council City of Wells

The Wells City Council convened in regular session on Monday, December 22, 2008 from 5:00 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. in the Wells City Building, Council Chambers. Mayor Dave Jacobson called the meeting to order with the following council members and employees present: Councilmember Steve Burns, Councilmember Ron Gaines, Councilmember Scott Linde and Councilmember Shannon Savick. Employees present: City Administrator Jeremy Germann, Deputy Clerk Debra Redman. Mayor Jacobson led the group in the "Pledge of Allegiance."

CONSENT ITEMS:

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 8, 2008 were reviewed with two corrections. The minutes should read: Councilmember Scott Linde made a motion to purchase a multidirectional plow from Rdo Equipment, of North Mankato, for \$14,250; the top five candidates (for police chief) will be interviewed on the day of December 16, 2008. Councilmember Burns made a motion to accept the minutes with these two corrections with Councilmember Gaines giving a second. Roll call taken with Burns, Gaines, Linde and Savick voting yea. Motion carried.

The monthly bills were reviewed in the amount of \$71,867.11 with Councilmember Gaines making a motion to pay the bills. Councilmember Savick seconded the motion. Roll call taken with Burns, Gaines, Linde and Savick voting yea. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE ITEMS:

Wells City Council gave the third of three readings of proposed Ordinance No. 8 by the Planning & Zoning Commission: **ORDINANCE NO. 8, SECOND SERIES – AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE BURNING OF SOLID FUELS IN EXTERNAL SOLID FUEL-FIRED HEATING DEVICES AND SOLID FUEL STORAGE.** Councilmember Savick moved to adopt the ordinance with Councilmember Linde giving a second. Roll call taken with Burns, Gaines, Linde and Savick voting yea. **Motion carried.**

Wells City Council gave the third of three readings of a proposed procedure change for zoning code violations as followed by the Planning & Zoning Commission: **ZONING CODE VIOLATION PROCEDURE.** Councilmember Burns moved to adopt the procedure change with Councilmember Savick giving a second. Roll call taken with Burns, Gaines, Linde and Savick voting yea. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Jacobson asked for a motion to accept the minutes of Planning & Zoning Commission from a meeting on November 17, 2008 as presented. Councilmember

Gaines made the motion with Councilmember Linde giving a second. Roll call taken with Burns, Gaines, Linde and Savick voting yea. Motion carried.

Mayor Jacobson asked for a motion to accept the resignation of Nathan Nasinec from the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Board of Adjustment & Appeals effective immediately. Councilmember Linde made the motion with Councilmember Savick giving a second. Roll call taken with Burns, Gaines, Linde and Savick voting yea. Motion carried.

Mayor Jacobson asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the Economic Development Authority from November 18, 2008; Wells Library Board from November 19, 2008; and the Wells Parks Board from December 18, 2008. Councilmember Burns made the motion with Councilmember Linde giving a second. Roll call taken with Burns, Gaines, Linde and Savick voting yea. Motion carried.

Wells City Council discussed a recommendation from the Police & Fire Committee to promote part-time police officer Eric Neubauer to full-time status on the conditional basis that police officer Jim Ratelle resigns as planned in January of 2009. Discussion was held on cuts to Local Government Aid (LGA) and the on-going process to find Police Chief Rick Herman's replacement. Wells City Council went on to discuss the status of the Police Chief Hiring Committee, which conducted interviews on December 18, 2008 but has not selected a candidate for nomination. Council recommended interviewing two internal candidates on December 30, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. Councilmember Gaines made a motion to conduct additional interviews on December 30, 2008 with Councilmember Savick giving a second. Roll call taken with Burns, Gaines, Linde and Savick voting yea. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Jacobson asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the Police & Fire Committee from a meeting on December 16, 2008 as presented. Councilmember Savick made the motion with Councilmember Burns giving a second. Roll call taken with Burns, Gaines, Linde and Savick voting yea. Motion carried.

Mayor Jacobson asked for a motion to accept the resignation of Police Chief Rick Herman, effective February 28, 2009. Discussion held with Councilmember Gaines making the recommendation to send a letter of gratitude to Chief Herman for his years of service. Deputy Clerk Redman stated there are plans to have a retirement reception for Chief Herman with the date and time to be announced. Councilmember Savick made a motion to accept Chief Herman's resignation with Councilmember Linde giving a second. Roll call taken with Burns, Gaines, Linde and Savick voting yea. **Motion carried.**

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mayor Jacobson asked for a motion to accept **RESOLUTION NO. 2008-18: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL TITLE AND REGISTRATION SERVICES.** Discussion held. Councilmember Gaines made the motion with Councilmember Savick giving a second. Roll call taken with Burns, Gaines, Linde and Savick voting yea. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Jacobson invited Dick Asleson, a senior vice president with Northland Securities INC, to the podium to explain **RESOLUTION NO. 2008-19: A LOCAL APPROVAL OF A STATE LAW RELATED TO THE CITY OF WELLS**. Asleson explained state statute requires a local municipality to pass an ordinance/resolution when the State of Minnesota passes a law for an individual community. Resolution No. 2008-19 will effectively closeout a Tax Increment Fund (TIF) created nearly 26 years ago to designate a portion of Broadway into a TIF district, which has accounted for roughly \$1.1 million. Revenue generated from the complex will now be allowed to be deposited in the city's general fund. Asleson stated a word of appreciated were deserved for the city's representative, senator and former city administrator (Ronda Allis) for the completion of the project. Councilmember Savick made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2008-19 with Councilmember Burns giving a second. Roll call taken with Burns, Gaines, Linde and Savick voting yea. **Motion carried**. Councilmember Gaines made a motion to adopt **CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL OF SPECIAL BY GOVERNING BODY** with Councilmember Linde giving a second. Roll call taken with Burns, Gaines, Linde and Savick voting yea. **Motion carried**.

Wells City Council discussed LGA cuts made by Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty on December 19, 2008 to balance the state's nearly \$500 million deficit. The City of Wells will have its allotment of \$463,028 from the December 26, 2008 payment cut by \$60,806. Administrator Germann stated he asked each department to take a closer look at its budget and determine five percent which could be saved while making the minimal impact. He explained the city should be able to absorb a large percentage of the \$60,806 cut by eliminating a variety of capital projects and equipment purchases. However, Germann stated the city may be faced with a decision to make tougher cuts if the state makes a similar reduction in the city's July disbursement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- *Lynda Korman* – Congratulated council-elect Ashley Dylla and mayor-elect Shannon Savick on campaign victories in November. She went on to thank Dylla for recent comments in support of selecting the council candidate (from the November 2008 election) with the next highest amount of votes who was not elected. Korman urged the rest of council to make the same selection.
- *Ashley Dylla* – Asked about city laws prohibiting snowmobile use on certain streets in Wells.

EMPLOYEES:

Administrator:

- Informed council Community Economic Director Zoa Heckman and he have been invited to present at the Reducing Energy Costs in Local Government Conference on January 22, 2009 in St. Cloud, Minnesota. The conference is sponsored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Commerce and League of Minnesota Cities.
- Thanked Councilmember Linde and Mayor Jacobson for their years of community service and helping him with a smooth transition over the last three months.
- Congratulated all newly elected officials.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Councilmember Gaines* – Thanked Councilmember Linde and Mayor Jacobson while congratulating newly elected officials Dylla and Savick.
- Councilmember Linde* – Thanked Mayor Jacobson while congratulating newly elected officials Dylla and Savick.
- Councilmember Burns* – Thanked Councilmember Linde and Mayor Jacobson while congratulating newly elected officials Dylla and Savick.
- Councilmember Savick* – Thanked Councilmember Linde and Mayor Jacobson while congratulating newly elected official Dylla.
- Mayor Jacobson* – Thanked Councilmember Linde while congratulating newly elected officials Dylla and Savick.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Jacobson asked for a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of entering into salary negotiations with non-union city personnel as deemed permissible by Minnesota Statute §13D.05 MEETINGS HAVING DATA CLASSIFIED AS NOT PUBLIC. Council voted unanimously to go into closed session.

(CLOSED SESSION)

Mayor Jacobson asked for a motion to go into open session. Council voted unanimously to go into open session as required under Minnesota Statute §13D.

Mayor Jacobson asked for a motion to raise the wages of the following full-time, non-union personnel beginning January 1, 2009 the following amount: City Administrator Jeremy Germann (\$0.00); Community Development Director Zoa Heckman (\$0.55); Police Chief Rick Herman (\$0.65); Street Supervisor Rick LaVallie (\$0.65); Liquor Store Manager Miles Lindholm (\$0.55); Liquor Store Employee Hal Lamphier (\$0.40); Liquor Store Employee Jennifer Lindholm (\$0.40). Councilmember Savick made the motion with Councilmember Gaines giving a second. Roll call taken with Burns, Gaines, Linde and Savick voting yea. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Jacobson asked for a motion to raise the wages of the following part-time, non-union personnel beginning January 1, 2009 the following amount: Library Director Sheila Treptow (\$0.50); Part-Time Library Employee Sue Rath (\$0.25); Part-Time Library Employee Lori Haler (\$0.25); Part-Time Bartenders (\$0.25); Part-Time Recycling Center Employees (\$0.25); Part-Time Police Officers (\$0.25). Councilmember Linde made the motion with Councilmember Burns giving a second. Roll call taken with Burns, Gaines, Linde and Savick voting yea. **Motion carried.**

The next meeting was set for January 12, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in the Wells City Building, Council Chambers. Meeting adjourned.

Mayor Shannon Savick

Administrator Jeremy R. Germann

