

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, May 7, 2001 with Mayor John P. Herman presiding and all members in attendance as well as City Clerk Dolly Schultz, Deputy Clerk Deb Redman and reporter Laurie Bonsack.

Police Chief Mike Iverson presented information received from MNDOT regarding the parking situation along Hwy. 22 near the school area. It was noted in the correspondence that the handicapped signs in that area should be removed as the highway does not meet the width requirements as described in the MN Statute and Rules. It was also recommended that council consider banning all parking on the west side of the highway along the school area, and suggest to the school that they investigate the feasibility of providing a paved off-street parking area for students and staff. Iverson was instructed to discuss this matter and work with school officials on the problem.

The need for additional emergency sirens was again discussed. The Public Utilities has indicated they have a siren available that could be used somewhere. However, prior to installation, we will have it checked over to make certain it is in working condition and purchase any necessary electronic parts so as to make it radio active.

Also, additional information is expected within the week on a new siren from Federal Warning Systems. This will be brought back to the next meeting.

Motion was entertained by Corbin, seconded by Gaines and carried authorizing the police department to join the Drug Task Force, which costs approximately \$1287/yr.

Discussed the ballistic vest, which the Chief recently ordered. He noted that he had applied for a 50% Federal grant as well as a 50% State grant. With this availability it was suggested that he see about updating the vests for the other officers.

Discussed the condition of a garage on 1st Ave. NE and complaints received about rodents in and around the structure. It was suggested that the owner be approached with the idea that the structure be repaired or demolished. Mayor Herman will address the issue.

In addition to this discussion, it was noted that the old Cleaner's building on Broadway is having a similar problem. The CD Director was instructed to send a letter to the County informing them of the problem. In the meantime, the street dept. was instructed to nail some plywood across the doors of the building.

CD Director Zoa Heckman reported that the fire department's grant application has been submitted, the EDA is continuing to market the old Super Valu building, the HRA continues work on blighted properties and she is working with Brian Yost and Chuck Pettipiece on a Small Cities Development Grant.

Discussed the bond issue, which was included in the revised budget for the TIF District 1-1, however no action was taken by Council.

The deed for the tax forfeited property at 147 S. Bdwy. has been received, but the County has indicated they are in no real hurry for their money. Therefore, payment may be delayed until we receive our tax settlement in June. It was noted that the EDA is working with roofers to obtain quotes on repairs.

Street supervisor Rick LaVallie updated Council on several issues noting that 1) the signs have been ordered for the No Overnight Parking, 2) sanitary and storm sewers have been bailed, 3) the pool has been filled, and 4) Giese Farm Drainage will complete the tile work on 10th St. SE starting around June 20 and at a cost of \$1768.30. Mr. Giese indicated he would work out any problems encountered with farmers regarding their crops.

Rick noted that the pool was filled early this year because of the water tower being painted.

In regards to the upcoming sewer improvement project, letters are ready to be sent to affected property owners concerning acquisition of easements. Pending no problems, Attorney Bichler will be directed to prepare the required paperwork.

Motion by Gaines, seconded by Corbin and carried to approve minutes of the April 23 meeting, monthly reports, licenses, permits and payment of regular bills of \$109,208.09 and liquor bills of \$38,390.46.

Motion by Schultz, seconded by Corbin and carried to adopt Amendment #1 to Ordinance 239, changing the number of persons on the Board of Adjustment and Appeals from three to five. Appointments will be made by the Mayor at a later date.

No recommendation has been received from Attorney Bichler regarding the TV franchise, which is up for renewal. Mayor Herman will contact Mr. Bichler regarding this and other items we are still waiting on.

The Theatre Board has inquired as to what amount they are limited to spend before coming to council for approval. All other departments have a \$500 cap on spending without prior approval. They will be directed to follow similar procedures and to keep their council committee members informed.

The next regular meeting will be held on May 21 at 5:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned