REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CALEDONIA, MINNESOTA
Monday, May 8, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: Following due call and notice thereof, Mayor Morey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Room, City Hall.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Mayor Michael J. Morey; Council Members Paul Fisch, Randi Vick, Gary Klug and Robert Standish. Members absent: None. Consultants and City staff present: Mike Gavin, Michael Gerardy, Doug Ely, Chuck Gavin and Robert L. Nelson. Visitors present: Josh Erdman, Maynard Welscher, Norman Snodgrass and David Heiller, Reporter.

CONSENT AGENDA: Following brief review, a motion was made by Member Fisch, seconded by Mayor Morey, to approve the Consent Agenda items, listed below. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

A. MINUTES OF PAST MEETINGS: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held Monday, April 24, and the Special Meeting held Wednesday, April 26, 2006, as presented.

B. SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT: To approve 2006 Season Lifeguards as follows: Mark Murphy – Manager; Aubrey Kinneberg and Emily Schmitz – Co-Assistant Managers; Lifeguards – Brent Knutson, Katelynn Hauser, Brianna Polus and Luke Nelson. Substitute Lifeguards: Leah Misch, Emily Lemke, Kelsey Kruse, Natalie Besse, Anna Wittry, Katie Ranzenberger, Jamie Klinski, Karly Misch and Robert Schieber.

C. EXEMPT PERMIT: To approve an Application for Exempt Permit, submitted by A.B.L.E., Inc., to conduct a raffle on December 7, 2006, at A.B.L.E., Inc., 111 North Marshall Street, for their Lucky Day Calendar Raffle.

VISITORS AND COMMUNICATIONS
A. ZONING APPLICATION – MR. AND MRS. JOSH ERDMAN: Mr. Erdman and Mike Gerardy, Zoning Administrator, reviewed the Zoning Application proposing to construct an 8' x 9' porch to be located approximately 8' from the east (side) property line and a 14' x 28' patio to be located approximately 2' from the east (side) property line. Mr. Erdman explained that the necessity to locate the patio so near the property line is based upon the porch design which requires using at least a couple feet of space for steps leading down to the patio from the porch for which he would like at least 4 – 6' of clear space before stepping of the patio onto the ground. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Morey, seconded by Member Fisch, to approve the Zoning Application, granting a 2' setback variance on the proposed porch and an 8' setback variance on the proposed patio. Members voting in favor: Morey, Fisch and Standish. Opposed: Vick and Klug. The motion was declared carried.

B. ANIMAL CONTROL: Mike Gavin, Animal Control Officer, reviewed a recent situation with the Council pertaining to a dog bite. Mr. Gavin reported that Christina Luhman, 1011 Sunrise Lane, owns a dog which recently bit a visiting friend when the friend got up and moved towards the door to leave. About a year ago, the dog bit Christina's son. Mr. Gavin reported that the animal is particularly bothered by persons in uniform and is very protective of his owners' property. Mr. Gavin recommended the Council designate the animal as a potentially dangerous dog, implementing the requirements of City Ordinances, Section 92.07 – 92.11. Mr. Gavin further recommended that the animal be retained under absolute control by Ms. Luhman and wear a muzzle when out among the public. He recommended bi-monthly visits for a period of one year check on the dog's behaviors. Mr. Gavin reported that Christina Luhman lives on the Mike Rogich mobile home court and he planned to ask Mr. Rogich for any written policies pertaining to dogs running loose within the mobile home park area. Following discussion, a motion was made by Member Klug, seconded by Member Standish, to approve the recommendations made by Mr. Gavin, including bi-monthly visits to check the animals' behavior for a minimum period of one year. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

C. ZONING APPLICATION – NORMAN SNODGRASS: Mr. Snodgrass reviewed his application, proposing to construct a 12' x 16' addition to his mother's, Paulette Lawson's, mobile home at 825 North Kingston Street. The addition would be built on stilts to be at the

same floor level as the mobile home and the intent would be to remove the addition when the mobile home was removed from the lot. Clerk Nelson commented that the mobile home is a nonconforming use and, generally speaking, the Ordinance prohibits expansion or extension of nonconforming uses. Nelson suggested, however, that this proposed addition would most likely not extend the life of the mobile home. Following discussion, a motion was made by Member Standish, seconded by Member Klug, to approve the Zoning Application with the stipulation that the proposed addition would be removed when the mobile home is removed from the property. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

D. VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER RETIREMENT BENEFIT: Doug Ely, President of the Volunteer Fire Relief Association, distributed a handout showing retirement plants at the rate of $850, $900, $950 and $1,000 per year with the amounts of reserve cash necessary to fund those dollar levels. Mr. Ely reported that the current retirement rate benefit was $850 per year for which the reserve cash required was $270,436. The Relief Association currently has $293,897.79, 108.6% of the required amount. The state designates that the cash reserve is to be between 95% and 99% of the calculated requirement. Mr. Ely recommended the retirement benefit be increased from $850 per year to $950 per year which would place the total liability at $302,952 of which current cash reserves comprised 97.2% which is within the state directives. Following discussion, a motion was made by Member Fisch, seconded by Mayor Morey, to increase the retirement benefit to $950 per year effective this date. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

E. FIRE DEPARTMENT LADDER TRUCK: Chuck Gavin, Fire Chief, recommended the purchase of a used ladder truck which is available at Steelton, Pennsylvania. There may be a second truck of similar age and condition. The 1973 vehicle was purchased by Steelton in 1991 and updated with approximately $160,000 worth of repair and replacement items. The estimated cost is between $25,000 and $30,000. He recommended that firefighters be authorized to travel to Steelton and inspect the vehicle. He estimated a cost of about $2,000 to have the vehicle transported back to Caledonia, should it be purchased. Maynard Welscher, Treasurer, Rural Fire District, said the Fire District Officers have not discussed purchase of the ladder truck since it was brought up at the joint meeting of the Fire District and City Of Caledonia, but feels assured there is general interest in purchasing such vehicle. Discussion was held on housing the vehicle since there is no garage space currently available at city locations. Mr. Gavin said he had found a party who might be interested in a 6 month lease of a building which would accommodate the vehicle. The vehicle is 38' long and 11.5' high. Following discussion, a motion was made by Member Klug, seconded by Member Standish, to authorize 2 firefighters to inspect the vehicle and offer up to $28,000 for its purchase along with an estimated $2,000 for transport back to Caledonia, if purchased. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

Further, a motion was made by Member Standish, seconded by Member Klug, to authorize an amount of $100 per day for each of the two firefighters who would travel to Pennsylvania to inspect the vehicle. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

F. COMMUNICATIONS
1. LMC Friday Fax, 4-28-06.
2. The Wheel, May 2006.

CLAIMS: Clerk Nelson explained that recent use of sick leave by Clerk's Office staff prohibited accomplishment of the Claims for this meeting. Claims will be presented at the May 22 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

A. LAND PARCEL: Clerk Nelson introduced discussion on a land parcel adjacent to the Municipal Liquor Store, originally discussed several months ago as available for purchase. Tony Denstad, owner, said the asking price is $14,000, but that amount was negotiable. Following brief discussion, the Council agreed by general consensus to consider possible purchase of the parcel by the City Of Caledonia and return to the next meeting for a decision.

NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTRICAL TRANSFORMER INSURANCE: The Council reviewed a proposal from Danielson Insurance Agency to insure all city electrical transformers, valued at $431,554 for a current premium of $276. Following brief discussion, a motion was made by Member Klug,

seconded by Member Standish, to authorize insuring the electrical transformers at the proposed rate. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

B. OPEN HOUSE: Members Standish explained that he would like to see the City conduct an open house by all the major departments for an afternoon and evening such that residents might be able to tour the Fire Department, Maintenance Shops and be informed as to the characteristics of various pieces of equipment and vehicles used for city purposes. Member Vick commented that the open house could perhaps be conducted on Father's Day weekend and include music in the downtown park for local talent.

CLERK'S REPORT

A. GARAGE FACILITY: Member Klug explained a conversation he had with a local business person who indicated that his garage facility may become available for purchase within the next 6-12 months. This discussion was regarding additional garage space required by the City for electric department and fire department vehicles.

B. POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Enclosed with the Agenda was the Officer Activity List and Summary List for April 2006.

C. WATER MAIN EXTENSION: Clerk Nelson reported that Davy Engineering representatives were scheduled to come to Caledonia to review and inspect the area for possible water main extension from Main Street southward to approximately C.S.A.H. #12.

D. ELECTRIC RATES: Clerk Nelson informed the Council that PowerPlus Engineering is working on a schedule of new City Of Caledonia Electric Rates to adjust to the wholesale rate increase from Tri-County Electric Cooperative, which began May 1, 2006 for wholesale billing.

E. WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN: Clerk Nelson reported that Tony Klug and Mike Gerardy are continuing to work on a Wellhead Protection Plan with Aaron Meyer, Minnesota Rural Water Association. Among the items of study are existing wells or abandoned wells which may not have been properly sealed.

F. DISCHARGE MONITORING REPORT: Enclosed with the Agenda was the Discharge Monitoring Report Form for April 2006 showing a Total Monthly Average Nitrogen Level of 8.78 mg/l.

G. ACCOUNTING POSITION: Clerk Nelson reported the proposed Accounting Position had been advertised in the Caledonia Argus and LaCrosse Sunday Tribune as well as having individual notices sent to five or six colleges or technical schools. The ad calls completed applications to be returned to the City Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 19.

H. POLICE OFFICE SHIFT SCHEDULES: Enclosed with the Agenda were the Police Officer Shift Schedules for January – June 2006.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Morey and seconded by Member Fisch. All members voted in favor, the motion was declared carried and the meeting then adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the City Council is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Monday, May 22, 2006, in the Council Room, City Hall.

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Michael J. Morey, Mayor

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Robert L. Nelson
City Clerk - Administrator