

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CALEDONIA, MINNESOTA
Monday, November 25, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: Following due call and notice thereof, Mayor Burns called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room, City Hall.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Mayor Bob Burns, Council Members: DeWayne Schroeder, Randi Vick, Bob Lemke and Tom Murphy. City Staff Present: City Clerk/Administrator: Ted Schoonover, Accountant Stephanie Mann, Electrician Matt Blocker, Administrative Coordinator Mike Gerardy, SGT Jim Stemper. Guests present: Norman and Kate Snodgrass, Dennis Gavin. Chuck Gustafson, Tom Nigon, Caledonia Argus reporter Clay Schuldt.

AGENDA: Motion by Mayor Burns, second by Member Schroeder to approve the agenda as amended. All voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Member Lemke, second by Member Vick to approve the consent agenda, which consisted of the regular meeting minutes from November 12, 2013 Regular. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

VISITORS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Norman and Kate Snodgrass were present to ask the council to support a potential new business opening in the old China Buffett building. They are purchasing the property and intend to operate a coffee and sandwich shop. They would also like to install a drive through window on the North side as they are purchasing that property as well. Discussion followed regarding handicap accessibility and snow removal. Norman stated that they could install an entrance and exit on the North side to allow for access and they would have to arrange for a contractor to haul off the snow. Member Murphy was concerned about the need to hold a public hearing to create an alley. Administrator Schoonover mentioned that technically this would not be an alley but more of a private driveway and thence no hearings or permits would be required. Consensus of the council was to support the project but would like to see some detailed drawings and plans before formally approving it.

PUBLIC HEARING: At 6:15 p.m. the Mayor closed the regular session and entered into a closed session to discuss a variance and new sign at the Caledonia Haulers. The new sign would be a lighted message board that has the potential and intent to make public announcements such as church functions, city events, special occasions etc... The variance is 117' and the city has received no negative complaints. The Mayor's only concern is that it is not a distraction to motorists and MNDOT has no issues with it. At 6:40 the Mayor closed the public hearing and reopened the regular session. Motion by Member Vick, second by Member Schroeder to approve the variance of 117' on the East front property line for a new sign. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

Chuck Gustafson, Tim Nigon from Star Energy and Matt Blocker were present to discuss the 2014 Electrical projects. Chuck and Tom presented a power point presentation of projects of the past and then presented their recommendation of how to proceed. They recommended that that we complete projects 1-4 as presented for a total of \$795,000. They did remind the council that projects 5-6 would need to be completed at some point at a cost of \$363,00. Once all these are completed we are on track to commence on the Wild Turkey substation. They also mentioned that the Caledonia Electrical Utility has one of the best reliability rates they have seen in the state. Motion by Mayor Burns, second by Member Vick to allow Star Energy to prepare the bids and specifications for projects 1-4 as base bids with 5-6 as alternates. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

Motion by Member Vick, second by Member Schroeder to approve the sign request from SEMA. The new sign will replace the existing sign and is smaller than what is currently there. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

CITY ACCOUNTANT:

Accountant Stephanie Mann was present and presented the council with the current 2013 budget and investments. The Mayor stated that it would appear that the Ambulance Department will have a shortfall of revenues and the Police Department will be over budget approximately 5-8%. The council reviewed the budget and discussed the variances. She also presented the council with a 2013 budget amendment. To the best of her knowledge this should cover us for the year but there could be possibly be another next month. She then went into the 2014 proposed budget. She and Administrator Schoonover recommended that the council ask any questions or get clarifications this evening and then we could set up a special meeting on December 2, 2013 to go through the line items and set the budget where they want it before the TNT on December 9, 2013. The only open issue is to

determine if we can bond for the County 5 and walkway pathway, Schoonover stated they would look into that and have an answer by Monday.

Accountant Mann presented the Council with the 2013 Budget Amendment. Motion by Mayor Burns, second by Member Lemke to approve the 2013 Budget Amendment as presented. All members present voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Administrator Schoonover presented the council with an opportunity to allow one of our officers to attend a Sovereign Citizens training event in St. Paul. This training is being presented by the BCA and is intended to inform the officer of how to recognize these citizens and how to effectively deal with them. The intent is to have an officer attend the training and have him return and train the city employees. In light of recent events at city hall Schoonover stated that this would be a good training event and well worth the investment. Motion by Member Murphy, second by member Vick to approve SGT Stemper to attend the training with one nights lodging and reimbursements accordingly. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

Schoonover presented the council with two resolutions that would enact a PEG fee on all cable consumers from Mediacom and Ace. This is part of the contract that is in force now and if we do not enact on it the odds are fairly low that in the new negotiations we can get it added back in as we haven't for the previous ten years. Motion by Member Vick, second by Member Schroeder to approve both resolutions. Roll call vote: Yes. Member Schroeder, Member Vick. No. Mayor Burns, Member Murphy and Member Lemke. Motion failed to obtain a majority and was declared failed.

Schoonover presented the council with a 2014 Special Assessment for an Improvement Project at 507 S. Marshall St. Along with the certification there was a resolution 2013-017 allowing the city to assess the property owners property taxes. Motion by Member Vick, second by Member Lemke to approve the Special Assessment and Resolution pending the signed agreement by the property owner. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

Schoonover informed the council that we have another potential applicant for the WWTP Operator position and if he and the council is available would like to conduct an interview on Monday December 2, 2013 at 5:00p.m. Consensus was to set up the meeting.

Mayor Burns mentioned that he had a meeting with Mrs. Bernadette Becker concerning the Winnebago/County 5 street project and she was concerned about the county/city using more property but was relieved to hear that it would be done through an easement not a purchase. She also is concerned about a sidewalk in front of an active farm field when logic would say it should be on the side of the street that most the users would be coming from. She also had concerns about residents crossing the street just beyond a small hill, and if built on the West side who would mow and up keep it as she would not be. Discussion ensued and we may be able to develop a walking path within the roadway similar to what La Crosse does. This will be looked and revisited.

Employee Time sheets were presented and accepted. The next regular meeting will be on Monday, December 9, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. There will be a special meeting on December 2, 2013 at 5:00 for an interview and at 6:00 for a budget work session.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Council, A motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Burns, second by Member Schroeder. All voted in favor and the motion was declared carried to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

Robert H. Burns

Ted A. Schoonover
Clerk-Administrator