

MINUTES
CITY OF THORP REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2009 AT 7:00PM

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. In attendance were Mayor Wnek; Alderpersons Blume, Skibbie, Stroinski, and Teclaw; DPW McCredden; Police Chief Verges and City Administrator Reeg. Alderperson Abramczak was on an excused absence.
2. Presentation from S.E.H. on proposed improvements to Thorp Public Library
It was decided by general consensus that this presentation best be done as the opening public commentary during the subsequent public hearing. No action taken.
3. Open Public Hearing on proposed improvements to Thorp Public Library and proposed CDBG Grant Application
 - a. Open Public Hearing
Mayor Wnek declared the public hearing open at 7:01pm.
 - b. Public Commentary
Robert Krzyzanowski of SEH opened the public commentary with a brief overview of the proposed renovations to the library, noting that there were really two design elements. The first focused on bringing the existing library facility into ADA compliance. The second was an expansion of library space for enhanced patron services offerings. He also commented on the proposed CDBG Grant application to fund the ADA-compliance renovations.
Bob Hmielak (406 E. School St., Thorp) inquired as to if sump pumps in the basement of the library would be wired to run during a power outage.
 - c. Close Public Hearing
M/M/S (Stroinski, Teclaw) to close the public hearing at 7:18pm. Carried unanimously.
4. Open Public Hearing on proposed changes to city ordinances relating to regulation and control of domesticated animals
 - a. Open Public Hearing
Mayor Wnek declared the public hearing open at 7:18pm.
 - b. Public Commentary
Mayor Wnek gave an overview of the new ordinance that would limit the number of domesticated animals (defined for this purpose as dogs or cats) to 3 in single-family homes, 2 in duplexes, and 1 in apartments. Lenore Giwojna (200 E. Grant St., Thorp) commented that this didn't do anything to control animals and encouraged the City Council to take further measures in the future.
 - c. Close Public Hearing
M/M/S (Stroinski, Skibbie) to close the public hearing at 7:30pm. Carried unanimously.
5. Comments and suggestions from pre-registered citizens
Ann Huls (403 W. School St., Thorp) spoke on behalf of the Thorp Historical Society. She provided two definitions of the word "museum" containing the word "library" and asked the City Council to reconsider the deed restrictions on library and parkland so that the Historical Society could build on the site of the sand volleyball courts adjacent to the skating rink.
6. Consent Agenda—The City Council, with a single vote and without debate, may act upon the following items. Any council member wishing to debate an individual item may request that it be considered separately
 - a. Approval of minutes from September 14, 2009 Regular City Council meeting
M/M/S (Stroinski, Blume) to approve. Carried unanimously.
7. Discussion and possible action relating to monthly reports:
 - a. (Police Department) Monthly activity summary
Verges noted that Officer Kuechenmeister was back from leave. She also noted additional Tracs and mobile-data browser training for the PD. Alderperson Teclaw questioned non-officer initiated events on the monthly report. Verges noted that there was a checkbox in the report software that allowed for tracking officer-initiated vs. non-officer initiated events, but that it wasn't specifically tracked here in Thorp so that data wasn't meaningful. M/M/S (Skibbie, Blume) to approve. Carried unanimously.

- b. (Public Works/Utilities) Monthly activity summary
M/M/S (Stroinski, Teclaw) to approve. Carried unanimously.
- c. (Administration) Administrator's Report, Financial Report, Vouchers, Payroll Register & Journal Entries
M/M/S (Teclaw, Skibbie) to approve the Administrator's Report. Carried unanimously.
M/M/S (Skibbie, Blume) to approve the Financial Report, Vouchers, Payroll Register, and Journal Entries.
Carried unanimously.

Note: Item #17 was taken out of order at this time, but its record will be kept in numeric order for record keeping purposes.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Consider Resolution 2009-10-1 "Resolution Authorizing Submission of the CDBG Application Relating to the City of Thorp Participation in the Wisconsin Small Cities Community Development Block Grant - Public Facilities Program"
M/M/S (Teclaw, Stroinski) to adopt. Carried unanimously.

Note: Item #19 was taken out of order at this time, but its record will be kept in numeric order for record keeping purposes.

9. Discussion and possible action relating to request from Chief of Police authorizing additional hours for a part-time police officer in excess of the WRS 600 hour threshold; therefore necessitating retirement contribution by the City
Verges explained that Officer Schneider, who has been working for the city since May, was already nearing 400 hours of service due to filling in many shift for Officer Kuechenmeister for EMS Training and his recent medical leave. Reeg noted that if Schneider works over 600 hours in any given 12 month period, that the city would have to pay into the Wisconsin Retirement System on his behalf. Reeg also noted that all part-time employees in the past that have qualified for retirement contributions were required to pay the employee share, therefore making the city's share in this instance 10%. Verges discussed the tangible and intangible costs of recruiting and training part-time officers and felt that the cost to pay Schneider's retirement was worth it, particularly due to his high performance and acceptance in town. Reeg did note a passage in the WPPA contract that indicated a part-time officer that works 600 hours becomes a member of the union. It was decided by general consensus to table this topic pending further research on the union ramifications.
10. Discussion and possible action relating to reallocation of funds between the Street Maintenance Operating Budget and Street Reserve Fund
M/M/S (Stroinski, Blume) to reallocate \$6390 in funds previously approved for street striping and crack filling from the street reserve to rather have the expenses paid from the street maintenance operating budget. Carried unanimously.
11. Discussion and possible action relating to reallocation of funds between the Park Maintenance Operating Budget and Park Reserve Fund or Contingency Funds
Reeg noted that the tennis court project that had been started nearly two-years ago had been completed in July. However, due to the unforeseen circumstances that were encountered, the project took more than the \$15,000 originally allocated from the Park Reserve. However, rather than immediately asking for more funds from the reserve, he and McCredden had instead decided to see if they could cover the expenses from the Park Maintenance Operating Budget. It now appeared that that budget would be slightly over, and they were requesting a \$2500 allocation from either the Park Reserve or Contingency Fund to cover this overage. M/M/S (Teclaw, Blume) to allocate \$2500 from the Park Reserve. Carried unanimously.
12. Consideration of agreement for VGBA compliance upgrades at the Thorp Aquatic Center and allocation of funds from the Pool Mechanical Reserve
M/M/S (Stroinski, Teclaw) to approve the agreement with Newman Pools and to allocate \$3795.58 from the Swimming Pool Mechanical Reserve to pay for it. Carried unanimously.
13. Consider purchase of replacement pump for Sewer Treatment Plant
M/M/S (Stroinski, Teclaw) to allocate \$3806.90 from the Sewer Utility for the quote from Tri-State Pump & Controls to rebuild the malfunctioning pump. Carried unanimously.
14. Approval of the 2010-2014 City of Thorp 5 Year Capital Plan
Reeg presented the draft version of the 2010-2014 Capital Plan. It was decided by general consensus to table this until November to allow more time for review by the City Council. No action taken.

15. Discussion and possible action relating to billing out a portion of the public fire protection fee
Reeg noted that he and McCredden had been working to estimate the amount of water to bill to the Fire Department for water used from hydrants to combat a fire in the Town of Thorp (Sopiarz). While they thought they had come up with a good number, this offered an opportunity to again discuss the \$134,480 Public Fire Protection Fee the City of Thorp taxpayers are required to pay to the Water Utility by PSC regulations. This fee covers the installation and maintenance of fire hydrants and related infrastructure, along with the water needed to fight fires within the city limits, and for training and testing of equipment. Because of the unique situation in Thorp where the Fire District also serves surrounding townships that do not contribute to the Public Fire Protection Fee, but indirectly benefit by the training and testing of equipment, and occasionally benefit directly from the use of water from the fire hydrants as in the instance of the Sopiarz fire; could some way to have the townships or the Fire District share in this fee be established? It was decided by general consensus to have Reeg open a dialogue up with the Fire District on the topic. No action taken.

OLD BUSINESS

16. Consider Ordinance 2009-10-2 “An Ordinance Amending Section 6-1-21 of the City of Thorp Code of Ordinances Regarding Limitations on the Number of Dogs and Cats”
M/M/S (Stroinski, Blume) to enact the ordinance. Carried unanimously.
17. Discussion and possible action relating to Thorp Historical Society relocation
Historical Society representatives indicated that they were no longer interested in building on the Library land, but were instead interested in building where the sand volleyball courts are adjacent to the skating rink. Reeg noted that based upon the legal interpretation of deed restrictions issued by the City Attorney that this still was not legal. He also noted that within the last few years during a park inspection tour with the Park & Recreation Board that he had raised the question of whether to continue to maintain the volleyball courts due to minimal usage, and that the Park & Recreation Board had been adamant that the courts be maintained. Mayor Wnek again offered up land at the City farm and the Historical Society declined. Alderperson Teclaw indicated that he felt that due to the new definitions of museum offered by Ann Huls earlier, that they should be able to build in the parks. Reeg indicated that until a new legal opinion be given, which would come with additional cost to the taxpayers, it was not possible. He also indicated that he did not feel City Attorney Salm’s opinion would change due to these alternate definitions, and that to get a different legal opinion might require hiring outside counsel. Alderperson Teclaw demanded that Salm revisit his opinion. Reeg indicated that it would cost additional money, but it was the City Council’s prerogative to do so if they wished. M/M/S (Teclaw, Blume) to ask Salm to reconsider his opinion based upon the new definitions of museum offered. Mayor Wnek called for a roll call vote. The motion passed with all City Council members voting aye. Additional discussion ensued on alternate sites. Reeg mentioned that there was a Brownfield Site Assessment grant application deadline looming, that if awarded could pay for analysis of the old dump site east of town on X to determine if it could be cleaned up and made usable. M/M/S (Blume, Skibbie) to apply for the grant. Carried unanimously.
18. Consider Resolution 2009-10-3 “Resolution Directing Implementation of Vehicle Registration Suspensions for Unpaid Parking Citations”
M/M/S (Blume, Stroinski) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.
19. Discussion and possible action relating to options for relocation of City Shop, enclosure of police parking bays and installation of secure evidence storage area, and possible remodeling of Police Chief’s Office
Robert Krzyzanowski of SEH presented a very rough and very theoretical floor plan for city shop renovations, created based upon discussions with Reeg, McCredden, and Verges. Reeg noted that while this should improve functional efficiency of garage operations, it was also very much designed to fix the immense energy efficiency problems in the current complex. Reeg also noted a grant possibility through the Office of Energy Independence to pay for energy efficiency improvements retrofitted into existing municipal structures. Alderperson Teclaw had drawn up his own set of plans reducing footprint and removing the bathroom. After lengthy debate it was decided by general consensus for McCredden and Reeg to carefully reevaluate the space needs and bring it back. Verges then presented office furniture quotes from Hank’s Furniture. The set most useful was quoted at \$2968.00—about \$800 more than the EBI quote discussed last month. Reeg noted that as an alternative he had researched office furniture from Sam’s Club as a comparison point. McCredden had bought a desk for his office from there and it was of good quality. Reeg had priced out pieces in a similar configuration to the EBI quote and it could be bought from Sam’s Club for around \$1500, about \$600 less than the EBI quote. It was decided by general consensus to have Reeg and Verges discuss other options and bring it back to a later meeting. No action taken.

20. Discussion and possible action relating to street lights on W. Prospect Street
Last fall, options for the streetlights on W. Prospect Street had been discussed due to the failure of one. At that time a temporary fix had been implemented, and further discussion was to happen later. Reeg and McCredden felt it was time to reopen the discussion. Year-old prices for underground wiring and lamppost replacement were discussed. It was decided by general consensus to have McCredden get new wiring estimates and research further lamppost option and bring them back to the November meeting. No action taken.
Note: Items #22 and 23 were taken out of order at this time, but their record will be kept in numeric order for record keeping purposes.
21. Discussion and possible action relating to purchase and installation of server and IT support services
Due to the possible sensitive nature of some of the subject matter to be discussed, it was decided to move into closed session. Reeg noted that he had confirmed with the City Attorney that it was okay to do so in these circumstances, because it had not been anticipated at the time the agenda was published and/or posted.
M/M/S (Stroinski, Teclaw) to move into closed session per Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(f). Carried unanimously.
M/M/S (Skibbie, Stroinski) to reconvene into open session. Carried unanimously.
M/M/S (Skibbie, Teclaw) to offer Scott's Computing one last chance to install the server, or alternatively to contract with Krista Computers of Chippewa Falls for the server and future IT support services. Carried unanimously.
22. Discussion and possible action relating to bonding versus reserve funds for capital project financing
Reeg noted that this topic had been discussed several times, and that a representative from Ehlers & Associates, the city's financial advisors, had come and discussed this with the City Council. It was time, however to make a decision as the 2010 Operating Budget could not be completed until this decision was made. M/M/S (Blume, Stroinski) to move forward with the bonding for long-term capital projects strategy. Mayor Wnek called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 3-1 with Alderpersons Blume, Skibbie, and Stroinski voting aye, and Alderperson Teclaw voting no.
23. Discussion of Fiscal Year 2008 Audit Report
M/M/S (Blume, Stroinski) to table this due to the length of the meeting. Carried unanimously.
24. Reports from Department Heads, Mayor, Council, Committees, and discussion of future agenda items
Dates for budget workshops were discussed. It was decided by general consensus to hold a budget workshop meeting on Monday October 26 at 5:15pm.
25. Adjournment
M/M/S (Blume, Stroinski) to adjourn at 10:25pm. Carried unanimously.

Date of Publication

Richard J. Wnek
Mayor

Randall D. Reeg
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer