

MINUTES
CITY OF THORP REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2009 AT 7:00PM

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. In attendance were Mayor Wnek; Alderpersons Geissler, Skibbie, Abramczak, Stroinski, and Teclaw; DPW McCredden; Police Chief Verges; and City Administrator Reeg.
2. Public Hearing on proposed special assessment for water & sewer main replacement on N. Boardman St.
 - a. Open Public Hearing
Mayor Wnek opened the public hearing at 7:01pm.
 - b. Public Commentary
McCredden gave an overview of the proposed special assessment.
Jeff Juzwiak (207 N. Boardman St., Thorp) asked why if he pays taxes, that tax money was not being used to pay for these improvements. Reeg noted that municipal utilities operate as proprietary or enterprise funds and are not supported by tax money, but rather by used fees.
 - c. Close Public Hearing
M/M/S (Teclaw, Abramczak) to close the public hearing at 7:16pm. Carried unanimously.
3. Comments and suggestions from pre-registered citizens
Bob Hmielak (406 E. School St., Thorp) asked about having the abandoned telephone lines along the railroad tracks removed. It was suggested to contact the railroad commissioner's office, and to discuss it with County Board Supervisor Roger Alger. No action taken.
4. 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 March 9, 2009 Regular City Council meeting
 - b. Approval of Temporary Class "B" License, Dance License, Noise Permit, & Street Use Permit for Dairy Days
M/M/S (Stroinski, Teclaw) to approve. Carried unanimously.
5. Discussion and possible action relating to monthly reports:
 - a. (Police Department) Monthly activity summary
In addition to the monthly report, Verges included a memo regarding a new part-time police officer. She also reported that another current part-time officer would be leaving as he was moving out of state. It was also discussed to include a reminder about curfew for minors in the upcoming school newsletter. M/M/S (Teclaw, Skibbie) to approve. Carried unanimously.
 - b. (Public Works/Utilities) Monthly activity summary
M/M/S (Stroinski, Abramczak) to approve. Carried unanimously. McCredden also reminded council members that Arbor Day festivities would be held on Friday April 24th at 10:00am at the library.
 - c. (Administration) Administrator's Report, Financial Report, Vouchers, Payroll Register & Journal Entries
M/M/S (Teclaw, Geissler) to approve. Carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

6. Consider Resolution 2009-04-1 "Final Resolution in Accordance with Wisconsin Statute Section 66.0703 Authorizing the Levying of a Special Assessment Against Benefited Properties in the North Boardman Street Assessment District"
M/M/S (Teclaw, Geissler) to adopt. Carried unanimously.
7. Discussion and possible action relating to Neighborhood Electric Vehicle purchase
Tom Shea from International Motor-Works (LaCrosse) was on hand to answer questions and demo an NEV. Mayor Wnek called a recess at 7:30pm to allow members of the council and public an opportunity to go outside and inspect the model NEV on site. Mayor Wnek called the meeting back to order at 8:07pm. General discussion of the pros and cons of the vehicle occurred. Alderperson Geissler inquired if a lease program was available. Shea confirmed that there was no such program in existence at this time. M/M/S (Teclaw, Abramczak) to table this item for future consideration. Carried on a 4-1 vote with Alderperson Geissler voting no.

8. Consider Resolution 2009-03-1 “Resolution Requesting Extension of 35MPH Speed Limit on CTH M to Southern City Limit Boundary at Hixwood Rd.”
M/M/S (Geissler, Abramczak) to adopt. Carried unanimously.
9. Discussion and possible action relating to changing policies for dealing with delinquencies to the city
10. Discussion and possible action relating to potential modification to employee travel policy
Items 9&10 were discussed concurrently. Reeg presented a synopsis of what the council had discussed on these two topics last month. The council agreed and asked for these policies to be brought back as resolutions next month. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Discussion and possible action relating to quotes for server purchase & installation
Reeg presented two quotes for the purchase and installation of a server and software upgrades—one from Scott’s Computing for \$2785 and one from the Wallace Group for \$2971. The council noted that the hardware and software in the two quotes was not the same. Reeg explained that he had not set equipment or software specifications. He had instead met with both companies and explained the challenges with the current system and expectations from the upgrades and left it to the companies to come up with their proposals. M/M/S (Skibbie, Teclaw) to accept the quote from Scott’s Computing. Carried unanimously.
12. Consider Ordinance 2009-04-2 “An Ordinance Amending Section 9-3-8 of the City of Thorp Code of Ordinances Relating to Winter Parking Regulations”
M/M/S (Stroinski, Abramczak) to enact Ordinance 2009-04-2. Carried on a 4-1 vote with Alderperson Skibbie voting no.
13. Discussion and possible action relating to limiting parking in times in downtown business district
The Planning Commission had recommended that the City Council post signs limiting parking in the downtown business district to two hours from M-F 8am-5pm. This was in response to numerous complaints the city had received from businesses regarding the limited downtown parking being monopolized for extended periods. Alderperson Teclaw felt any parking restrictions would drive business away from downtown. He had also heard from a couple businesses that were opposed to the proposal. Reeg suggested that he could ask the Thorp Area Chamber of Commerce to poll businesses in the downtown business district to get more complete input. It was agreed by general consensus to postpone action until May pending results of the parking poll. No action taken.
14. Discussion and possible action relating to COPS Grant
Verges explained the opportunity to apply for a COPS grant, which would fund all salary and benefits for an additional full-time police officer for three years. The only obligation for the city would be to fund a fourth year. Reeg had analyzed the projected cost to the city, and noted that by banking the current amount allocated for part-time officers (which would be eliminated during this 4-year period) for the first three years, and continuing the same allocation in the fourth year, there would be little if any additional cost to the city. Verges noted this would give the city 24-hour coverage, and eliminate the turnover the city struggles with in its part-time police staff. Alderperson Teclaw feared that the police union would force the city to keep the officer after the fourth year. Reeg noted that the city was free to reduce positions in any of the unions if they were unable to fund them at any time. Alderperson Stroinski felt the additional full-time officer was unnecessary. M/M/S (Abramczak, Stroinski) not to apply for the COPS Grant. Mayor Wnek called for a roll-call vote. Alderperson Geissler abstained. Alderperson Skibbie vote no. Alderpersons Abramczak, Stroinski, and Teclaw voted aye and the motion carried.
15. Discussion and possible action authorizing an allocation from the Street Reserve for maintenance projects
McCredden was requesting 4 additional allocations from the street reserve for 2009 projects.
First was an additional \$25,000 for two additional storm water catch basins on the N. Boardman St. project that were not included in the initial estimates. M/M/S (Stroinski, Abramczak) to approve. Carried unanimously.
Second was \$3000 for 400 yards of gravel for S. Wilson and W. Prospect Streets to bring the road surface up to the grade of the recently installed curb & gutter. M/M/S (Stroinski, Abramczak) to approve. Carried unanimously.
Third was \$2948.68 to re-stripe parking stalls and stop sign approaches throughout the city. Another \$300 would pay for striping parking stalls on the streets at churches and non-profits. M/M/S (Teclaw, Stroinski) to approve up to \$3500. Carried unanimously.
Fourth was \$3000 for crack-filling on streets throughout the city. M/M/S (Geissler, Abramczak) to approve. Carried unanimously.

16. 2009 Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor Wnek presented his 2009 Arbor Day Proclamation. M/M/S (Teclaw, Abramczak) to approve. Carried unanimously.

17. Discussion and possible action relating to spectator admissions at the Thorp Aquatic Facility

Reeg reported that the Park & Recreation Board had recommended a change to the spectator admission policy at the Thorp Aquatic Facility. Adult guardians of paid swimming minors would be allowed free daily admission. He also noted that the Park & Recreation Board would review the policy later in the summer to ensure that it wasn't causing issues. M/M/S (Teclaw, Stroinski) to approve. Carried unanimously.

18. Discussion and possible action relating to picnic table rental policy

Due to a significant number of picnic tables disappearing from the parks last summer, and the Dairy Days former program of loaning tables out having become ineffective (i.e. people were taking tables without permission and sometimes not returning them), the Park & Recreation Board had developed a proposed picnic table rental policy. The tables would all be stamped and marked with a serial number. A \$2.00 per table rental fee, plus \$50 flat fee deposit would be required, with a maximum of 5 tables per individual being available for 72 hours. Renters would have to arrange a pick-up time and have tables checked out by a city staff member. Likewise the tables would need to be checked back in, and reviewed for damage before the deposit would be returned. Signs would be posted in all the parks indicating the policy, and that unauthorized use was theft. M/M/S (Stroinski, Skibbie) to approve the policy. Carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

19. Consider moving into closed session per Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c) & (e) to discuss the following:

a. Personnel recommendations for 2009 Thorp Aquatic Center season

b. Discuss developer's agreement with G&C Country Developments for Shire Crest development

M/M/S (Stroinski, Abramczak) to move into closed session. Carried unanimously.

20. Reconvene into open session for any action required as the result of closed session

M/M/S (Abramczak, Stroinski) to return to open session. Carried unanimously.

M/M/S (Stroinski, Abramczak) to approve the staff for the Aquatic Center as recommended by the Park & Recreation Board (a copy attached to the minutes on file in city hall). Carried unanimously.

21. Reports from Department Heads, Mayor, Council, Committees, and discussion of future agenda items

Reeg reminded that council that the annual organizational meeting was scheduled for Tuesday April 21. The council decided by general consensus to hold the meeting at 5:30pm.

Aldersperson Teclaw requested a "clean sweep" of the downtown business district. Reeg noted that a reminder to clean up discarded junk and refuse could be distributed concurrently with the parking poll.

Mayor Wnek thanked Aldersperson Geissler for his years of service on the city council.

22. Adjournment

M/M/S (Stroinski, Abramczak) to adjourn at 10:32pm. Carried unanimously.

Date of Publication

Richard J. Wnek
Mayor

Randall D. Reeg
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer