

MINUTES
CITY OF THORP REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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, Abramczak, Stroinski, and Teclaw; DPW McCredden; Police Chief Verges; and City Administrator Reeg.

2. Comments and suggestions from pre-registered citizens

None.

3. 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 August 10, 2009 Regular City Council meeting
- b. Approval of Temporary “Class B” Wine License – Chamber of Commerce
- c. Approval of Operator’s License – Jamie J. Hoehnen
- d. Approval of Operator’s License – Tanya S. Krizan

Alderperson Skibbie requested that item (a) be considered separately since she was not in attendance at that meeting. M/M/S (Abramczak, Stroinski) to approve item (a). Carried unanimously with Alderperson Skibbie abstaining. M/M/S (Teclaw, Stroinski) to approve items (b) thru (d). Carried unanimously.

4. Discussion and possible action relating to monthly reports:

- a. (Police Department) Monthly activity summary
Verges presented the monthly report. Mayor Wnek inquired as to if the TPD had Tasers after discussion initiated by Stanley at the last UCCC meeting. Verges indicated that the department had Stingers, which were slightly less potent than Tasers. M/M/S (Teclaw, Skibbie) to approve the report. Carried unanimously.
- b. (Public Works/Utilities) Monthly activity summary
McCredden presented the monthly report. He also added that at the request of the City Council he had further investigated the origin of the driveway apron that had recently been removed from Yellowstone Trail Park in the vicinity of S&K. He had discussed it with the former DPW, and also searched again for any records indicating that it had been installed for stormwater purposes. There was no evidence to support this claim. He also asked council members to report to him any instances within their wards where private trees were obstructing sidewalks. Alderperson Skibbie asked about the status of the alley in the 300 block of East Main St. McCredden noted that the Planning Commission had recommended abandonment and talks would begin with adjacent property owners soon. Alderperson Blume commented that Boardman Street looks great. M/M/S (Blume, Stroinski) to approve the report. Carried unanimously.
- c. (Administration) Administrator’s Report, Financial Report, Vouchers, Payroll Register & Journal Entries
M/M/S (Skibbie, Blume) to approve. Carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Item 10 was taken out of order at this point in the agenda, but its record shall be kept in numerical order for record-keeping purposes.

5. Discussion and possible action relating to Historical Society relocation

Sue Klapatauskas from the Historical Society was in attendance. She noted that her visit would basically be informational only now that city staff had uncovered documents detailing deed restrictions that were in place on the library and city-owned parklands. According to Reeg and City Attorney Salm, use of the land was limited to library and park purposes. Alderperson Teclaw argued that the deed restrictions allowed for an exception for public purposes, but both Reeg and Salm disagreed. Reeg was asked to ask Salm about the ability of the Conway heirs to lift the deed restrictions. Klapatauskas said the Society was disappointed as they liked both the library land and the area currently being occupied by sand volleyball courts in Yellowstone Trail Park. Other ideas for relocation were discussed, including the old barn behind Bob’s Corner Garage or in an existing house. It was generally agreed that the city would continue to assist to the extent possible. No action taken.

6. Review draft ordinance language regarding animal control and set date for public hearing
Reeg noted that he had included draft ordinance language in the council packets, but that City Attorney Salm had redrafted the language slightly. Reeg distributed the new language. It was generally agreed that this language reflected the changed the council had directed (limiting pet-owners to 3 dogs and/or cats in single family, 2 in duplexes, and 1 in apartments). It was agreed by general consensus to hold a public hearing and schedule the ordinance changes for enactment at the October City Council meeting.
7. Review draft ordinance language regarding vehicle registration suspensions
Reeg had discovered that city ordinances already provided for suspension of vehicle registrations for unpaid parking citations, but that when the idea was discussed under former Police Chief Albert, that he didn't feel it was necessary. Reeg noted that no ordinance changes were required, but that a Resolution would be brought forward next month so that the Council's desire to initiate the program could be officially recorded. No action taken.
8. Consideration allocation of reserve funds for remodel of Police Chief's office
Chief Verges presented a bid for \$2174.91 from Emmons Business Interiors (the same company that had done the main police office). Some council members felt it was perhaps a bit costly and not the right time to spend reserve money. Others felt working conditions in Verge's office were not adequate. Some council members took a moment to go look in the office. Alderperson Abramczak asked in Hank's Furniture had been given an opportunity to bid on the project. Since they had not, it was generally agreed to allow them to do so. M/M/S (Abramczak, Stroinski) to table. Carried unanimously.
9. Consideration of bids for surplus dump truck and equipment
Reeg and McCredden had held the bid opening the previous Friday. Two bids were received—one from Stanley Lis for \$2772 and one from Gregg Turenne for \$888. M/M/S (Blume, Stroinski) to award the bid to Stanley Lis. Carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

10. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2008 Audit Report by Schenck
Jon Trautman, the City of Thorp's lead auditor from Schenck, was on hand to present the FY2008 Audit Report. Since this was the first time in many years that the City Council had been interested in receiving an audit presentation, Trautman walked the council section by section through the management letter. In short, the City is in good financial shape, fund balances are healthy, accounting practices continue to improve, the water utility has an excellent rate of return, and the sewer utility has an improving rate of return that should continue to be monitored. There were a few findings that are common in small municipalities with limited staff, but nothing of concern according to Trautman. The City Council thanked Trautman for coming to present the report. Alderpersons Blume and Skibbie wanted to discuss the audit more at a future meeting. No action taken.
11. Resolution 2009-09-1 "Resolution Approving Pay Application #2 from Haas Sons Inc. for Boardman Street Project"
M/M/S (Stroinski, Blume) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.
12. Resolution 2009-09-2 "Resolution Approving Final Pay Application from Haas Sons Inc. for Boardman Street Project"
M/M/S (Teclaw, Abramczak) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.
13. Resolution 2009-09-3 "Resolution Approving and Declaring Support for Requested Equipment Purchase by the Thorp Area Ambulance District"
M/M/S (Stroinski, Skibbie) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.
14. Discussion and possible action relating to options for relocation of City Shop
McCredden again discussed the need for a refurbished city shop. Reeg noted that there was grant money becoming available for retrofitting existing municipal buildings with energy efficiency measures. Both noted not only the operational improvements that could be achieved, but the horrible energy efficiency of the existing shop. M/M/S (Blume, Stroinski) to authorize expenditures from the Garage Renovations Reserve to fund initial design and/or engineering work. Carried unanimously.

15. Discussion and possible action to declare a public nuisance for improperly stored and discarded refuse at 228 N. Washington Ave
This item had been placed on the agenda at the request of Alderperson Stroinski. However, Alderperson Stroinski noted that since the request had been made the property owner had begun to clean up the property and had an auction scheduled that should see much of the problem rectify itself. It was decided by general consensus to postpone any action until after the auction and the condition of the property could be reevaluated.
16. Discussion and possible action relating to Shire Crest including:
- a. Approval of stormwater discharge over top of Sewer Interceptor easement
Reeg explained that the proposed stormwater management plan for the Shire Crest subdivision had a stormwater detention pond with a spillway designed over the top of the easement the City has from Bernie Stuttgart for the main sewer transmission line to the STP. Reeg and McCredden had discussed it with Randy Sanford of SEH and he felt there would be no issues. Reeg clarified that G&C Country Developments would be responsible for acquiring their own easement from Stuttgart, and that the City was simply signing off on the concept due to their existing underlying easement. M/M/S (Stroinski, Teclaw) to approve allowing the stormwater spillway over the top of the City's sewer utility easement. Carried unanimously.
 - b. Approval of Stormwater Management Practice Maintenance Agreement Plan
Reeg also explained that as a step in the approval of their stormwater management plan for Shire Crest, G&C Country Developments needed to have a Stormwater Management Practice Maintenance Agreement Plan in place that indicates stormwater pond maintenance responsibilities. Reeg and McCredden had met with Randy Sanford as well as G&C Country Developments regarding this issue. Both were in consensus that although ideally the City would not want to take on this responsibility, the alternative requirement to form a neighborhood stormwater association with bylaws that would require fees for maintenance of property owners in Shire Crest did not seem feasible. After initial construction, the requirements were biennial mowing and inspections after large rain events. Eventually there could be some additional maintenance, but both felt a city-wide stormwater utility would be in place by then. Costs would be TIF-eligible until TID#4 closes in 2021. M/M/S (Blume, Abramczak) to approve. Carried unanimously.
 - c. Approval of municipal ownership of Shire Crest stormwater facilities
Reeg also explained that eventually, G&C Country Developments would like to turn over ownership of the stormwater infrastructure to the city. This also made sense for long-term ownership reasons. Once the City accepted ownership, the plan approved in (b) above would become null. M/M/S (Skibbie, Stroinski) to approve in concept only the future ownership of the stormwater infrastructure. Carried unanimously.
17. Reports from Department Heads, Mayor, Council, Committees, and discussion of future agenda items
Reeg reported that a lifeguard certification class had been held at the Thorp Aquatic Center in August and that 5 Thorp High School Students had taken and passed the class. He felt this was a huge success and would help procure lifeguards for a future summers. Plans would be to offer the class each summer.
Alderperson Teclaw questioned large fires that had occurred at a residence on W. Stanley Street during the summer. The residents that had been there have since moved out.
Alderperson Blume inquired about procedures for inside/outside meter reads as the result of a constituent question.
18. Adjournment
M/M/S (Stroinski, Teclaw) to adjourn at 9:34pm. Carried unanimously.

Date of Publication

Richard J. Wnek
Mayor

Randall D. Reeg
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer