

MINUTES  
CITY OF THORP REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010 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 February 8, 2010 Regular City Council meeting
  - b. Approval of minutes from February 11, 2010 Special City Council meeting
  - c. Approval of Operator’s License — Michelle L. Niedzwiecki
  - d. Approval of Operator’s License — Kaitlyn E. Frenette

Aldersperson Teclaw requested that item (a) be considered separately. M/M/S (Stroinski, Abramczak) to approve items (b) thru (d). Carried unanimously. After brief discussion M/M/S (Stroinski, Abramczak) to approve item (a). Carried unanimously.

4. Discussion and possible action relating to monthly reports:
  - a. (Police Department) Monthly activity summary  
M/M/S (Teclaw, Blume) to approve. Carried unanimously.
  - b. (Public Works/Utilities) Monthly activity summary  
M/M/S (Stroinski, Abramczak) to approve. Carried unanimously.
  - c. (Administration) Administrator’s Report, Financial Report, Vouchers, Payroll Register & Journal Entries  
M/M/S (Blume, Skibbie) to approve. Carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

5. Discussion and possible action relating to purchasing an extended warranty for primary police squad  
Verges, working with Eau Claire Ford, was proposing a manufacturer warranty extension for the Expedition. For \$1205, the warranty would be extended to 60 months/75,000 miles with a \$100 deductible. Alderpersons Stroinski and Abramczak noted that they felt it should be purchased locally from Courtesy Ford. M/M/S (Teclaw, Skibbie) to purchase the warranty as presented. Carried unanimously.
6. Resolution 2010-03-1 “Resolution Establishing Post-Issuance Debt Compliance Policy”  
M/M/S (Abramczak, Stroinski) to adopt. Carried unanimously.
7. Resolution 2010-03-2 “Resolution Establishing Official Bike Routes on City Streets”  
Aldersperson Teclaw noted that 15-19 people had approached him as being opposed to the bike trail. Aldersperson Teclaw made a motion to table the resolution. The motion died due to the lack of a second. M/M/S (Skibbie, Stroinski) to adopt. Carried on a 3-2 vote with Alderspersons Skibbie, Abramczak, and Stroinski voting aye and Alderspersons Blume and Teclaw voting no.
8. Discussion and possible action regarding purchase of play structure for Northside Park  
Reeg reported that the Park & Recreation Board was requesting an allocation from the Park Reserve to purchase a piece of play equipment for Northside Park. There was \$12,500 in the capital plan, but the piece they wanted to purchase would cost \$7499 plus shipping if ordered by March 19<sup>th</sup>, a 35% savings. The exact location for the new equipment had not been decided, and the Park & Recreation Board would be getting input from Dairy Days and the Lions Club. M/M/S (Skibbie, Abramczak) to approve the purchase. Carried unanimously.
9. Discussion and possible action relating to seasonal employee wage rates  
Due to increases in the minimum wage that took effect in 2009, the Park & Recreation Board had a new proposed wage scale for pool employees. They were suggesting a starting hourly wage of \$7.25 for cashiers, \$7.75 for lifeguards, \$8.25 for assistant managers, and \$9.00 for managers. The policy of a \$.25/hr increase for each year as a returning employee would remain, but that they would cap such increases at \$2.50. Additionally, since the starting wage for seasonal public

works employees had historically mirrored that for lifeguards, Reeg and McCredden were suggesting adjusting that wage to \$7.75 as well with annual \$.25/hr increases for returning employees. M/M/S (Abramczak, Skibbie) to approve the recommended wage rates. Carried unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

10. Ordinance 2010-03-3 “An Ordinance Declaring Moving Clouds of Airborne Dust a Public Nuisance and Requiring Property Owners to Abate Sources of Airborne Dust”  
Reeg presented the revised ordinance that had been drafted by City Attorney Salm. Alderperson Blume was concerned with language that she felt declared all parcels with gravel areas of a certain size as nuisances, even if they were not producing dust. M/M/S (Blume, Stroinski) to amend the proposed ordinance by adding section 7-1-7(b)(5)(4) to read “...and (4) is producing dust complaints per Subsection 7-1-7(c) below.” and to enact the ordinance as amended. Carried unanimously.
11. Discussion on possible amendments to ordinances relating Sex Offender Residency Restrictions and Child Safety Zones  
A representative from Probation & Parole was present to discuss some slight potential modifications to the recently passed ordinance. She suggested further prohibiting these certain sex offenders from actively participating in Halloween candy distribution, and to prohibit them from dressing as holiday characters such as the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus. She also suggested softening our language that prohibits anyone who did not live in Thorp prior to conviction from living here afterwards to allow them to do so to live with immediate family. The City Council was amenable to these proposed changes so long as we defined immediate family as parents, grandparents, siblings, or children. It was agreed by general consensus to have Salm draft these changes and to consider the amendments at a future meeting. No action taken.
12. Discussion and possible action relating to W. Prospect St. street lights  
McCredden provided costs estimates for 3 options. For an estimated \$12,635 new underground wires could be buried to the existing poles, for an estimated \$3900 the existing poles could be painted, and for an estimated \$4103.23 Xcel Energy would replace the poles and take over ownership. Lengthy debate again occurred. McCredden recommended the Xcel Energy option since future maintenance would be Xcel’s responsibility. Teclaw was concerned over the aesthetics of wooden poles and overhead wires. Skibbie inquired about future maintenance if we the City kept the existing poles. McCredden noted it was impossible to guess—there had been significant problems with one section, but it could be years before there was more, or they could all go bad at once. M/M/S (Teclaw, Skibbie) to paint the existing poles. Carried unanimously.
13. Discussion and possible action relating to Neighborhood Electric Vehicle  
Reeg reported that the rumors of problems with the vehicle were at least partially true. There were power and speed issues, the “instant heat” that had been promised by the dealership wasn’t working well, and most recently there appeared to be premature brake wear. He noted that the dealership confirmed that demo model the city purchased was not the same one test driven the year previous. City Council members were quite upset, not with City staff, but with what they felt were misrepresentations by the dealership. Reeg reported that the dealership had agreed to take the vehicle back, but that they first wanted an opportunity to fix the issues. It was agreed by general consensus to allow them to attempt to repair the issues and to make decisions on keeping or returning the vehicle at the April meeting. No action taken.
14. Reports from Department Heads, Mayor, Council, Committees, and discussion of future agenda items  
None.
15. Adjournment  
M/M/S (Blume, Stroinski) to adjourn at 8:57pm. Carried unanimously.

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Date of Publication

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Richard J. Wnek  
Mayor

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Randall D. Reeg  
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer