

MINUTES  
CITY OF THORP REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 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  
Jesse & Jessica Wampole (503 W. Lawrence St., Thorp) appeared before the council to ask for either a waiver for the 900 square foot accessory structure limitation or for the council to consider a new type of residential zoning district where larger accessory structures could be allowed. They want to build a 1900 square foot accessory structure. Reeg noted that the Shire Crest developers were consulted during the recent changes to accessory structure regulations and felt the 900 square foot limit was sufficient. Mayor Wnek mentioned that if the Shire Crest developers came and requested a change that the council might then consider it. No action taken.
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 March 8, 2010 Regular City Council meeting
  - b. Approval of minutes from March 25, 2010 Special City Council meeting
  - c. Approval of Temporary Class “B” License, Noise Permit, and Street Use Permit—Dairy Days
  - d. Approval of Temporary Class “B” License—Thorp Lions ClubM/M/S (Blume, Stroinski) to approve. Carried unanimously.
4. Discussion and possible action relating to monthly reports:
  - a. (Police Department) Monthly activity summary  
Alderson Stroinski questioned why there were recently two officers on duty on a Monday morning, but we often have sporadic coverage on Friday and Saturday. Verges noted that the recent incident was for a school presentation and the second officer was on duty less than 2 hours.  
M/M/S (Skibbie, Teclaw) to approve the monthly report. Carried unanimously.
  - b. (Public Works/Utilities) Monthly activity summary  
In addition to the monthly report, McCredden noted that he might get quotes for digging a couple test wells due to continuing annual aquifer depletion.  
Reeg noted that there were new phosphorous rules pending from the DNR that if passed could be extremely expensive for Thorp to implement. He and McCredden would be attending a public meeting in a few weeks.  
Alderson Teclaw questioned the need to do improvements on the 400 block of W. Prospect.  
M/M/S (Abramczak, 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 all as presented. Carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

5. Consideration of 2010 membership in Clark County Economic Development Corporation  
Brief discussion was held on the role CCEDC plays in Thorp.  
M/M/S (Skibbie, Teclaw) to approve the membership for \$1783.65. Carried unanimously.  
  
*Item #14 was taken out of order at this point, but its record will be kept in numerical order.*
6. Approval of latest revision of the City of Thorp Employee Handbook  
Alderson Blume requested revisions to Sections 620, 560, and 645.  
Alderson Skibbie had questions on Sections 701 and 780.  
Reeg will draft changes per the discussion and bring the handbook back next month for approval. No action taken.
7. Resolution 2010-04-1 “Preliminary Resolution Declaring Intent to Special Assess a Portion of the Cost of Water & Sewer Replacement on W. Grant St.”  
M/M/S (Stroinski, Blume) to adopt. Carried unanimously.

8. Resolution 2010-04-2 “Preliminary Resolution Declaring Intent to Special Assess the Cost of Curb & Gutter Installation on W. Lawrence and W. Prospect Streets.”  
M/M/S (Abramczak, Skibbie) to adopt. Carried unanimously.
9. 2010 Arbor Day Proclamation  
M/M/S (Blume, Teclaw) to approve. Carried unanimously.
10. Consider deviation from wage rate schedule for potentially returning seasonal public works employee  
Reeg and McCredden noted that pending further review, due to the recent changes to summer seasonal wage rates this request was no longer needed. No action taken.
11. Consider employment referrals from Workforce Resources, Inc.  
Reeg noted that he had been approached by the county job placement service. There was a potential employee that could work in the office at no charge to the City. This same group could also possibly provide season summer help to DPW at no charge. The council agreed by general consensus to allow these potential workers to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the appropriate supervisor.
12. Discussion and possible action relating to temporary emergency placement of additional wireless internet equipment on water tower  
Mayor Wnek had authorized the temporary emergency placement of an additional wireless internet antenna on the water tower for Wallace Wireless after the recent windstorm that knocked it out at Spooner Mills. After further review, since it was really a private emergency rather than a public one, the council needed to decide if they wanted it removed immediately, to allow it temporarily for a while longer at a fee, or to allow it as a third permanent antenna for the duration of the current contract for an additional fee. There was some discussion of possible interference caused by the additional antenna, but it was determined to be happening prior to its erection. Verges would check for more interference details from Chief Deputy Backus with Clark County. Since the current monthly fee was \$150 for two antennas, it was agreed that a \$75/month fee for the additional antenna was fair. M/M/S (Stroinski, Teclaw) to allow Wallace to choose to: a) remove the extra antenna immediately, b) keep it up through May 3, 2010 for \$75, or c) keep it up for the term of the current agreement for \$75 each month. Carried unanimously.
13. Resolution 2010-04-3 “Resolution Delegating Powers Related to Disposal of Surplus and Lost & Abandoned Property”  
M/M/S (Stroinski, Blume) to adopt. Carried unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

14. Discussion and possible action on UDC Building Codes and Inspections  
Bob Christensen, Thorp’s former UDC Building Inspector hired by the State of Wisconsin, appeared to continue the discussion over concerns with all residential UDC inspection being handled by the regional commercial building inspector. He shed light on the pros and cons of adopting the UDC codes locally, and could provide sample ordinances, resolutions, etc. He would work as an independent contractor for the City and be reimbursed solely by permit fees that would have been paid to the state, and actually the fees would be less for builders. After lengthy discussion it was agreed to further debate this later on after further absorbing the information provided. No action taken.
15. Discussion and possible action relating to W. Prospect St. street lights  
Reeg noted that after last month’s decision to paint the existing streetlights on W. Prospect, it was discovered that one was badly rusted at the base and would need replacement. Because of the revelation, Reeg and McCredden wanted to lay the options out again since the replacement pole would not match the others. The options were to replace one pole and paint the remaining poles for ~\$6800-\$7200, have Xcel replace the poles with wooden poles for \$4100 and take over future maintenance, or get all new poles and underground wire for ~\$29,000. M/M/S (Blume, Stroinski) to have Xcel install wooden poles and overhead wire for \$4100. Carried on a 3-2 vote with Blume, Abramczak, and Stroinski voting aye, and Skibbie and Teclaw voting no.
16. Discussion and possible action relating to Neighborhood Electric Vehicle  
Reeg reminded the council that the dealership and manufacturer had been working on addressing the issues Thorp was having with the vehicle. At their own expense, the dealership had paid to have a better after-market heater put into the vehicle, and had replaced the motor and had the controller reprogrammed. The brakes had also been repaired. Reeg and McCredden noted that in their test-drives since the vehicle had been returned, the power issues had been rectified. There was still concern over whether it could serve as a year-round vehicle, as they had now been informed that the heater

would raise the ambient air temperature only about 16 degrees Fahrenheit. McCredden had had the vehicle available for council members who were interested to ride in prior to the meeting. Reeg mentioned that whatever the council's decision was on this vehicle, that he hoped this experience wouldn't forever preclude the thought of an alternative fuel vehicle.

M/M/S (Blume, Stroinski) to return the vehicle for a full-refund of the purchase price. Carried unanimously.

17. Discussion and possible action relating to extended warranty for police squad

Alderson Stroinski asked why Verges has purchased the warranty out of town. Al Olejniczak from Courtesy Auto had contacted Stroinski about it. He had checked with Ford and apparently the vehicle was not registered as a squad car. He also said he could have sold the warranty to the City for \$1080 rather than the \$1205 paid. Alderson Skibbie asked if Verges had called Courtesy. Verges admitted she had not. The council's desire to do business locally notwithstanding, the biggest residual concern was now whether or not the vehicle would be covered under warranty if it was not properly registered as a squad car. In reviewing the documentation provided, Reeg felt that based upon the paperwork completed by Eau Claire Ford and signed by the City, that Eau Claire Ford would be contractually obligated to cover repairs, even if Ford Motor Company did not reimburse them. No action taken.

**CLOSED SESSION**

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

a. Applicants for Thorp Aquatic Facility

Prior to moving into closed session, Reeg noted that it was only necessary if the council wished to discuss specific applicants. If they were fine with the recommendations of the Park & Recreation Board then closed session could be skipped. No action taken.

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

M/M/S (Stroinski, Teclaw) to approve the staffing recommendations of the Park & Recreation Board. Carried unanimously.

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

Reeg noted that the Annual Organizational meeting would be Tuesday May 20, 2010 at 5:15pm.

21. Adjournment

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

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Date of Publication

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Craig A. Jiskra  
Mayor

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Randall D. Reeg  
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer