

MINUTES
CITY OF THORP REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2011 AT 7:00PM
IN THORP CITY HALL

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. In attendance were Mayor Stroinski; Alderpersons Blume, Skibbie, Lawcewicz, and Teclaw; DPW McCredden; Police Chief Verges; Library Director Beloungy; and City Administrator Reeg. Alderperson Abramczak arrived at ~7:25pm.

ROUTINE BUSINESS

2. Comments and suggestions from pre-registered citizens

JoAnn Piwoni (206 W. Main St., Thorp) spoke, noting excessive speed on W. Main St. now that it had been redone and asking for some extra police presence in that area.

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 September 12, 2011 Regular City Council meeting

b. Approval of Operator's License—Kayla S. Lambert

c. Approval of Operator's License—Melissa S. Witek

d. Approval of Mayoral Appointments of Alderperson Lawcewicz to Public Works & Utilities and Tree Boards

M/M/S (Teclaw, Blume) to approve all. Carried unanimously.

At this point, item #12 was taken out of order. Items here will be kept in numerical order for record-keeping purposes.

4. Discussion and possible action relating to monthly reports:

a. Police Department monthly report

Chief Verges reported that Officer Kuechenmeister had resigned and taken a job in Stanley.

She also noted that she would be attending a training session on the new concealed carry laws on 10/14/11.

b. Public Works/Utilities monthly report

McCredden reported that leaf collections had been scheduled for the weeks of October 17 and 31.

c. Administrator's Report, Financial Report, Vouchers, Payroll Register & Journal Entries

M/M/S (Blume, Skibbie) to approve all as presented. Carried unanimously.

d. Library monthly report

Beloungy reported that the library continues to be very, very busy. She also noted that the 2012 operating budget would be extremely tight.

e. Alderperson Ward Reports

Alderperson Blume inquired about a tree potentially in the traffic visibility triangle at the corner of Clark and Stanley Streets.

Alderperson Teclaw reported 2 dead or dying trees in the mobile home park causing a blind spot.

OLD BUSINESS

5. Resolution 2011-09-1 "Resolution Establishing Employee Grievance Procedure for Inclusion in Employee Handbook"

M/M/S (Blume, Teclaw) to table until next month. Carried unanimously.

6. Resolution 2011-10-1 "Resolution Approving City of Thorp Operator's License Decision Matrix"

M/M/S (Abramczak, Teclaw) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.

7. Resolution 2011-10-2 "Resolution Prohibiting the Carrying of Concealed Weapons in Municipal Facilities"

M/M/S (Blume, Lawcewicz) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.

8. Consideration of 3-year proposal from Schenck for auditing services

M/M/S (Skibbie, Teclaw) to approve the three-year contract. Carried unanimously.

9. Consideration of proposals for legal services for prosecution of municipal citations

Salm Law Office proposed \$100/hour. Bratcher Law Office proposed \$95/hour plus mileage and various office charges.

M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Teclaw) to retain Salm Law Office. Motion carried on a 3-2 roll call vote with Alderpersons Abramczak, Lawcewicz, and Teclaw voting aye and Alderperson Blume and Skibbie voting no.

10. Discussion and possible action relating to resource allocations for continued work on cold case

Chief Deputy Jim Backus from the Clark County Sheriff's Dept. was on hand to discuss this case. He noted that the Sheriff's Dept. would be entirely handling a pending fact-finding trip to Alabama, but all assumed they would ultimately need to take another trip to Texas. He noted that the Sheriff's Dept. would appreciate Chief Verges participating in that trip. He did note that the Sheriff's Dept. would cover all of the gas expenses for that trip. Verges noted that would leave only her meals and hotels (along with her time) to be covered by the City.

Mayor Stroinski questioned if this was the best use of the P.D.'s resources since finances were tight and they were one officer short and handling nearly twice the local cases as in 2010.

Alderpersons Blume noted that justice should be served.

Chief Deputy Backus did note that although case details could not be shared at this time, that everyone would want this suspect apprehended if they knew the details.

Reeg inquired about the timeline for the trip to Texas and if it would occur prior to the November City Council meeting. It was generally agreed that it wouldn't occur before December.

It was agreed by general consensus to re-evaluate in November pending the results of the trip to Alabama.

11. Discussion and possible action relating to close-outs for library and public works projects and final fiscal allocations and financial transactions

Reeg reported that with final expenses tallied, the library building project had come in \$3628 over budget (~.8%). After discussing options with the Library Director and Library Board, Reeg was recommending approval of the Library Board request to increase the amount of their internal loan from the City from \$15,537 to \$19,165 to cover the overage.

M/M/S (Blume, Teclaw) to approve the larger loan. Carried unanimously.

Reeg then reported that with final expenses tallied, the public works building project had come in \$11,069 over budget (~4.6%).

M/M/S (Abramczak, Lawcewicz) to re-approve a \$10,000 contingency fund expenditure in 2011 that was approved in 2010 but not made since the project was not closed out in 2010. Carried unanimously.

M/M/S (Teclaw, Lawcewicz) to allocate \$3745 from the Police Equipment Reserve, \$2275 from the City Hall Remodeling Reserve, \$2000 from the City Hall Equipment Reserve, and \$3048 from the DPW Operating Budget to cover the \$11,069 overage. Carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

12. Discussion and possible action with Ehlers Inc. regarding bond issue for 2012 & 2013 capital projects and possible refinancing of existing debt including:

Brian Reilly from Ehlers was on hand and gave a brief presentation on the potential bond issue.

- a. Resolution 2011-10-3 "Initial Resolution Authorizing \$360,000 General Obligation Bonds for Street Improvement Projects"

M/M/S (Skibbie, Lawcewicz) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.

- b. Resolution 2011-10-4 "Initial Resolution Authorizing \$20,000 General Obligation Bonds for Parks and Public Grounds Projects"

M/M/S (Skibbie, Blume) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.

- c. Resolution 2011-10-5 "Initial Resolution Authorizing \$10,000 General Obligation Bonds for Refuse Disposal Projects"

M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Blume) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.

- d. Resolution 2011-10-6 "Initial Resolution Authorizing \$835,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds"

M/M/S (Teclaw, Lawcewicz) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.

- e. Resolution 2011-10-7 "Resolution Directing Publication of Notice to Electors"

M/M/S (Blume, Abramczak) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.

- f. Resolution 2011-10-8 "Resolution Providing for the Sale of \$1,225,000 General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds"

M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Teclaw) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.

13. Resolution 2011-10-9 "Resolution Approving Conditional Use Permit for St. Bernard-St. Hedwig Parish as Recommended by Planning Commission"

M/M/S (Blume, Skibbie) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.

14. Discussion and possible action relating to request for additional street light on Evergreen Drive
Reeg presented a written request from a resident for installation of an additional street light on Evergreen Drive. Discussion was held on whether or not one was needed. It was agreed by general consensus that it was not inconsistent with lighting in other residential areas. Alderperson Teclaw suggested that the mobile home park owners might trim some trees to assist with the darkness issues.
No action taken.
15. Discussion and possible action to change the date of the November 2012 Regular City Council Meeting
M/M/S (Blume, Lawcewicz) to hold the November Regular City Council meeting on Tuesday November 15 at 5:15pm. Carried on a 4-1 vote with Alderpersons Blume, Abramczak, Lawcewicz, and Teclaw voting aye and Alderperson Skibbie voting no.
16. Discussion and possible action relating to setting parameters for local purchasing policy
Reeg was requesting that the City Council set specific parameters on the local purchasing policy. The current policy, that had been in place for years, states that purchases should be made locally unless goods or services couldn't be obtained locally or cost substantially more elsewhere. He noted that this vague language was open to varying interpretations, and wanted to ensure that all staff members with purchasing authority operated within the same guidelines. Staff sometimes struggled with finding the right balance between supporting the local economy and stretching their budgets as far as possible.
There was discussion on the challenges of setting either a specific percentage or dollar threshold. Generally members of the City Council agreed that it was a challenge to find the right balance. Other purchasing suggestions such as buying in bulk and better procurement planning were made. No member of the City Council was willing to set specific parameters—instead saying that staff should use common sense. Reeg cautioned that this still left the policy open to individual interpretation, and hoped that admonishment of staff members for purchasing decisions would only be made in rare and extreme cases.

CLOSED SESSION

17. Consider moving into closed session per Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(f) to discuss the following:
 - a. Application for Operator's License by Angela M. Morschauser
M/M/S (Abramczak, Lawcewicz) to move into closed session. Carried unanimously.
18. Reconvene into open session for any action needed as the result of closed session
M/M/S (Blume, Lawcewicz) to reconvene into open session. Carried unanimously.
M/M/S (Blume, Lawcewicz) to grant an Operator's License to Angela M. Morschauser contingent upon her remaining free from future drug or alcohol convictions. Carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

19. Consider moving into a committee of the whole to discuss 2012 Operating Budget preparations and considerations
M/M/S (Skibbie, Teclaw) to move into a committee of the whole. Carried unanimously.
After updates and discussion on the current budget status, it was agreed to hold another budget workshop on Tuesday October 18 at 3:30pm.

CLOSING BUSINESS

20. Reports from Department Heads, Mayor, Council, Committees, and discussion of future agenda items
None.
21. Adjournment
M/M/S (Teclaw, Lawcewicz) to adjourn at 9:47pm. Carried unanimously.

Date of Publication

Ray Stroinski
Mayor

Randall D. Reeg
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer