

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, September 13, 2010

7:00 P.M.

Mayor Doak called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Jim Doak; Councilmembers, Tom Newberry, Sliv Carlson and Chris Rich
Absent: Councilmember Michael Jilek
Staff: Zoning Administrator Gus Karpas and City Clerk Shelley Souers.
Guests: County Commissioner Jan Callison and Senator Gen Olson

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes August 9, 2010; Regular Council Meeting**
- B. Resolution No. 14-2010; Agreement for snow plow services**
- C. Resolution No. 15 -2010; Agreement for 2011 septic reviews**
- D. Resolution No. 16-2010; Payment to Allied Blacktopping for the 2010 seal coat project.**
- E. Resolution No. 17-2010; Setting the date for the Truth in Taxation Hearing**
- F. LMCC 2011 Budget**

Mayor Doak removed items B, C & D from the consent agenda to be placed under New Business following item C.

Councilmember Carlson moved and Councilmember Rich seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda as amended (items A, E & F). Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. County Commissioner Callison

Mayor Doak welcomed County Commissioner Callison to the Council meeting.

Commissioner Callison reported that the County Commission approved the preliminary property tax levy with a 0.7% increase over the prior year. She stated that the slight increase will result in additional cuts and reduced services. The final budget will be adopted on December 14. Hennepin County's budget revenues consist of 60% state support and 40% property tax revenue.

Mayor Doak noted that the market value of the lakeshore communities do not seem to have declined as rapidly as inner ring communities over the past several years, which may have caused the lakeshore communities to carry a disproportionate share of the tax burden for the County.

Commissioner Callison stated that the lakeshore communities have lagged behind in regard to market value reductions, however, the lakeshore communities will continue to see declines in value while first ring suburbs appear to be stabilizing... Commissioner Callison reported that property values have actually been increasing in both Edina and St. Louis Park.

Council thanked the Commissioner Callison for her visit and helpful comments.

B. Senator Gen Olson

Mayor Doak welcomed Senator Olson to the Council meeting.

Senator Olson reported a recent legislative initiative to abolish the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) and the White Bear Lake Conservation District. The legislation was proposed at the request of fishing lobbyists who apparently dislike Lake use regulations. Senator Olson agreed with the Council that the LMCD is a useful organization and believes that any changes to the organization should be made by the member cities not lobbyists outside of the district. Senator Olson stated that she has met with a number of LMCD member cities and was looking for feedback on whether there was a need to make any changes to the LMCD. Senator Olson agreed there may be a need for some policy changes within the LMCD, noting as an example that the City of Minnetonka pays a large portion of the LMCD's budget based on their population, while having only a small portion of actual lakeshore. Senator Olson noted that without the LMCD, enforcement of Lake Minnetonka would go to the State of Minnesota and the DNR due to the fact that Lake Minnetonka crosses county lines. Senator Olson commended the LMCD on their recent public relations efforts, following the introduction of the proposed legislation to eliminate their agency, by holding several meetings with member cities for feedback and proactively approaching various fishing groups on their concerns. Mayor Doak stated that small cities, such as Woodland, due to staff size and limited resources, have insufficient ability to govern Lake use effectively. Mayor Doak stated that Woodland is not unduly burdened by the LMCD and would have no way to manage the lake without such an organization Mayor Doak noted that he was unclear if the organization is properly funded between participating communities.

Senator Olson stated that 48% of the state income is allotted to education. Given the high percentage of funding we would expect higher test scores.

Councilmember Rich asked whether language emersion programs could be affecting test scores.

Senator Olson said that it is unclear whether language emersion programs have impacted state wide test scores and factors other than the programs may have had a much greater impact

Council thanked Senator Olson for her time and commitment to the district.

C. Resolution No. 18-2010 and Resolution No. 19-2010; Proposed 2011 Budget and Levy

Council reviewed a proposed 2011 balanced budget and tax levy. The proposed levy will increase less than 1% from 2010.

Councilmember Newberry moved approval of Resolution No. 18-2010 & Resolution No. 19-2010. Councilmember Rich seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

D. Resolution 20-2010; Routine Road Maintenance Agreements with Cornerstone

E. Resolution No. 14-2010; Agreement for Snow Plow Services

F. Resolution No. 15 -2010; Agreement for 2011 Septic Reviews

Council reviewed proposal from contractors for minor road repairs and maintenance of road rights-of-way, snow plow services and annual septic system inspections.

Council agreed that all agreements with private contactors must include language requiring liability insurance and workers compensation insurance coverage.

Staff will work with the private contractors to modify their agreements to include language addressing insurance and workers compensation coverage. Council will review the contracts at the October meeting.

G. Resolution No. 16-2010; Payment to Allied Blacktopping for the 2010 Seal Coat Project.

Mayor Doak reported that the Engineer is working with Allied Blacktop to confirm final quantities of asphalt used for the seal coat and minor repairs along Gale Road. The pay request submitted to the City represents the second pay request. A final pay request will be forthcoming.

Councilmember Newberry moved approval of Resolution No. 16-2010, striking the word final from the resolution. Councilmember Rich seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. 2010 Septic System Reviews

Council received a summary of the 2010 septic system reviews. Several minor issues are in the process of resolution and will be monitored and reported upon at future Council meetings.

B. Proposed Ordinance Amendment 700.03

Council reviewed an amendment to Ordinance 700.03: Permits, Inspections, Fees and Surveys; that would require building permits applications be submitted with three copies of building plans. The amendment also includes a requirement that contractors provide the City proof that all adjacent property owners have been contacted no less than 5 business days preceding the permit submittal to the City. Council will consider the amendments at a public hearing at the regular meeting of October 11.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Doak reported that either Xcel energy or Qwest installed several new power poles earlier this year but did not transfer the wires to the new poles or remove the old poles. The condition is unsightly. Staff will check on the timeline for removal of the old poles.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Public Safety

No report.

Finance & Intergovernmental Relations

Councilmember Carlson reported that she along with several Groveland residents will be meeting with staff to review the 2011 budget for the water and sewer funds. The engineer will assist with estimates for ongoing maintenance so that the budget can be prepared accordingly. A rate analysis will be considered to determine the extent of a utility rate increase necessary to balance the budget and insure adequate funding for debt service.

Roads& Trees

Councilmember Rich reported that he and Woodland's tree contractor Aaron Smith reviewed the condition of the trees throughout Woodland and noted that several trees will need to be removed or trimmed up.

Councilmember Rich reported that he received four quotes for installation of a dry well along Maplewood Circle East. Cornerstone Industries has provided the lowest quote of \$1,590. Council agreed to contract with Cornerstone Industries for completion of the dry well as soon as the weather permits.

Ordinance

No report.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Councilmember Newberry moved approval of the Accounts Payable as submitted. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Councilmember Carlson moved approval of the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Councilmember Newberry seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned by consent at 9:13PM

ATTEST:

Shelley J. Souers, City Clerk

James S. Doak, Mayor