

**MINUTES
REGULAR WASECA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- 1 The regular Waseca City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Roy Srp at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers present:

Mayor Roy Srp	Allan Rose
John Clemons	Cindy Coy
Larry Johnson	Mark Christiansen
Les Tlougan	

Staff present:

Crystal Prentice, City Manager
Kimberly Johnson, Planning Director
Mary Buenzow, Records Secretary

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- 2 A moment of silent prayer was observed. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 3 It was moved by Coy, seconded by Rose, to approve the agenda as presented; the motion carried 7-0.

VISITORS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 4a **Brian Dietz, Waseca School Superintendent**

Waseca School Superintendent Brian Dietz addressed the Council with a power point presentation regarding the status of the Waseca School District, its next steps, obstacles, and future value.

Mr. Dietz stressed a quality school district is vital to the community. He stated there is a lot of pride in our community, and students in our school district consistently score extremely well on tests. He listed several of the programs available to Waseca students, including the partnership with MSU for the AVID Program, the garden and greenhouse, and technology.

Mr. Dietz stated the District has cut \$5.3 million in the last five years, including the loss of 41 staff members. Next year South Side will be closed and grades 7 through 12 will be located at the high school. He assured everyone there will be enough room for all the students and they will make this work.

Mr. Dietz stated the greatest factor in getting people to live in Waseca is the educational system. The quality of schools is equal to the increase in property values.

Mr. Dietz stated the District will be asking for \$700 per student in the upcoming referendum. This will provide the following:

- 1) Technology
 - wireless systems
 - student driven technology
 - replace current (12 year-old) equipment
 - other annual things that the district has not been able to do
- 2) Fiscal Solvency
 - fulfill the Auditor's recommendation
 - adjust for inflationary costs
- 3) Programs and Staff
 - professional development
 - restore programs
 - reduce class sizes

Mr. Dietz stated our greatest investment is in public education and our youth. It is time to take care of our kids. Mr. Dietz thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak this evening.

Councilmember Tlougan stated he was a teacher for 38 years and one thing he has found out after traveling to other districts, is that as the district falters, the community tends to falter with it. Schools that are struggling too much will have a negative impact on the community.

Mayor Srp agreed the community is somewhat judged by its school district (and vice versa). He moved to Waseca 25 years ago and was impressed with the students. Mayor Srp nodded to the students in the audience and stated these students are still positive, doing what they need to do, are happy and this referendum is important to them and the community. He stated the Council is behind them 100% and told the students to keep doing what they are doing.

The City Manager commented she was asked by a student today whether she will support the referendum, and she felt this was a good example of the students' support of their school.

Councilmember Coy stated she is one of four councilmembers who are products of Waseca schools, and she has faith that the community will come through. She cannot think of a better place to live than Waseca.

Councilmember Clemons stated the Council has spoken a number of times about this topic, and there is a bigger picture. There are three taxing entities. The referendum expired two years ago, so taxes went down. The Council is very aware of the whole community, and has battled with not raising taxes for the past five years. He noted one of the other entities – not the City – is looking at a 14% tax increase, which he is disappointed with. He felt citizens should only elect legislators who will support schools and next November we need to put people in office who support schools.

Mayor Srp and the Council thanked Mr. Dietz for his presentation this evening.

Mayor Srp asked if there was anyone else, not on the agenda, who wished to address the Council at this time. There were no comments.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 5a Amending Tax Abatement Policy
Resolution No. 11-48

At a March 15, 2011 joint work session between the City Council and the Economic Development Authority (EDA), the City Council asked the EDA to review the City of Waseca Tax Abatement Investment Policy and make recommendations for updates. The EDA reviewed policies from other communities and Waseca County in preparation for review and revision of the Waseca policy. The EDA ultimately found that the existing policy is a good policy, in need of only minor modification and clarifications. Some of the language is changed to be more consistent with language in the Waseca County policy. Following the public hearing, Resolution No. 11-48 is presented for adoption at this time.

Mayor Srp opened the public hearing at 7:45 p.m. There were no public comments. **Mayor Srp closed the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.**

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Christiansen, to concur with EDA and staff recommendations and adopt Resolution No. 11-48, A RESOLUTION OF THE WASECA CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE TAX ABATEMENT INVESTMENT POLICY; the motion carried 7-0.

ROUTINE BUSINESS

- 6a **Resolution No. 11-51** – Approving Lawful Gambling Premises Permit to Sleigh & Cutter Festival Association

Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival Association has applied for a lawful gambling premises permit for a two-year period, from October 2011 to September, 2013 at Barden’s Bar, 110 North State Street, Waseca, MN. The Gambling Control Board requires the City Council to adopt a resolution specifically approving or denying the permit.

It was moved by Clemons, seconded by Rose, to adopt Resolution No. 11-51, A RESOLUTION OF THE WASECA CITY COUNCIL APPROVING LAWFUL GAMBLING PREMISES PERMIT TO SLEIGH & CUTTER FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION AT BARDEN’S BAR;

DISCUSSION

Councilmember Johnson inquired if this is a new site, or a renewal. Staff stated this is a new site for the Sleigh & Cutter Festival Association.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

The motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 7 None

NEW BUSINESS

8a **Final payment – 2011 Seal Coat Project #2011-05**

The work on this project has been completed and city staff indicates that the project is ready for final payment and acceptance. The total cost of the project is \$42,246.26. The original contract amount was \$43,608.03. Change Order #1 adjusts the contract price to account for additional quantities of contract items from the estimate. This work is a budgeted expense being paid from the Street Maintenance Contractual Service Fund.

It was moved by Rose, seconded by Tlougan, to approve final payment in the amount of \$42,246.26 to Caldwell Asphalt and accept the work for Municipal Project #2011-05; the motion carried 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

9 Councilmember Tlougan noted item 9e, purchase of a front end loader, and wondered how this purchase will impact the 2012 budget. The City Manager stated we will spend that amount (approximately \$140,000) less in 2012.

It was moved by Tlougan, seconded by Coy, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; the motion carried 7-0 and included the following actions:

- a. Minutes – Regular City Council meeting – September 20, 2011 – were accepted and placed on file.
- b. Minutes – City Council work session – September 20, 2011 – were accepted and placed on file.
- c. Pay Request – Bonestroo Invoice #192189- Project #0812 – was authorized for payment.
- d. Payment Request #27 – Robert L. Carr Co. – Project #0812 – was authorized for payment.
- e. Budget Amendment – purchase of front end loader – was authorized for purchase.
- f. Payroll & expenditures – September 2011 – were authorized for payment.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

10 The City Manager provided the following report:

- The 2010 census numbers are in and the population of Waseca is down 2.14%, which is approximately 201 people.
- The City is looking for volunteers for the annual Buckthorn Removal on Saturday, October 15th at Maplewood Park.
- The City ordinance allows leaf burning from October 15th to November 15th, with certain restrictions. Waseca County has been placed under a burning ban by the Sheriff. The City ordinance does allow the Fire Chief to prohibit burning as well, so the Fire Chief may prohibit burning between October 15th and November 15th if necessary unless the weather allows.

COMMISSION REPORTS

- 11 The following board/commission reports were given by the Council:

Airport Board – Mayor Srp reported the Airport Board discussed a private hangar request, the CIP update, and the current hangar lease form. The VFW has indicated they are interested in sponsoring the 2012 pancake breakfast and two other youth groups are interested in a joint sponsorship as well.

Economic Development Authority- Councilmember Christiansen reported the EDA had discussed the Tax Abatement Policy revisions, which were approved by the Council this evening. The EDA also discussed the \$500,000 USDA Intermediary Relending Program loan, a Waseca County Economic Development Authority, and the Clear Lake Press Revolving Loan Fund. The group is also looking into whether there is funding available for an Industrial Park cleanup.

Fire Relief Association – Councilmember Johnson stated he was unable to attend the meeting. He has now made arrangements at his work place, American Legion, so that someone will work on Wednesdays and he will be able to attend the Fire Relief Association meetings.

Heritage Preservation Commission – Councilmember Tlougan reported the Commission discussed what they can do locally to help Thomas Zahn & Associates in order to move forward with their Historic Properties Survey. The HPC also discussed the Legacy Grant, the Trowbridge Park bandstand sign placement, and the bandstand designation process.

Human Rights Commission – no quorum, no meeting report.

Park Board – no September meeting, no report.

Planning Commission – Councilmember Tlougan stated the Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding the preliminary and final plat of Woodville Estates No. 3, and discussed the Real Life Covenant Church Conditional Use Permit. There was also discussion regarding the Iversen annexation/zoning issue, the Pribble CUP, and the Land Use/Transportation Plan process.

Traffic Safety Board – no September meeting, no report.

Community Ed Advisory Board – Councilmember Johnson was unable to attend the meeting, no report.

Joint Government – no September meeting, no report.

Library Board – no September meeting, no report.

Region 9 – no meeting, no report.

Tourism and Visitors Bureau – no report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 12 **The following announcements were made:**

Councilmember Clemons stated the downtown flowers have now been taken down and he looks forward to having them again next year. He stated it is “officially Fall”.

Councilmember Coy stated she was asked to remind everyone of the Community Health Fair this Friday and Saturday, October 7th and 8th. Please call the Methodist Church if you have questions.

Councilmember Rose reminded everyone of the City employee luncheon on Thursday, October 6th at noon at Clear Lake Park. The Council will cook and serve the meal, which consists of pork loin, chicken and side dishes. He added this is being paid for by the City Council and not the tax payers.

ADJOURNMENT

- 13 There being no further business to be brought before the Council, it was moved by Clemons, seconded by Tlougan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.; the motion carried 7-0.

R. D. SRP
MAYOR

MARY BUENZOW
RECORDS SECRETARY