

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
JULY 11, 2007

Mayor Larsen called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Members present: Evelyn Larsen, Kay Costello, Edward Bolstad, William Lenz, and Tim Kennedy.

Members absent: None

Staff present: Don Davison and Tina Hanson

Mayor Larsen invited the public to speak during a period of open forum. Harley Tofte spoke to the council in regards to the size of the park board – stay with 7 or reduce it to 5. He felt 7 was a better number as many times in the past, it has been split on opinions. If it is reduced to 5, it may tend to be too one sided. No one else spoke.

Jeremy Somnis was added to the agenda.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Kennedy to approve the consent agenda with the addition of Somnis. Approved unanimously.

Sheriff Mark Falk appeared before the council to give a brief 6 month update. He was hoping to have more information to share, but time constraints did not allow it. The jail has been very busy; there was grafitti vandalism at Coast Guard Point, and the dept. is cracking down on establishment closing on time. Crossings for pedestrians is a big concern. Proper signs can be placed in the roadways now after filing a permit with the state. The city has ordered four of them. Falk with check and see what can be done to get more marked cross walks. Bolstad brought up idea of moving the 30 mph limit further up the hill into town. Falk stated that probably wouldn't happen. Other options were discussed. Speed trailers cost between 10 and 11,000 dollars. Strobe and blinking lights are probably a few thousand dollars each. Bolstad asked what preparations are being made for fall when Cty. Rd 7 gets ripped up. Falk said he has heard no discussions regarding it so far. The council would like Bill Parish to attend a meeting soon in regards to this. Falk will attend the Aug. 29th meeting and hopefully will have more information to share at that time.

Motion by Costello, seconded by Kennedy, to approve the street permit application for the North Shore Federal Credit Union for the Member's Appreciation Week. Approved unanimously.

Councilors discussed the park board situation. The park board prefers to keep the membership at 7, but it is getting harder to find people interested. There is one opening now and probably Don Schulte's position also. Lenz will go speak to him about resigning.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Costello, to start advertising for the one open seat on the park board and later advertise for the next one. Approved unanimously.

Consensus of the council to leave the membership at 7.

Jeremy Somnis requested permission to do his waterskiing show from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday of Fisherman's Picnic (8/4/07).

Motion by Bolstad to allow the waterskiing provided the Lions provide the Proof of insurance.

Costello asked if Somnis has gotten or heard of any problems/noise/complaints. None really.

Kennedy seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Larsen gave a brief report on the meeting with the Army Corp. of Engineers on Tuesday, July 10. Consensus of the council was to direct Mike Roth to get the application filled out for Program 569 and bring it to the next meeting in July (25th) and get it mailed in by the July 31, 2007 deadline. Consensus of the council also to get Larry Killien back up here and get discussions regarding the harbor/marina going again. Larsen also brought up Mediacom problems - poor reception and lost channels. Many unhappy cable viewers. Holly Nelson said he spoke to the Chief Tech from Mediacom. The Duluth channels are working on their towers and are operating on low power. They hope to be back up to full power by the end of the week.

Lenz gave a brief Park Board report. They continue to have ongoing meetings discussing the winter storage of trailers, etc., the future of the ballfield area, should they decide to move the ballfield, and of course, the site of the old power plant and what that area could be developed into.

Kennedy gave an EDA report. They have approved a contract for a housing coordinator to be used jointly in Cook and Lake Counties. They are presently pursuing grant funding for this position and will not advertise until the funding is in place. Kennedy also did a recap of some of the EDA's accomplishments.

Costello gave a brief library update. They are searching for possible land sites and three parties have already contacted them. They are also considering partnering with other entities.

Bolstad informed the council that the old power plant should be down by the end of the month. The hospital has a major water leak – on their side of the line. Work is going on now to get it repaired.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to adjourn. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.