

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS  
MINUTES  
June 10, 2009

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

Members present: Sue Hakes, Tim Kennedy, William Lenz, and Jan Sivertson

Members absent: Kay Costello

Staff present: Mike Roth, Dave Tersteeg, Don Davison and Kim Dunsmoor

Mayor Hakes invited the public to speak during a period of open forum. Open Forum is limited to one half-hour. No person may speak more than 5 minutes or more than once.

Jan Nosker spoke about the proposed noise ordinance. The change in the ordinance benefits two businesses at the expense of everyone. People who live north and west of the Tavern get blasted with music. It would be more sensible if they would put noise baffles up or turn the volume down. Some seasonal park campers did not return because of the noise. Nosker runs a business providing living and sleeping quarters 3 blocks away. Sometimes the noise rattles their windows. There is noise that benefits business and noise that benefits the community as a whole such as the Fisherman's Picnic and Dragon Boat Festivals. We need a basis other than "it would be nice." A decibel noise level at the point of the complaint would be reasonable.

**Motion by Lenz, seconded by Kennedy to approve the agenda; May 27, 2009, Worksession Minutes with correction; May 27, 2009, Minutes; and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.**

Jack Stone, Fall River Trading, is requesting permission to demonstrate his canoes from the public boat launch. He would bring customers and canoe to the boat launch to let them try out the canoe and then put the canoe back on his pickup. There will be no signs, no leaving canoes on the beach and no operation of any rental business. He would be able to do these functions without a vendor permit. If someone would like to purchase a canoe, he could bring them back to his place or direct them to an outfitter who may sell the canoes. Jack is a distributor of canoes and is hoping to have some local businesses sell retail. He is also hoping to open a retail business in Grand Marais in the future. The Land Trust rules do not allow commercial business in the recreation park area.

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve Fall River Trading Vendor Permit for canoe demos at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West with the understanding that no permit is needed to launch canoes at the public landing. Approved unanimously.**

Mark Sandbo updated the council on the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, Grand Marais Area Tourism Association and the Grand Marais Business Council to join together. All three entities are working to promote the Greater Grand Marais Area. They are considering further combining with Lutsen Tofte Tourism Association, Cook County

Events and Visitors Bureau and Grand Portage to promote Cook County. They will create to separate entities: one 501 C 3 and one 501 C 6. One non-profit will be able to seek grants, but not lobby and the other will be able to lobby, but not seek grants. They are hoping to combine the three Grand Marais Area entities by the end of the year.

The council discussed the proposed noise ordinance that is a slight revision of the existing noise ordinance. The current ordinance is complaint driven. The current proposed language seems too lenient. Feedback from citizens included that the hours were too late, hours were too early, hotels have asked bar owners to turn down the volume and they have kept the volume down. The council decided to change the proposed revision to allow live musical performances Friday and Saturday from noon until midnight and Sunday through Thursday from noon to 10:00 p.m. excepting Labor Day Sunday and Memorial Day Sunday. A public hearing on the proposed ordinance is scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Hakes spoke with Rob Ege, MnDOT, who discussed our concerns with St. Paul MnDOT. They propose a 48" black and yellow sign at the top of the hill that says "Reduced Speed Ahead" paid by MnDOT and a speed sign paid by the city. MnDOT will conduct a before and after study. Staff will get prices for a speed sign and a map from Rob Ege of where signs will be located for the next meeting. Other areas of concern are by the dental office and the post office exit.

The agreement with Animal Advocates was tabled at the last meeting due to a liability question. The City's insurance does cover volunteers at the dog pound.

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve the agreement with Animal Advocates with the automatic renewal clause. Approved unanimously.**

City Attorney Davison submitted his resignation effective July 15, 2009.

**Motion by Hakes, seconded by Kennedy, to accept Davison's resignation. Approved unanimously.**

The council will hold a worksession to discuss the qualifications desired and format for the Request for Proposal for City Attorney. The worksession is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) The 1% Sales Tax Committee will meet next Monday. Mayor Hakes will attend in Kennedy's absence. The revised language passed the legislature. Now decisions will need to be made about the language for the referendum and what projects will be included in the referendum language. A community meeting for public input on the 1% Sales Tax will be next Tuesday.
- 2) The Biomass District Heating feasibility study will be paid by the PUC, hospital, school and county. The PUC contributed \$2,500.

Mayor Hakes' Report:

- 1) Cook County Local Energy Project (CCLEP) requested a memo of support for their effort. The Mayor wrote a memo of support. The council supported the memo.
- 2) The teleconference with Larry Killien, DNR, will be rescheduled to talk about the marina.

Councilor Sivertson's Report:

- 1) The county asked for a benefit/cost analysis of the EDA to be performed by a third party. The EDA Director's preliminary response was that since 2006, the EDA has received \$ 1.913 million in grants and has levied \$443,700: therefore, there was a benefit of about \$ 1.470 million to the taxpayers. The EDA has accomplished a lot since 2006.
- 2) The EDA Housing Rehabilitation has helped 5 homes and expects to help 9 homes by the end of this year with approximately \$22,500 each.
- 3) The EDA put up the sign in Cedar Grove Business Park, the website is updated, lot pricing is being looked at, and the EDA Director is gathering more information on what is selling in this economy. There are some corrections with the road that need to be made.
- 4) The rezoning request for 3 duplexes was not possible due to the grant funding that was received for the business park.

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) Roth gave the council a brief TIF tutorial. The council will need to decide whether they want to pursue TIF and if it is possible. If the council wishes to consider TIF, we will need to call Ehlers to help us make this decision because the rules are very complex.
- 2) Jamie Mehle, S.E.H., will be here tomorrow to create a punch list on the current neighborhoods and Creechville project.
- 3) A meeting is scheduled with the Lake Superior Coastal Program at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow to help prepare a 10-year review of projects.

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.