

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS  
MINUTES  
February 14, 2006

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

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

Members absent: None

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

Mayor Larsen 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. No one spoke.

**Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Lenz to approve the Agenda; January 31, 2007, Minutes; and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.**

Anna Hamilton requests a variance from the minimum lot size standards to allow building on her undersized preexisting parcel in the R-2 zone using the R-1 setbacks of 25' and 10' on her property located on Lots 4-5, Block 9, Van Brunt-Lightbody Addition. A public hearing was held on February 7, 2007, and two members of the public, neighbors to the east, commented that they were given a different answer on a similar request. There were no letters on this request. The commission recommended approval of the variance by a 4-0 vote with a stipulation that the building be no larger than 20' X 30'.

**Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Kennedy to approve Resolution 2007-02 Approving the Anna Hamilton Variance. Approved unanimously.**

John McClure requests a conditional use permit to conduct his insurance office as a home based business on his property located in the R-1 residential zone. A public hearing was held February 7, 2007, and one member of the public asked why the business was moved to the garage before the permit was granted. The planning commission recommends approval of the conditional use by a 3-0 vote, McClure abstaining. Don Davison, City Attorney, stated that zoning ordinance allows home business in the dwelling, not in accessory buildings such as garage. The matter was sent back to the Planning Commission for further review. John McClure agreed to waive the 60-day rule in this matter.

**Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Lenz to refer the Conditional Use Request back to the Planning Commission for further review. Approved unanimously.**

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Larsen to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2007-01 Amending the City of Grand Marais Zoning Map. Approved unanimously.**

City staff and East Bay Suites representatives have reached an agreement for the amended easement for the East Bay Suites Handicapped Ramp.

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Costello to approve the Amended East Bay Suites Handicap Ramp Easement Agreement. Approved unanimously.**

Matt Geretschaelger, EDA Director, updated the council on the Sawtooth Bluff Housing Development request to eliminate the cost of land, road, and utilities for the affordable housing sites. There are 30 sites in the development: ten of the sites would be affordable housing. The developer is requesting a gift of the land and Tax Increment Financing from the City of Grand Marais in order to make the homes affordable to a household earning less than \$30,000 per year.

**Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Costello to secure an opinion from Ehlers and Associates, Financial Advisor, for Tax Increment Financing options and their benefits and consequences for the Sawtooth Bluff Housing Development. Approved unanimously.**

Two applications for the Joint Powers Recreation Board were received: Clayton White & John Muus.

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Bolstad to purchase a new City Hall Server through Sundew Technical Services in the amount of \$3,908.58. Approved unanimously.**

Gene Erickson sold the Harbor Park Property to the Trust for Public Land February 22, 2000, and agreed to clean up the site of his former Standard Service Station. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is now willing to accept that Gene Erickson has fulfilled his agreement and is willing to take over ownership of the wells as long as the City of Grand Marais is willing to agree to leave the wells in place.

**Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Kennedy to submit to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency that the City of Grand Marais will leave the testing wells in place. Approved unanimously.**

**Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Costello to approve the Cook County Amateur Hockey Association Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo on March 16, 2007, and April 27, 2007. Approved unanimously.**

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) The pool has been cleaned and repaired. The pool would like to install the used backup boiler. The installation estimate from County Plumbing is for \$5,800. This boiler would provide backup when the original boiler goes down, which happened twice last year. In addition, the pool will need to be resurfaced depending on its future. This would cost \$40,000 - \$50,000. It

should be done every 7-10 years and it has been 18 since it was last resurfaced. It has become very soft, crumbly and has many hollow areas under the surface, which will eventually break.

**Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Lenz to install the backup boiler at the pool through County Plumbing in the amount of \$5,800. Approved unanimously.**

Councilor Costello's Report:

- 1) The Community Center Revitalization Committee met to discuss the new idea of possibly moving the pool to the Community Center Complex. The County Board made a motion to spend up to \$5,000 to have the Center for Changing Landscapes talk with the pool architects to see where the pool might fit in the Community Center Plan. There is a concern about losing too much green space. The council discussed advantages and disadvantages of moving the pool.

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) Requested permission for Roth and Dunsmoor to attend the Minnesota Municipal Clerks Institute in July and direction for the regularly scheduled council meeting for July 11, 2007. The council will tentatively cancel the July 11, 2007, meeting and gave approval for Roth and Dunsmoor to attend the MMCI – Year 3 and Year 2, respectively.

Councilor Bolstad's Report:

- 1) The Public Utilities Commission has been running the generators as requested to add to the power grid.
- 2) The latest water report shows that the improvements to infrastructure have reduced our amount of unaccounted for water to the high 30's % water loss.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.