

***CITY OF GRAND MARAIS***  
***MINUTES***  
***August 12, 2009***

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

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

Members absent: Kay Costello

Staff present: Mike Roth, Kim Dunsmoor and Chris Hood by teleconference

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. No one spoke.

**Motion by Lenz, seconded by Kennedy to approve the agenda; July 29, 2009, Worksession Minutes with correction; July 29, 2009 Minutes with correction, and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.**

Cook County is requesting a variance from the side yard setback to construct a wall for a tennis practice court in the SC district. The wall will be 3' from the East line and 5' from the North line. The required setback in this zone is 20'. The property is located on a portion of the Northwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 21, Township 61N, location of tennis courts. A public hearing was held August 5, 2009. A letter was received from ISD 166 expressing support for the project. Representatives from Cook County Tennis Association, Cook County Auditor and Cook County Board were present to answer any questions. No other public comments were received. The Planning Commission recommends approving the variance by a 4-0 vote.

**Motion by Sivertson, seconded by Kennedy to approve Resolution 2009-07 The Cook County Tennis Variance. Approved unanimously.**

David Mills and Beth Ferry are requesting a variance from the front yard setback to construct a deck and three dormers on their building in the R-1 district. The required setback is 25'. The decks and dormers will be no closer than the existing building, 4.8' from the South lot line and 7.7 feet from the West lot line. Although the setback will not change, a variance is required because the dormers and deck will increase the amount of building that is non-conforming. The property is located at Lots 11-14 and the South 20 feet of Lot 15, Block 23 Blackwells Addition, 820 Creechville Road. A public hearing was held August 5, 2009. Fritz Sobanja, neighbor, had no objections to the proposal. The commission recommends approving the variance request by a 4-0 vote.

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve Resolution 2009-08 The Beth Ferry and David Mills Variance. Approved unanimously.**

The City has been awarded the IRR Community Business Partnership Grant of \$25,000. We will meet the match with \$12,500 Storefront Loan money. This program allows for larger and more flexible loans than our storefront loan program. We intended to use this program in combination with Small Cities Development money to offer grant and loan packages for commercial rehabilitation.

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Sivertson to approve the Letter of Certification, Grantee Payment Request Letter, and State of MN Grant Agreement #B43-2319 with Iron Range Resources. Approved unanimously.**

The City has been awarded a DNR Coastal Grant Agreement in the amount of \$90,000 for the North House Folk School Commonsides Project. North House Folk School will provide the match of \$151,000. Council wants to make sure that improvements to North House Folk School will blend well with the Park Master Plan and trailhead connection.

**Motion by Lenz, seconded by Kennedy to approve the MN DNR Coastal Program Grant Agreement 306A-01-11. Approved unanimously.**

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) 1% Sales Tax Committee met last night to try to arrive at projects for consideration by the public. On Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., each group will have 10 minutes to present their project and have a workstation with information about their project. Biomass and Superior National Golf Course have been removed from the projects being considered. The community center has been pared back. Currently being considered is \$9.2 million for broadband, \$9 million for the community center building, \$700,000 for the Library expansion, \$600,000 for community center trails, fields, and parking and \$500,000 for Birch Grove Community Center. The community center project can be a phased concept.
- 2) The Biomass District Heating Project will take time to get information and present to the public. After Ehlers and Associates are here, we will have a better understanding of the financing. Technology is moving along with SMMPA and Bonding taking longer. The Biomass Committee is meeting weekly and there are a lot of people working on this project. The biggest consumers in the target area are already hot water heat users. There are unanswered questions about economics and politics.
- 3) The Broadband Committee is on hold waiting for the County to submit a grant application.
- 4) The Safety Committee approved the Excavation and Trenching Manual and had excavation and trenching training yesterday.
- 5) The PUC denied giving free water for the ballfields, tennis courts, horse arena, community gardens and the school. The Water Fund is an enterprise fund that is barely breaking even.

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) The pool will reduce hours on Sundays because there are not many people there.
- 2) The park let people know that as of 2010, campers may reserve a maximum of 3 sites during Fisherman's Picnic. One group was very unhappy about that.

Mayor Hakes' Report:

- 1) Sent a Thank you note to the DNR for meeting with us about the marina and asked about stimulus funding and the Water Resources Development Act. Larry Killien has the draft agreement on his list of things to do. They are very busy with the Two Harbors Project.

City Attorney Chris Hood's Report:

- 1) Will schedule a conference call with Tim Flaherty who does bonding and funding work.
- 2) There is a meeting conflict with the next council meeting, we may have another attorney from the firm attend by phone or Hood may attend by cell phone.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.