

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS  
MINUTES  
December 10, 2008

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

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

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; November 24, 2008, Minutes; payment of bills; and PTA Raffle Permit. Approved unanimously.**

The Park Board recommends by a 3-2 vote to reduce their membership from seven members to five members. One park board member has missed 5 of 12 meetings and that position has been declared vacant.

**Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Costello to approve the First Reading of Park Board Ordinance 2008-07 reducing the park board membership from seven to five members. Approved unanimously.**

Paul Coe, Cook County Insurance Agency, discussed the 2008-2009 Property Insurance Renewal. The renewal was late due to a new appraisal needed at the power plant. The premium is down about \$3,000 from last year, statutory limits were raised, and property values were raised 7%. North House buildings are not covered and the city should obtain a copy of their insurance coverage.

**Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Lenz to add Auto Liability primary for personal vehicles being used for City business by specified individuals or groups at a cost of \$7 per person. Approved unanimously.**

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Bolstad to renew the League of MN Cities Insurance and request a review of the library property value. Approved unanimously.**

The council discussed a proposed parking ordinance. City Administrator Roth met with the county engineer and law enforcement to discuss calendar parking and snow removal. Generally, the county plows the city around 4 a.m. It was recommended to give citizens time to move their vehicles between 6 p.m. and midnight. The intention would be to get

the word out by advertising, flyers, reminder notices, administrative tickets and use towing as a last resort for problem vehicles.

The meeting was recessed at 5:00 p.m. for the Truth in Taxation Hearing.

The meeting resumed at 5:24 p.m.

The parking ordinance discussion continued and resolved to get feedback from the plowing crews, add another restriction for May to November that allows parking without moving for 7 days. There will be a revision for the next meeting.

The personnel committee reached a tentative agreement on a new two-year contract with the negotiating team for the AFSCME union employees on Tuesday, December 2. The new agreement includes a wage increase of 2.5% modified by pay equity adjustments to 3.43% in 2009, safety boot reimbursement increased from \$150 to \$200 every two years, full-time employees reimbursed up to \$200 annually for memberships to City owned recreational facilities, review Sewer/Water Plant Operator position within six months, and add language requiring that all full-time employees retiring from the City have 100% of their unused compensatory and vacation balances deposited into the employee's VEBA trust account.

**Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Lenz to approve the two-year contract with AFSCME. Approved unanimously.**

Bob Mattson will be retiring December 30, 2008. There will be a retirement party for him on Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the American Legion. The council expressed their appreciation for the exemplary service of Bob Mattson.

The Credit Union has requested to use a portion of the city right-of-way for the placement of a propane tank. A better site sketch is needed, there is a \$25 annual fee for use of the right of way, a time limit will need to be set, the city will need to be listed as additional insured and visual screening and bollards/barricade need to be added to the conditions of the request. The request will be tabled until the next meeting.

The Office of Administrative Hearings approved Ordinance 2008-06 Request for Annexation on November 24, 2008. Annexation by ordinance for the rest of the Blackwell Addition will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) The Park Board decided to increase the rate for pool usage by campers from \$2 to \$3; all other pool rates remained the same. Marina use was revised. Pool revenue is up \$10,000 from last year.
- 2) The Park Master Plan Committee will meet next Tuesday.

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) The Safety Committee meets monthly and there are monthly training sessions with MMUA. The committee members began doing monthly inspections last year that have heightened awareness in identifying safety hazards and fixing hazards.

Councilor Costello's Report:

- 1) Attended the Cook County Local Energy Project meeting. Issues are relevant to the narrower streets and sidewalks. This is an energetic group of people that are willing to get involved and help with issues.

Councilor Bolstad's Report:

- 1) The PUC reviewed the electric budget and set rates for 2009. Our electric supplier is increasing rates by 6.2% and our rates will increase 6%.

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) The upcoming meeting schedule would put our last meeting of 2009 on December 31, 2008. We will need to pay bills, approve the levy, review ordinances and address the Credit Union request. Council decided to hold the meeting at 3:30 p.m. rather than 4:30 p.m.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.