

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS  
MINUTES  
June 24, 2009

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

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

Members absent: None

Staff present: Mike Roth, Don Davison, Sheriff Falk 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. No one spoke.

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve the agenda; June 10, 2009, Worksession Minutes; June 10, 2009, Minutes; and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.**

Mark Falk, Sheriff, discussed law enforcement matters with the council. The Hell's Angels Rally is being held in Carlton July 29- August 2. They may take day rides on Hwy 61, Ely and other areas, but most of the activity will be centered in Carlton and Duluth. This is also our Fisherman's Picnic festival and extra patrols will be on duty. The proposed noise ordinance was discussed. It is nice to have some direction from the city to handle noise complaints. Most of the complaints are specific to business. We have a small staff and we need to consider how we want to spend their time: decibel meter and measuring distances from the source vs. handling public safety matters. Time limits are more enforceable than decibel readings. Council informed Falk that MNDOT will be installing a 48" black and yellow "Reduced Speed Ahead" sign at the top of the hill and the city will be installing a "Your Speed Is" sign at the 30 mph zone. The main focus is to improve pedestrian safety on Highway 61. The Sheriff's Department has hired two seasonal deputies. Unfortunately, one deputy is out due to an injury. As a result, the city will see less patrols Monday through Thursday. It is not cost effective to add another seasonal deputy at this time.

The meeting was recessed for a public hearing at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 6:10 p.m.

The council discussed the public hearing comments. The difficulty of measuring the level of sound is that the decibel meter will pick up cumulative noise from all sources and there is no degree of certainty what noises you are metering. After the public hearing, it seemed that the businesses providing music and those providing lodging were working together to find solutions and compromise. The majority of noise complaints seemed to be in 2007, not as much in 2008 as the businesses made changes to their entertainment.

Birch Terrace installed air conditioning, closed windows, installed a limiter on the microphone and adjusted the speaker locations. The GunFlint Tavern changed the direction of the speakers to face the lake rather than the west and has asked the musicians keep the sound at a lower level. An enforceable standard should be created.

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Hakes to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2009-02 Amending the Grand Marais Code, Chapter 46, By Creating an Exception to Noise Nuisances within the City for Live Musical Performances with the following changes:**

- a) change section (d) Amplified sound from 50 feet to 100 feet.
- b) change section (d) 3 removing 2<sup>nd</sup> Labor Day reference and adding Fourth of July.

**Motion by Sivertson, seconded by Hakes to amend Kennedy's motion to change section (d) 2 and 3 from 12:00 midnight to 12:30 a.m.**

**Ayes: Sivertson                      Nays: Hakes, Costello, Kennedy, Lenz**

**Approved unanimously.**

Mayor Hakes gave an update on MNDOT. We should have something in writing from Rob Ege by the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The intention is to install a 48" "Reduced Speed Ahead" sign and a "Your Speed Is" sign on Highway 61. Shawn Perich asked the city if they would like to split a "Event Congestion Ahead Sign" with the Hovland Community. Council declined because we will likely need the signs at the same time.

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Costello to authorize City Administrator Roth to purchase two "Event Congestion Ahead" signs at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.**

**Approved unanimously.**

The "Your Speed Is" sign will be purchased after we receive a recommendation on the size of the sign and a permit from MNDOT.

Keck Melby would like to address the council with details about the STOP Program. City Administrator Roth will relay the information to Fire Chief Silence.

Crosswalks will be painted soon.

Council discussed the City Attorney Request for Proposals. The due date was set as July 17, 2009. The request will be sent to local attorneys and firms from Grand Marais and Duluth and will be posted in the League of Minnesota Cities Help Wanted section.

**Motion by Hakes, seconded by Kennedy to amend the RFP date to July 17, 2009, and authorize City Administrator Roth to advertise the RFP as discussed.**

**Approved unanimously.**

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Costello to approve Pay Estimate #5 for the 2008 Improvement Project to Redstone Construction in the amount of \$197,272.91. Approved unanimously.**

The city received a dozen applicants for the Property Maintenance Supervisor position. Six interviews were scheduled. The interview committee of Sue Hakes, Mike Roth, and Tom Nelson recommend hiring Leonard Bloomquist.

**Motion by Hakes, seconded by Costello to hire Leonard Bloomquist as the Property Maintenance Supervisor. Approved unanimously.**

Mayor Hakes' Report:

- 1) The 1% Sales Tax Committee is formulating the referendum question. The discussion is all over the map. No one new came to the listening session. A consultant was hired to evaluate the cost to operate a pool/field house to determine if it is too expensive, if it can be scaled back or should be cut. Broadband seems to be an item that people can get behind, but there may be other funding available for that. There are still a lot of unknowns. The referendum question needs to be formulated within one month.
- 2) Aaron Mielke, Fire Department, gave an estimated cost of \$ 80,000 to replace 20 hydrants for a "shovel ready" project.

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) The "Park Boards" recommendation for the "Park Master Plan" will be made at the last Public Plan Meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. (location not established). All details will be finalized at the regular July 7<sup>th</sup> Park Board Meeting.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.