

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
May 26, 2010

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

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

Members absent: None

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

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.

Motion by Costello, seconded by Lenz to approve the Agenda; May 12, 2010, Minutes with corrections; and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.

Bev Wolke, Chamber Director, presented the street/sidewalk permit for the Classic Car Show scheduled for June 12th at Artist Point. They request electricity, parking area swept and barricades to block the parking area the night before and permission to allow the Girl Scouts to sell food at the event.

Motion by Hakes, seconded by Kennedy to approve the Classic Car Show Street and Sidewalk Permit including Girl Scout food sales. Approved unanimously.

Bev Wolke, Chamber Director, presented the street/sidewalk permit for the 4th of July Parade and Fireworks Display.

Motion by Costello, seconded by Lenz to approve The 4th of July Street and Sidewalk Permit. Approved unanimously.

George Wilkes, CCLEP, presented the final proposal for the Joint City /County Energy Planning Process Grant with the MN Office of Energy Security EECBG.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Costello to write a letter of support for CCLEP's efforts for the city/county grant and endorse the Joint City/County Energy Planning Process Proposal. Approved unanimously.

George Wilkes, CCLEP, presented a grant proposal to guide development of a sustainable community scale forest bioenergy program in NE Minnesota. There is no cost share at this time.

**Motion by Costello, seconded by Kennedy to approve a letter of support for the LCCMR Proposal. Ayes: Costello, Lenz, Kennedy, Sivertson
Nay: Hakes – the proposal is too vague.**

Mayor Hakes recused herself from the meeting. Vice-Mayor Sivertson conducted the meeting.

Sivertson invited the audience to speak about the Nichols/Van den Berg Home Occupation Conditional Use Permit Application. No one spoke.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve Resolution 2010-03 Approving the Request for a Conditional Use Permit to Allow the Nichols/Van den Berg Home Occupation.

Ayes: Kennedy, Lenz, Sivertson

Nay: Costello – Disagree with the Planning Commission’s findings and believe the business does not belong in a residential neighborhood and should be in a more visible commercial area.

Abstain: Hakes – The approval/denial of the conditional use permit has a direct economic impact to Hakes.

Mayor Hakes rejoined the meeting.

The council discussed nuisance and hazardous buildings. The city has a nuisance ordinance that defines a building nuisance and state law defines hazardous buildings. The process for dealing with nuisance or hazardous buildings is to first contact the owner, talk with them about the concerns and request access to the property to assess the property condition. A search warrant would need to be obtained to enter the property without the owner’s permission. We may contract a qualified building official. The city can create an incentive to use the property by doing infrastructure improvements. The city has the storefront loan program to provide low interest loans to commercial customers. If the issues cannot be resolved, the city can order the hazard repaired, order the property to be remedied, and go to court. Hakes will contact the property owner.

The Grand Marais Playhouse is requesting \$1,500 toward the summer internship program. The city had supported this request in prior years: however, due to budget cuts, the city did not support this request in 2009 and did not budget the expenditure in 2010. In addition, the new Legacy tax supported the arts. There are many good programs with similar requests, we should not support just one. The city council may consider the request for the 2011 budget.

The Fire Department met and interviewed candidates for volunteer firefighters and is recommending six new hires.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to hire volunteer firefighters Pat Scully, Jeff Kern, Amber Wright, Crystal Clemons, Gary Nescoda, and Robert Morrison. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Costello to approve up to \$35,000 in paving for the park upgrades. Approved unanimously. Staff will get written quotes.

Mayor Hakes' Report:

- 1) Jan Horak proposed an idea to make crossing the highway safer: It would require buying orange flags that pedestrians could hold and wave as they cross the street. The flags would be stored in buckets at both ends of the crosswalk available for public use.
- 2) Crosswalk signs are on the highway.
- 3) The Community Center Committee met and is creating a steering committee of groups that would use the facility. The steering committee will include 12-15 people. Lenz, Hakes and Tersteeg will represent the city on the committee.
- 4) Hakes and Roth met with Superior National employees and committee members to hear their ideas and concerns. A council worksession to discuss Superior National Golf Course is scheduled for June 9, 2010.

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) MNDOT approved the speed sign location. The sign will be ordered tomorrow.
- 2) North House Folk School is not ready to proceed with an agreement regarding North House Buildings on city property.
- 3) The Joint City/County/School/Tribe meeting is tomorrow in Grand Portage.
- 4) Will be on vacation June 14 – 18.

Council recessed the meeting at 6:15 p.m. to attend the opening of the Stone Harbor Wilderness Outfitting & Supply business. No city business was discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.