

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
April 9, 2008

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

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

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 Kennedy to approve the agenda; March 26, 2008, Worksession Minutes; March 26, 2008, Minutes; and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Larsen to approve the Como Street and Sidewalk Permit for use of the parking lot east of City Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a customer appreciation lunch on July 9, 2008, pending proof of insurance. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Costello, seconded by Lenz to approve the Grand Marais Arts Festival Street and Sidewalk Permit for July 11-13, 2008. Approved unanimously.
All vendors should be responsible for their own garbage.

George Wilkes, Cook County Local Energy Project, asked for a letter of support for the group to research and facilitate renewable energy options for Cook County. Council contact person will be Tim Kennedy. They are asking the county to be the fiscal agent.

Motion by Larsen, seconded by Costello to approve a letter of support for the Cook County Local Energy Project. Approved unanimously.

Tim Young provided a written proposal to build separate sewer service lines for both his house and the office building. The existing line will remain with whatever buildings are attached to it. This compromise meets the city's needs and provides a reliable service to both new lots being created through the variance.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Larsen to approve the Tim Young Variance located at 1807 Hwy 61 and 3 Nelson Trail – PID#80-720-3205 and to remove the hold harmless provision of the last council meeting. Approved unanimously.

In the history of the PR zone, the planning commission has had problems interpreting the regulations as they apply to the existing businesses in the area, such as the Angry Trout Café and the North House Folk School. It has always been a struggle to determine just how these uses fit into the zoning requirements or even if they do fit: however, there has been consistent support to allow the businesses to function and improve. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on April 2, 2008. The Planning Commission found that this area has been historically developed for commercial use, the rezoning of this area in 1992 to Protected Resources was inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan, there is a consistent record of variances and conditional use permits supporting the existing businesses in this area supporting a clear public need, and this is the only area in the PR zone that is developed commercially. The Planning Commission voted 5-0 to recommend rezoning this area from PR to C-1.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2008-04 Rezoning a Certain Portion of the Protected Resources Zone to Commercial. Approved unanimously.

The Park Board revised their dock improvement request. The revised plan eliminates the docks in front of North House Folk School, adds 4 more slips, utilizes the space better and will help with our waiting list of 30.

**Motion by Lenz, seconded by Kennedy to approve the Dock Improvement in the amount of \$26,111. Ayes: Larsen, Lenz, Kennedy Nay: Bolstad
Abstain: Costello**

The council discussed the 2008 Utility and Street Improvements during the earlier worksession.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Bolstad to approve sidewalks with boulevard on 1st Avenue West from 1st Street to 5th Street with no assessment to the adjacent properties. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve street widths as follows:

1st Avenue West – 32 feet

2nd Avenue West- 28 feet

3rd Avenue West – 28 feet

Approved unanimously.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Costello to hire Ben Silence as Fire Chief, Steve DuChien as Assistant Fire Chief, and Kevin M. Flack as Secretary. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Costello to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2008-03 Annexing Land Located in the Unorganized Territory of Cook County, Minnesota, Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 414.033 Subdivision 2(3), Permitting Annexation by Ordinance. Approved unanimously.

The horse club would like to access the horse arena area and request approval of the lease of city land.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Lenz to approve the Lease Agreement with Cook County for the purpose of county fairgrounds for One Dollar (\$1.00) commencing April 1, 2008, and ending March 31, 2018. Approved unanimously.

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) The Save the Pool Committee has decided to have an essay contest for 3rd – 5th grade students. The topic of the essay is “Why I Like the Pool.” First Place will receive a 10- ticket passbook and there will be a drawing of all entries for a single year membership.

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) The Safety Committee is performing monthly inspections of city buildings resulting in improvements of conditions.
- 2) Lake County/Cook County/City of Grand Marais have received a grant of \$671,000 for housing rehabilitation and the Creechville Assessment Rebates. More people applied than there was money available.

Councilor Costello's Report:

- 1) The Sawtooth Riding Club would like to have Kay Costello as their City Council contact person.

Councilor Bolstad's Report:

- 1) The Electric Department is in the process of tearing down the old substation. The scrap metal market is very good. We are working with SMMPA to take down the old lines. We are continuing to work with the MPCA in the clean up of the old power plant.
- 2) It has been a tough winter for people and their electric bills. We try to work with people by using payment plans: however, some people do not contact the office. The cold weather rule goes off April 16.
- 3) The North Shore Management Board will host the State of the Shore Conference. Lenz and Bolstad will attend.

City Attorney Davison's Report:

- 1) A daycare provider has requested a statute change due to a father/child situation at the daycare.

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) The city property annexation is on the docket next week. Progress is being made.
- 2) Request to attend a city manager meeting in Nisswa.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Lenz to approve Mike Roth attend the MN City Manager Meeting in Nisswa. Approved unanimously.

Worksession topics for upcoming meetings will be Creechville/Annexations for April 30 and sidewalks for May 14.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.