

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES

February 27, 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.

Sue Hakes stated that the Comprehensive Plan was passed in December and questioned the progress of the ordinance changes needed to comply with the comprehensive plan.

The consultants have begun the ordinance draft, but we haven't received anything yet. Once the draft ordinance is received, it will go through Planning and Zoning and then come to the council for consideration.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Lenz to approve the Agenda; approve February 13, 2008, Worksession Minutes; February 13, 2008, Minutes; and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.

American Legal Publishing Corp has given a proposal of \$3,000 to conduct a legal review of the City of Grand Marais Code and look for compliance and conflicts with federal and state laws. City Attorney Davison is waiting for a response from law enforcement to see if any codes are currently too vague to enforce. City Attorney Davison recommended waiting until the Downtown Ordinance is complete before conducting the review. Council requested more information about the proposed legal review.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Lenz to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2008-01 Controlling Dangerous Dogs and Potentially Dangerous Dogs. Approved unanimously.

The council discussed the proposed purchase agreement with the Schulte's for the future library site. At this point in time, it seems premature to purchase property. The county has decided to move forward with the 1% sales tax referendum at the urging of Bakk and Dill. The city and the county need to be in agreement about the future of the library. Some councilors did not know that the school had made an offer of land for the library: however, the offer was not official and after the Library Board toured the site, they decided that the topography was difficult at that site. It seems that people are satisfied

with our library and the services provided. The library staff is doing a good job with limited space. The issue of no parking vs. green space in front of the library still remains.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to withdraw the purchase agreement offer between the City of Grand Marais and Craig and Lynn Schulte. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was recessed for the Infrastructure Improvement Hearing at 4:50 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 5:47 p.m.

Councilor Kay Costello's Report:

- 1) The Joint Powers Recreation Board met yesterday. At this point in time, the foremost issue is the pool: however, it seems like a moving target and an impossible task. The revenues are up in the air. The expenses are up in the air. Commissioner Fenwick suggested that the board hold off for now. She commended our city representatives on the board. It is very challenging to be a part of the board.

City Attorney Don Davison's Report:

- 1) Commented that usually casework consists of DWI's and domestic assaults. Recently, there have been two animal neglect cases.

City Administrator Mike Roth's Report:

- 1) Attended training put on by Ehlers and Associates. One of the topics was rental housing licensing. The larger cities have a robust building inspection program. The rental license inspection is built on their building code inspection program. Many cities use their full-time paid fire department employees. Some cities use the nationwide code for rental standards. This is still linked to the building code and is one way to enforce rental licensing.
- 2) The Economic Development Authority can do Tax Increment Financing for the Sawtooth Cottages Project without the city. It is not necessarily a city project.
- 3) The next worksession will be March 12th at 3:30 p.m. We will discuss where we want to go with new projects such as the library and pool.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.