

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
March 31, 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, Ben Silence 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.

Mark Sandbo, Grand Marais Lions, updated the council on the businesses efforts to look for space for more downtown bathrooms. The most people that attended a meeting were 4: however, the group received more emails. Proposals included: remodel/renovate the purple building across the alley from city hall, add to library if they expand, separate facility, or enlarge the current space and add signage.

Ben Silence and Mike Flack of the Grand Marais Fire Department updated the council on a planned house burn scheduled for April 10th at 406 1st Ave E. There is an ad in the paper and each home and apartment in a one block area will be notified by a flyer or in person. The next door neighbors have already been informed about the burn. There will be 4 fire departments participating, the house is prepped and the permits are signed. If there are high winds that day, the burn will be postponed.

Bev Green, Senior Center and Arrowhead Transit are having a problem with bus parking. The ridership for the buses has been opened to all people. As a result, the ridership has increased and the buses are bigger. It is hard to get the buses in and out of the parking lot. They are requesting a designated bus stop in front of the senior center and a place to park the busses at night.

Motion by Costello, seconded by Lenz to approve the Agenda, March 10, 2010 Minutes, and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.

Dan Anderson, Anderson Aero, requests use of city property to conduct airplane rides in the harbor with an annual peddler's permit in the same manner as last year.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve the Annual Peddler Permit and grant use of city property for Dan Anderson of Anderson Aero. Approved unanimously.

Carolyn Kopchik, Farmer's Market, requests use of city property to expand the current space by the senior center into 20 more parking spaces in the city parking lot. Many options were discussed.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Costello to approve the Farmer's Market Request for use of 20 parking spaces in the city parking lot. Approved unanimously.

George Wilkes and Buck Benson, CCLEP, presented a revised version of a grant request from Iron Range Resources Renewable Energy Grant. The proposal is for a 10.56 kw pole mounted, grid-tied photovoltaic system at Gunflint Hills Golf Course or elsewhere to be owned by the City of Grand Marais and will have informational signage for public education. The project cost is \$107,000 with \$50,000 of local match for a \$1,600 per year electricity savings for 20-30 years. The local match consists of \$8,000 cash and up to \$5,000 in-kind labor from the city and the balance from other local organizations cash, time, and discounts.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve the Iron Range Resources Renewable Energy Grant. Ayes: Kennedy, Lenz, Costello, Sivertson Nay: Hakes

Hakes does not like the project because there was no chance to review the project, does not like the risk, we don't know how much LGA has been cut from the budget, the total cost of the project does not pay itself back over the life of the project.

Kennedy likes the project, it is a simple demonstration project, there are funds available, the city match can be funded by the park and general fund budgeted capital dollars and will pay back the city's investment over 5 years. This is an opportunity for research and development for economic viability for the future and will see efforts move away from oil.

Nancy Grabko, Economic Development Authority Housing, presented the Lake/Cook County Joint Housing Initiative 2009 Annual Report. The program is two years old and we have completed 22 housing rehabilitation projects. The City of Grand Marais received \$450,000 in special assessment abatement money and nine homes were rehabilitated. Together with Lake County, the program served 29 households. The EDA took the lead in creating the housing study that identified our population demographics and our housing needs. Elected officials have become aware of housing programs that have been offered everywhere except Lake and Cook Counties. We have changed the service delivery model to rehabilitate homes at a faster rate. Cook County did not get DEED funding for 2010 because of the previous service delivery model: however, they were able to secure \$130,067 in funding to rehabilitate 4 homes in Cook County in 2010. There are 35 families on the waiting list. This is a life changing experience for the families selected. It allows them to stay in their home and provides jobs for local contractors.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Costello to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2010-01 Amending Grand Marais City Code, Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 19. Approved unanimously.

Jim Shinnars has requested that the city staff pick up bags of collected garbage on Earth Day – April 22, 2010.

Motion by Hakes, seconded by Kennedy to have city staff coordinate garbage pick up on Earth Day. Approved unanimously.

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) The Community Center Group met. Bob Fenwick is the County Commissioner that will head the project. He will meet with the School Board. A matrix of different users and needs was created. The group visited the Grand Portage Community Center Complex and discussed the things they wished they had done differently. The group will visit a few more community centers. Additional storage is a problem for all the groups.

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) The Broadband Committee met. The situation seems to change by the day. The county board has supported Arrowhead Electric's proposal for pulse broadband and they have supported Northeast Service Cooperative's broadband proposal. Qwest is also submitting a grant application. Each proposal is different, but the trend seems to be away from county involvement. The county's original proposal seems to have opened the door for broadband potential in Cook County.
- 2) The sale of a Business Development Park lot to G&G Septic has been completed and the special assessment has been paid to the city.

Councilor Sivertson's Report:

- 1) The North Shore Management Board meetings are difficult to attend. Would another councilor be interested in this board appointment?

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) Received a call from David Dill that we have been awarded approximately \$100,000 for water and sewer infrastructure improvements. Last year the council and staff worked on a list of shovel ready projects if money became available. Due to our preplanning, we were able to be funded for this project.

Mayor Hakes' Report:

- 1) Received a letter from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency recognizing Tom Nelson and his staff for outstanding operation and maintenance of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.