

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
August 31, 2011

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

Members present: Larry Carlson, Bob Spry, Tim Kennedy, Jan Sivertson and Bill Lenz

Members absent: None

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

Mayor Carlson 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 on the same subject. No one spoke.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Spry to approve the agenda; August 10, 2011, Minutes; Payment of Bills; ACMU Raffle Permit and Ruffed Grouse Raffle Permit. Approved unanimously.

Bradley Peterson, Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, updated the council on their efforts to lobby for Local Government Aid and property tax relief. They held candidate forums and explained issues to newly elected officials. Lobbying efforts included not allowing Business Park Development Public Infrastructure (BPDI) funds to be transferred to non BPDI grant programs, extending TIF authority, Angel Investment Tax Credit, directing MPCA to work with Wisconsin DNR and advocate for seasonal standards for phosphorus issues in Lake Pepin, exempting municipal wastewater treatment labs from National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program which would increase costs with little benefit to water quality, worked against a proposed bill that would strip the authority of cities to regulate private wells and advocated for a share of the legacy money to be dedicated to greater Minnesota regional parks and trails.

Ehlers, the city's financial advisor, has identified two bonds that could be refinanced for a savings of \$67,100. The rates are very good now. The 2005 Refunding Bond that refinanced the 2000 Improvements and the 2004 Improvements Bond for the downtown streetscape project. The majority of the 2000 Improvements were sewer related. We would like to have a clearer picture of our capital improvements plan before refinancing bonds or paying off the 2005 Refunding. We will bring this issue back within the next two meetings.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve the Outback Solar Electric quote for the installation of photovoltaic panels at the golf course in the amount of \$60,547. Approved unanimously.

The project is supported by a \$57,636 grant from IRRRB with match from the installer, CCLEP, North Shore Sustainable Energy, Hedstrom E&E, and the City. The City approved a match of \$8,000 towards equipment purchase and \$5,000 site work. The quote is \$10,000 less than our

original budget. We are looking at options for increasing our equipment purchase, adding resources to educational signage, or reducing the total project cost.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Lenz to approve the Cook County Fire Chief's Association Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement. Approved unanimously.

This agreement outlines the policies and procedures for mutual aid between departments and has been approved by the fire chief's.

The ARMER Committee has agreed to pursue a FEMA AFG regional grant for approximately \$1 million to pay for radios for the county's nine fire departments. The county will pay for the 5% match and cover the costs of grant writing, being repaid if we get the grant. The Committee requests a letter of support for the regional grant application.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Spry to direct City Administrator Roth to write a letter of support for the county-wide FEMA AFG Regional grant for ARMER funding. Approved unanimously.

City Administrator Roth summarized the city/county meeting regarding the community center project. The meeting was fruitful. Everyone was interested in problem solving. The city and county attorneys will contact Burbach to discuss if there can be a resolution, then arbitration so we can be informed of the consequences of decisions. No decisions were made.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Kennedy to authorize City Attorney Chris Hood to work with the County Attorney to contact Burbach Aquatics. Approved unanimously.

The Mayor received a letter from a sailboat owner who gave high marks to the park and Dave Tersteeg. They were surprised that they could be accommodated in the marina.

Councilor Spry's Report:

- 1) The EDA/County Board meeting decided to move forward and the county gave funding for Superior National Golf Course to buy new equipment. To make the course a "resort-type" course will cost about \$4 million. They are seeking \$1.8 million from the 1% sales tax, some funding from other sources and some debt. The golf course has been supported by a portion of the lodging tax.

Councilor Sivertson's Report:

- 1) The library is on schedule for a November moving in date. There is still a lot of green space.

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) Received a letter from the Stop the Madness group. Things will need to be discussed if we become involved in the Community Center Project.
- 2) Safe Routes to School and Community Active Living Committees notes:

- a) There is a permanent radar speed sign at the school speed zone on the west side of the school and an LEC Speed trailer will be on the east end of the school speed zone.
- b) There are bicycle racks placed around town in Harbor Park, Bear Tree Park, and Artist Point.
- c) The group would like to have a pedestrian access/snowmobile trail review with the council soon.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Kennedy not to join the Minnesota Association of Small Cities. Approved unanimously.

The City cannot donate to Community Education unless there is a service agreement. Council directed City Administrator Roth to write them a letter declining Community Education's request for funding.

A budget worksession was scheduled for 3:30 September 14th.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.