

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
September 14, 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.

Sara Metis asked the council to review the city ordinance that does not allow farm animals such as horses overnight in the city limits. Sara is currently leasing a lot from the EDA in the Cedar Grove Business Park to run stable rides. She would like to leave her horses on the site overnight rather than hauling the horses back and forth each day.

The council will revisit this issue as an agenda item at a future meeting.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Spry to approve the Agenda; August 25, 2011, Budget Worksession Minutes; August 31, 2011 Minutes; and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.

Dan and Linda Quick are requesting a variance to construct a single-story addition to their existing home located 4.5' from the side lot line, inside the required 10' side yard setback on their property zoned R-1 located at Lots 5 and 6, Block 11, Harbor Addition – 113 7th Avenue West. A public hearing was held September 7, 2011. No members of the public spoke. The Planning Commission found that the variance request is in harmony with the purpose to provide a healthy, safe and attractive residential environment, protects property values, and provides a mix of residential development; the proposal is sensitive to the existing setback and is considered infill development; the use will remain single family residential and was constructed prior to the zoning ordinance; and the addition, located behind the existing structure would minimally impact the area. The Planning Commission recommends approving the variance by a 3-0 vote.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve Resolution 2011-09 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Grand Marais, Minnesota, Approving the Request for a Variance to Allow the Quick Addition. Approved unanimously.

Kerrie Fabius, Cook County Soil and Water District Manager, is requesting approval from the City Council to apply for a Clean Water Fund Grant to construct two rain gardens on city property. Designs for the two rain garden sites were completed by SAS Landscape Architects with a Minnesota Lake Superior Coastal Program Grant. The rain garden locations are within

the City owned Right of Way and would be maintained by the adjacent landowners. The two locations are 1st Street and 2nd Avenue West – Gina Todd and 4th Street and 2nd Avenue East – Edward and Katherine Bolstad. There is a 25% match required. CCSW is requesting the City to pay \$1,600 for the curb cut, sediment box, and grate and the land use is also considered part of the match. The rain garden estimate by Bolstad’s is \$ 11,000 and the rain garden estimate by Todd’s is \$15,000. Mayor Carlson asked how all the neighboring properties feel about the project. He has heard negative feedback on the existing rain garden by the library and about the court house rain garden before its costly redesign. The proposed rain gardens are professionally designed and should be more appealing. September 20th is the deadline for the grant.

Motion by Sivertson, seconded by Kennedy to contribute \$1,600 and support the Rain Garden Clean Water Fund Grant Project.

Ayes: Sivertson, Kennedy, Spry, Lenz Nay: Carlson

We will also seek feedback from all adjacent neighbors.

There are 12 Liquor License renewal requests. Harbor Light Co. under new management is asking for approval for outdoor events. The council would like specific event information and feedback from the Department of Alcohol and Gambling, the Sheriff’s Department and neighbors of the establishment. Harbor Light’s request for outdoor events will be tabled to another meeting.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Spry to approve Liquor License Renewals as follows:

Number	Licensee	Business	License Type	Fee
2011-01	Larsen Brothers LLC	Birch Terrace Supper Club	Liquor/Sunday	\$2,500
2011-02	Sven & Ole's Inc.	Sven & Ole's Pizza	Liquor/Sunday	\$2,500
2011-03	Jeffrey William Gecas	Gun Flint Tavern	Liquor/Sunday	\$2,500
2011-04	CEWAL, Inc.	Harbor Light Supper Club	Liquor/Sunday	\$2,500
2011-05	Am Leg 413	American Legion Lounge	Club	\$700
2011-06	Paul Sporn	My Sister's Place	Wine/Beer	\$440
2011-07	The Crooked Spoon Café, Inc.	The Crooked Spoon Café	Wine/Beer	\$440
2011-08	Chez Jude LLC	Chez Jude	Wine/Beer	\$440
2011-09	George Wilkes	Angry Trout Café	Wine/Beer	\$440
2011-10	The Little Canteen LLC	Hughie's Taco House	Wine/Beer	\$440
2011-11	Toftoy, Harley/Shelly	Dockside Fish Market	Wine/Beer	\$440
2011-12	The LM Family, LLC	The Pie Place Cafe	Wine/Beer	\$440

Approved unanimously.

The council discussed the Preliminary Levy and the change in the Market Value Homestead Credit. Staff recommends approving the preliminary levy at \$841,034 and work toward no increase or a decrease of the levy for the final levy. The city has control over 2 of the 15 factors that determine property taxes.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Carlson to approve Resolution 2011-08 Approving Preliminary 2011 Tax Levy, Collectible in 2012 in the amount of \$841,034.98. Approved unanimously.

Mayor Carlson's Report:

- 1) Received a letter from Bradley Peterson from the Coalition for Greater Minnesota Cities thanking us for our support and hoping that he is of some help.
- 2) Received a letter from the Cook County Tennis Association letting us know that they are in favor of the new Community Center Proposal.
- 3) Last Friday, the Mayor addressed the Lake Superior Bi-National Forum that held its meeting at the Arrowhead Center for the Art in Grand Marais.

Councilor Sivertson's Report:

- 1) Received concerns about the alley behind the old theater property and the ability to get deliveries. Staff will look into the matter further.
- 2) The Library Board discussed the construction and Sobanja's concerns. Most of the issues are being resolved.

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) The Planning Commission is in need of 2 members.

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) No quorum for the Park Board.
- 2) Asked legal counsel about a declaratory judgment process for the matter with Burbach. We should continue with the present course. A declaratory judgment would be a next step: it is not a simple process.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.