

***CITY OF GRAND MARAIS***  
***MINUTES***  
***December 14, 2011***

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

Members present: Larry Carlson, Bob Spry, Jan Sivertson, Tim Kennedy 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 Spry, seconded by Kennedy to approve the Agenda; November 30, 2011, Minutes; and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.**

**Motion by Lenz, seconded by Spry to approve the City of Grand Marais Fund Balance Policy. Approved unanimously.**

Our negotiating team met with the AFSCME employee bargaining team on Wednesday, December 7, and reached the tentative agreement including a two-year agreement, wage increase of 1.5% both years, and a modification to the safety boot reimbursement language.

**Motion by Lenz, seconded by Kennedy to approve the two-year contract with AFSCME. Approved unanimously.**

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Spry to approve Resolution 2011-10 Authorizing the Call of the Outstanding General Obligation Improvement Refunding Bonds Series 2005A. Approved unanimously.**

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) The Park Board is working with S.E.H. on realistic options for the Community Connection.
- 2) Staff completed a study on the golf course and projected needs for the next 20 years. We have been underfunding the annual equipment replacement fund. We have a nice course and Mike Kunshier does a fantastic job with what he has for turf, equipment and irrigation. We will need to purchase a new greens mower.
- 3) Amber Humphrey resigned her position and took a job with the D.N.R. We wish her well and thank her for her time and effort.

Councilor Spry's Report:

- 1) The E.D.A. is moving forward with changes to the Superior National Golf Course. It will be a nice improvement.

- 2) The E.D.A. is trying to find a web designer locally to set up a web site for the E.D.A.
- 3) The University of MN Extension and Jim Boyd are looking at a Business Retention and Evaluation Program. It is a long-term strategic plan. We need business owners to tell us what they think the E.D.A.'s role is.

Councilor Sivertson's Report:

- 1) The Library is open and looks good. The next step is to buy some additional furniture and plan a Grand Opening in January and one later when the seasonal people are back. The project was completed on time and the green space feels more open.

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) The Planning Commission received a proposal for redevelopment of Dave Parson's property. The proposal creates residential lots and a mixed commercial use lots. The Commission reviewed the concept drawing, but did not have a quorum. We need new members.
- 2) The Biomass Planning Group is working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase. Gary Atwood came before the Public Utilities Commission for the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase Report. There are some interesting possibilities.
- 3) The Energy Plan Draft was prepared and the group is refining the goals and implementation strategies. This report will come before the council this winter.

Council discussed the setting of rates and whether such an important decision should be taken to the city council before implementation. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

The meeting recessed for the Budget and Levy Hearing at 5:12 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 5:20 pm.

City Administrator Roth reported that we need a lot of members for boards. The Library Board has one member that has not made it to enough meetings and the position needs to be formally vacated.

**Motion by Spry, seconded by Kennedy to vacate Olwe Bottorf's position on the Library Board. Approved unanimously.**

There are many board openings:

Library Board	1
Public Utilities Commission	1
Planning Commission	4
Park Board	2

We have advertised these positions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.