Minutes for Regular City Council Meeting held on February 12, 2013

Present: Mayor: Brian Mielke

Council Members: Josh Lee, Alan Ralston, Joan Perron

Absent: Building Official David Neameyer

Also Present: Police Chief Mike Aschenbrenner, City Attorney Tom Lehmann, City Clerk Jennifer Bruestle

Mayor Brian Mielke opened the City Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: It was moved (Lee/Ralston) to approve the January 8, 2013 minutes as presented. Passed 4-0.

Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Treasurer’s Report: Motioned by Perron, seconded by Ralston to approve the disbursements as presented. Passed 4-0.

General Fund Disbursements:

Met Council – monthly wastewater charge for Feb $ 1,268.12

Lehmann & Lutter – attorney fees $ 2,000.00

Kim Perron – snow removal $ 832.50

City of Mendota Heights – police/fire $ 7,938.61

State of MN – rent for Benson Metals $ 158.00

Aggregate Industries – inv. 703991755 $ 650.88

Xcel Energy – jail lights $ 10.77

Xcel Energy – street lights $ 395.32

McDonough’s – inv. 142556 & 142761 $ 3,558.38

PERA – January $ 162.00

Jennifer Bruestle – phone service, copies $ 55.58

Jennifer Bruestle – Clerk Salary for January $ 1,000.57

Enterprise Fund Disbursements:

Xcel Energy – park lights $ 23.08

It was moved (Lee/Perron) to approve the transfer of $1,268.12 from the Sewer Fund to the General Fund for the monthly wastewater charge, as well as $3,558.38 from the Sewer Fund to the General Fund to cover the cost of cleaning, waterjetting and vacuuming the grease from the main sanitary sewer line along Highway 13. Passed 4-0.

Presentation by Ian Campbell of the Community Development Agency (CDA) to provide an overview of the programs the CDA offers to county residents:

Lisa Henning of the CDA provided information, as well as materials, which described the housing services the CDA can offer to Mendota residents. These programs include:

**Residential Rehab program:** This income based program can offer residents assistance with rehabilitating their home. The CDA would look at code deficiencies within their home and prioritize what work would need to be done, such as repairing/replacing siding, roof, bathroom, kitchen, deck, etc. The loan the resident would obtain through the CDA is a 0% interest deferred loan, which would be payable to the CDA when the home is sold or is no longer the resident’s primary residence. In a foreclosure situation, the CDA would not receive any money for the loan. The Rehab program is funded by CDBG fund from a county wide pool. The CDA offers over 60 loans per year, with a loan for each homeowner to be at least $15,000, but not to exceed $25,000. Residents can expect to wait six months to one year to obtain a loan.

**Foreclosure Counseling Program:** Since 2003, the CDA has offered counseling to residents whose homes are entering into the foreclosure process. The CDA will help educate residents regarding the timeline of the foreclosure process, assist in halting the sheriff sale, as well as work collaboratively with the homeowner’s bank to obtain mortgage modification. The CDA would act as an advocate for the homeowner during the foreclosure process; however, funding is not available for homeowners to exit the foreclosure process.

**Pre-Purchase Counseling:** The CDA educates potential homeowners on what it means to own a home. They offer one on one counseling, discuss their credit and what it means to have good credit, as well as how much the homeowner should set aside for routine maintenance costs for their homes, and discuss the process for obtaining a mortgage. The CDA also offers a home ownership class, **Home-Stretch,** which is a 9-hour group session in which basics of home ownership, home inspection and mortgage counseling are taught.

Lisa Henning also provided an update to council regarding the storage shed grant. Mrs. Henning informed counsel the CDA’s in house architect Vince has been out on medical leave for some time now. As Vince returns to work full-time, Lisa Henning will obtain his advice regarding the layout of the structure as well as if a pre-fabricated model would be ideal versus a newly built structure. Lisa Henning will provide the details of the structure to Vince and report back to council within the next couple of months.

Lisa Henning informed council the City of Mendota was the only applicant for the small cities CDBG grant pool. Therefore, the City of Mendota will be notified in June regarding the amount of money the City of Mendota will receive for the playground equipment for Veteran’s Park.

Approve the following 2013 Mendota Liquor Licenses:

Motioned by Ralston, seconded by Perron to approve the following 2013 Mendota Liquor Licenses:

Lucky’s 13 Pub on-Sale Liquor License Axel’s Bonfire On-Sale Liquor License

VFW Post 6690 Club License

Passed 4-0.

Approve Ordinance 13-01:

Motioned by Perron, seconded by Lee to approve Ordinance 13-01, Ordinance relating to criminal history background for applicants for city employment and city licenses. Passed 4-0.

City Council to interview potential Council Member Candidates:

Motioned by Ralston, seconded by Lee to postpone the interview process for council candidates until the March 12, 2013 Council Meeting to provide more time and opportunity for residents to apply for the empty council position. Passed 4-0.

Public Comment: Public Comment opened at 8:09 p.m.

Jim, the Tribal Chairman for the Minnesota Mdewakanton Dakota Community (MMDC) requested council review the letter Mayor Brian Mielke provided to his tribe in order to obtain a grant to purchase land within Mendota for an indigenous heritage center for the MMDC. The letter Mayor Mielke provided to MMDC had many revisions made by the representative the MMDC has secured to act on their behalf. Council was reluctant to make these changes due to the City of Mendota acknowledging the City’s status as a “hub zone.” The City Council is not aware of this term or of the implications involved with accepting this designation. Therefore, City Attorney Tom Lehmann and Council Member Alan Ralston will review the letter and provide a revised copy of the letter to Jim, so he can further his efforts to obtain the grant.

Public Comment closed at 8:28 p.m.

Council Comment: Opened at 8:28 p.m.

**Council Member Josh Lee:** No Comment

**Council Member Alan Ralston:** Council Member Ralston verified the Conditional Use Permits would be mailed out to area businesses/residents in April.

**Mayor Brian Mielke:** Mayor Mielke stated the city mail is available for review during the council meeting. Mayor Mielke informed Council he would continue to work with the MMDC on their letter of support to obtain a grant to build an indigenous heritage center.

**Council Member Joan Perron:** Council Member Perron stated she did not agree with some of the pre-determined questions to be asked of Council Member Candidates. Also, Council Member Perron stated the load of sand which was delivered on February 1, 2013, did not adequately spread due to clumping; therefore, Aggregate Industries refunded the amount owed and delivered a new load of sand.

Staff Comment: Opened at 8:37 p.m.

**Police Chief Mike Aschenbrenner:** Chief Aschenbrenner stated tonight on Channel 5, there will be a story on new tobacco products that are targeted toward kids, such as nicotine “skittles,” electronic cigarettes, dissolvable nicotine mouth patches, and nicotine sticks. Chief Aschenbrenner would like to update City tobacco ordinances to reflect these new products.

**City Attorney Tom Lehmann:** no comment

**City Clerk Jennifer Bruestle:** no comment

Motioned by Lee, seconded by Perron to adjourn the council meeting at 8:44 p.m. Passed 4-0.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Jennifer Bruestle, City Clerk