Minutes for Regular Council Meeting held on June 12, 2012

Present: Mayor: Brian Mielke

Council Members: Adam Strain, Alan Ralston, Joan Perron

Absent: Council Member Josh Lee

Also Present: Police Chief Mike Aschenbrenner, Building Official David Neameyer, 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 (Ralston/ Perron) to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes held on May8, 2012. Passed 4-0.

It was moved (Strain/ Ralston) to approve the Special Council Meeting Minutes held on May 14, 2012, with the addition of David Neameyer as being present at the meeting. Passed 4-0.

Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Treasurer’s Report: Motioned by Ralston, seconded by Perron to accept the treasurer’s report with the addition of the Xcel bill in the amount of $341.71 for the street lights, as well as the disbursement of $43.84 paid to Alan Ralston for the reimbursement of mileage fees for picking up the sanitary sewer covers. Passed 4-0.

**General Fund:**

Met Council—monthly wastewater charge for June $1,189.41

Lehmann & Lutter—attorney fees $2,000.00

Kim Perron—snow removal $ 832.50

City of Mendota Heights—Police & Fire $8,776.11

State of MN—Rent for Benson Metals $ 140.00

Xcel Energy—Jail Lights $ 9.91

Xcel Energy—Street lights $ 341.71

League of MN Cities—Accident plan for volunteers $ 100.00

David Neameyer—3/1/12-5/31/12 $ 373.40

Kim Perron—Bobcat time, clean culverts, move sand $ 297.50

Alan Ralston—reimburse mileage 79 miles @ .555 per mile $ 43.84

PERA for May $ 135.00

Jennifer Bruestle—Copies, phone service, postage $ 146.99

Jennifer Bruestle—salary for May $1,000.00

**Enterprise Fund:**

Xcel Energy—park lights $ 9.89

Biffs for May $ 137.49

Nitti Sanitation for May & June $ 62.20

It was moved (Ralston/ Strain) to approve the transfer of $1,189.41 from the Sewer Fund to the General Fund for the monthly wastewater charge, as well as the transfer of $12,000.00 from the Money Market Fund to the General Fund to maintain the General Fund balance. Passed 4-0.

Approval of Joint Powers Agreement: Motioned by Perron, seconded by Ralston to approve the Joint Powers Agreement between Dakota County and the City of Mendota for the maintenance of the GIS database containing road names and addresses. Passed 4-0.

Lisa Henning with the Community Development Agency (CDA) will present gazebo options, and will seek council direction for gazebo bids: Lisa Henning suggested to Council the date of September 8, 2012 as the goal for the completion of the gazebo; by doing so, residents would see the finished project at the Mendota Picnic. Lisa Henning provided three options for the construction of a 20’ X 20’ gazebo for the Council to consider. Lisa Henning stated the concrete pad is in good condition, with no visible cracks in the concrete. Therefore, the focus of the project would be on the gazebo. The cost of this project would be funded through the CDBG grant the City will receive in July 2012, in the amount of $12,000.00.

**Option 1:** Demolish gazebo and construct a new gazebo in the exact fashion as the existing gazebo. By choosing this option, the City may need to utilize volunteers, as well as utilize funds from the storage shed grant.

**Option 2:** Rehabilitate the existing gazebo. If the Council chooses this option, the existing posts would be used, while the focus of the grant would be to reconstruct the roof while omitting the cupola, adding light fixtures, stain the wood, as well as add decorative lattice.

**Option 3:** Demolish the existing gazebo, and construct a new gazebo with a more simplistic design. By utilizing this option, the gazebo would be constructed out of less durable materials, as well as no lattice and no new light fixtures.

Council was in agreement to reuse as much of the existing materials as possible from the gazebo. Lisa Henning stated she would do a walk through bid with contractors to determine which materials the contractors would be willing to reuse. Lisa Henning would then list the following items as add/deduct items within the bid: stain, decorative lattice, and copula.

Council agreed to keep the current look of the lattice as well as the spindles around the perimeter of the gazebo. Council also agreed to keep the current layout of the two entrances/ exits, as well as the benches if they are determined to be in good condition.

Lisa Henning stated once the gazebo is completed, the City would be asked to sign an agreement with the CDA stating the City would maintain the structure over the course of the next thirty years.

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 7:50 p.m.

Gretta Miller, representing Ray Miller of 5 Windy Ridge, was present to request a variance for the rear setback at 5 Windy Ridge. Building Official David Neameyer was given a survey from Ray Miller indicating the pool to be installed at his property is 30’ from the rear property line. On the survey David Neameyer was given, a rear setback of 30’ was indicated by the surveyor; however, according to Mendota City Code, the rear setback is 15 feet. Therefore, Ray Miller is within the setback guidelines according to the survey he presented to Building Official David Neameyer. David Neameyer stated Ray Miller will place an automatic pool cover over his pool in lieu of a fence. However, it is the homeowner’s responsibility to have the pool cover in place in any instance the pool is not being supervised. Council informed Gretta Miller, on the occasions Mr. Miller will need to complete maintenance or remove water from the pool, the water must be directed to the storm sewer drain or within his property, and not divert the water to the culvert located adjacent to his property.

Carl Robinette stated Willard Perron trimmed trees within Veteran’s Park, around the jail, the electrical lines, as well as the stop sign. Mr. Robinette noted as he was vacuuming the jail, he noticed the historical pictures need to be reframed and rehung, the plaster ceiling needs to be repaired, and the lock needs to be replaced, as well as the bricks in the chimney. Council gave Mr. Robinette permission to make the necessary repairs, and indicated Lance Perron would repair the chimney.

Carl Robinette recommended to Council, Willard Perron should be reimbursed with a $50.00 gas card for the gas he used while trimming trees within Mendota. Council unanimously approved the $50.00 reimbursement to Willard Perron.

Mayor Brian Mielke requested Clerk Bruestle research the steps to be taken to place the Mendota Jail on the State Historical Registry. Clerk Bruestle will also contact Ted with the Sibley Historical Site to determine when the Mendota walking tours of the jail are to take place.

Public Comment closed at 8:10 p.m.

Council Comment:

**Council Member Adam Strain:** Council Member Strain requested Clerk Bruestle contact Sentence to Service to remove the weeds within the playground area and volleyball area within Veteran’s Park. Council Member Strain also indicated more wood chips need to be placed within the playground area. Council Member Strain stated the park clean up day would take place on July 7, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. During this time, volunteers would be asked to clear the area behind the playground.

**Council Member Ralston:** Council Member Ralston stated he attended the 50th Anniversary of the Mendota Heights Police Department. Council Member Ralston congratulated the Police Chief on a wonderful opportunity to view exhibits, talk to police staff, and meet Mike the K-9 officer. Council Member Ralston also requested Clerk Bruestle indicates on the park clean up day flyer, volunteers would be needed to install the sanitary sewer manhole covers.

**Mayor Brian Mielke:** Mayor Brian Mielke indicated the City Mail is available for review. Mayor Mielke stated he also attended the Mendota Heights Police Department open house and considered the event to be a well-attended success. Mayor Mielke also informed Council both he and Jack Littlefield cleared a fallen tree on D Street, as well as mowed the newly installed grass along D Street.

**Council Member Joan Perron:** No Comment

Staff Comment:

**Building Official David Neameyer:** Building Official David Neameyer stated he issued two permits during the month of May. One permit was for a flat roof, and the other permit was for a garage.

**Police Chief Mike Aschenbrenner:** Chief Aschenbrenner stated the City of Mendota will soon receive certificates for passing all compliance checks that took place within the City during May.

**City Attorney Tom Lehmann:** City Attorney Tom Lehmann stated during the Month of July, the Council may need a closed meeting to discuss the possible pending litigation.

**City Clerk Jennifer Bruestle:** Clerk Bruestle informed Council Xcel Energy was contacted regarding the electrical poles that are leaning significantly along Lower D Street. Also, Clerk Bruestle informed Council Mn/Dot is not providing exact dates as to when the Highway 13 resurfacing project will begin within Mendota, as well as the length of time involved to resurface Highway 13. Clerk Bruestle informed Council information to sign up for email updates are posted within the Post Office, however, these email updates are usually received within one to two days before the project takes place.

There being no further business, it was moved (Strain/ Perron) to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Passed 4-0.

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

Jennifer Bruestle, City Clerk