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

Present: Mayor: Brian Mielke

Council Members: Josh Lee, Alan Ralston, Joan Perron

Absent: City Attorney Tom Lehmann

Also Present: Police Chief Mike Aschenbrenner, Building Official David Neameyer, City Clerk Jennifer Bruestle

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

Minutes: It was moved (Lee/Ralston) to approve the February 12, 2013 minutes with the following correction on Page 1: Presentation by Lisa Henning of the Community Development Agency (CDA) to provide an overview of the programs the CDA offers to county residents. Passed 4-0.

Agenda: The agenda was approved with the deletion of Item 4: City Council to discuss the formal complaint filed with the City Clerk.

Treasurer’s Report: Motioned by Ralston, seconded by Perron to approve the disbursements as presented, with the addition of the Xcel Energy bill in the amount of $388.79 for the street lights. Passed 4-0.

General Fund Disbursements:

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

Eckburg & Lammers – attorney charge $ 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 $ 140.00

Aggregate Industries – sand $ 865.87

Xcel Energy – jail lights $ 11.22

Xcel Energy – street lights $ 388.79

PERA – for February $ 162.00

Jennifer Bruestle – phone service, copies, postage $ 162.24

Jennifer Bruestle – clerk salary for February $ 1,000.57

Enterprise Fund Disbursements:

Xcel Energy – park lights $ 11.19

It was moved (Ralston/Perron) to approve the transfer of $1,268.12 from the Sewer Fund to the General Fund for the monthly wastewater charge. Passed 4-0.

City Council to interview Council Member Candidates: Council Members interviewed the three council member candidates in alphabetical order.

Jim Lee was interviewed first for the council member position. Mr. Lee indicated he applied for the vacancy because he believed there was no other interested partied for the position. Therefore, Mr. Lee withdrew his application from consideration for the council member position.

Erick Lehet was interviewed next for the council member position. Mr. Lehet provided background information to Council Members, including his work experience which includes his involvement as a Tri-District 197 Stategic Planning Committee Member, math teach as Technical Skill Attainment Coordinator, as well as a Remedial Math Teacher. Mr. Lehet stated he has experience working with individuals who do not enjoy working with him, and believes this experience will translate with the position as Council Member. Mr. Lehet also believes his experience working with congress people within Minnesota and Washington D.C. will provide a good fit with the Council Member position. Mr. Lehet informed council he participated in the park clean up event during 2012, and will continue to volunteer and contribute to the City of Mendota, as well as look at other sources of funding for the City. Mr. Lehet described to Council his leadership roles while participating on various high school sports teams, his involvement on the leadership committee within his current position as well as within tech education. Mr. Lehet purchased land within Mendota in 2005, and maintained residency within Mendota since 2008; however, Erick’s wife lived within Mendota for many years as a child.

Thirdly, Council interviewed Grant Littlefield for the council vacancy. Mr. Littlefield stated he grew up within Mendota, moved away for 25 years, and has recently purchased and renovated a home within Mendota and is now raising his family here. Mr. Littlefield stated he applied for the council position because he has an interest in the town, and would like to be more informed of what takes place within Mendota. However, Mr. Littlefield believes at this point in his life he is overcommitted and would like to withdraw his name from consideration for the council member position.

The City Council stated Erick Lehet will fill the council vacancy, and will be formally recognized as the new Council Member during the April 9, 2013 Council Meeting where he will be sworn in by City Attorney Tom Lehmann.

Public Comment: Public Comment opened at 7:44 p.m.

Joan Olin, who is currently employed by Barbara Nimis which represents the Mdewakanton Tribe of the Dakota Nation, stated the City of Mendota, the County of Dakota, as well as the Mdewakanton Tribe do not qualify for the HubZone requirements. Therefore, the Mdewakanton Tribe of the Dakota Nation is seeking City support to apply for federal recognition as a tribe. Mrs. Olin, as well as Council Members, restructured the letter of support the City of Mendota will submit to the Mdewakanton Tribe of the Dakota Nation for them to submit to the federal government to become recognized as a Tribe in order to apply for federal funding. Mrs. Olin state the Mdewakanton Tribe of the Dakota Nation secured a purchase agreement with Jim Toye for the five lots located on the North side of Highway 13, across the highway from the Mendota Post Office. The Mdewakanton Tribe of the Dakota Nation intends to erect a quansit hut on the property for tribal meetings.

Mayor Mielke will provide a corrected letter on City letterhead to Sharon Lenardson of the Mdewakanton Tribe of the Dakota Nation.

Public comment closed at 7:58p.m.

Council Comment: opened at 7:58 p.m.

**Council Member Josh Lee:** No comment.

**Council Member Alan Ralston:** Council Member Ralston inquired if Clerk Bruestle mailed the Condition Use Permit Application to the five designated properties within Mendota. Clerk Bruestle stated the applications have been mailed out, and will be placed on the April 9, 2013 Agenda for approval.

**Mayor Brian Mielke:**  Mayor Mielke stated city mail is available for review during the regular council meetings.

**Council Member Joan Perron:** No comment.

Staff Comment:

**Building Official David Neameyer:** Building official David Neameyer stated there was no permit activity for the month of February.

**Police Chief Mike Aschenbrenner:** Chief Aschenbrenner provided an invitation to the council members for Incident Command System overview for senior executives and elected officials.

**City Clerk Jennifer Bruestle:** Clerk Bruestle stated she has accepted a position with the City of Eagan and will no longer be working during the daytime hours for the City of Mendota. Clerk Bruestle has appreciated the experience she has gained within the position of City Clerk for the City of Mendota and has learned a great deal from each Council Member, Mayor, and City Staff. Clerk Bruestle has completed all upcoming projects, reports and required documentation for the next few months, and will continue to make herself available until a new clerk is hired. Clerk Bruestle has also stated she will provide training and assistance to the new clerk.

There being no further business, it was moved (Lee/Perron) to adjourn the council meeting at 8:04 p.m. Passed 4-0.

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

Jennifer Bruestle, City Clerk