Minutes for Regular City Council Meeting held on September 11, 2012

Present: Mayor: Brian Mielke

Council Members: Josh Lee, Adam Strain, Joan Perron, Alan Ralston

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

Mayor Brian Mielke opened the City Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence in remembrance of the terrorist attacks that took place on September 11, 2001.

Minutes: It was moved (Ralston/Lee) to approve the August 14, 2012 Minutes with the following corrections: Page 2, under Review the 2013 Budget: …but has reduced the amount halfway through the budget year; therefore, the City of Mendota will not include the full amount …

Passed 4-0.

Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Treasurer’s Report: Motioned by Lee, seconded by Ralston, the Treasurer’s Report was approved as presented with the addition of the Xcel Energy bill in the amount of $352.76. Passed 5-0.

General Fund Disbursements:

Met Council—monthly wastewater charge for September $ 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 $ 352.76

Gretta Bruestle—jr. election judge primary $ 135.00

Jan Golias—election judge primary $ 145.00

Election Judge lunch & dinner $ 123.94

Kim Perron—use of bobcat to remove railroad ties $ 255.00

Building Official 6/1/12-8/31/12 $ 1,425.25

PERA for August $ 135.00

Jennifer Bruestle—phone service, postage, office supplies $ 236.40

Enterprise Fund Disbursements:

Xcel Energy—park lights $ 10.85

Biffs for August $ 71.29

Nitti Sanitation—September $ 50.18

David Olin Mowing $ 750.00

Wal-Mart—toys for picnic $ 316.22

It was moved (Perron/Ralston) to approve the transfer of $1,189.41 from the sewer fund to the general fund for the monthly wastewater charge, as well as $1,000 from the General Fund to the 10% enterprise fund to cover a portion of the costs for the Mendota Picnic. Passed 5-0.

Lisa Henning with the CDA to receive direction for the storage shed from the Mendota City Council:

Mrs. Henning informed the Council the remaining CDBG grant money available after the completion of the gazebo project is $ 8,346.54. In addition, Mrs. Henning provided the basic storage shed design information based on the February 2011 Council Meeting. The shed design consisted of a 12’ x 14’ storage shed to store play equipment, signs and city owned equipment. The structure would have to be placed on a concrete slab. Mrs. Henning inquired if the Council would like the structure to have electricity, and if the structure should have a metal roof or a shingle roof.

Mrs. Henning also provided pictures of various storage sheds, in order to gain an understanding from the Council how they would envision the characteristics of the shed. Council was in agreement the 16’ x 16’ gable shed with porch would be the most appropriate structure with the following elements: metal roof, no windows, no electricity (but have the option to place access inside the shed to add electricity at a later date), no public assess to the inside of the building, a floating cement slab, and an unfinished interior. Building Official David Neameyer suggested since the shed will come with a floor to be installed on site, only the perimeter would need a cement slab. The shed would then be anchored to this perimeter slab and may prove to be a cost savings. Mrs. Henning will review the storage shed options and provide a more solid plan for the storage shed at the October 9, 2012 Council Meeting.

Approve the 2013 Proposed Budget:

Mayor Mielke would like the 2013 levy to remain the same from fiscal year 2012. Also, Council was in agreement to modify the clerk salary to reflect the actual amount of hours the clerk spends completing city business.

Motioned by Ralston, seconded by Strain to approve the attached 2013 budget with the noted changes. Passed 5-0.

Resolution 12-04: Motioned by Strain, seconded by Ralston to approve Resolution 12-04, resolution to approve the 2013 preliminary tax levy for the City of Mendota to be set at $151,860. Passed 5-0.

Resolution 12-05: Motioned by Ralston, seconded by Lee to approve Resolution 12-05, resolution to extend Ordinance 2010-02, where the City of Mendota Mayor and Council Persons will receive no salary. Passed 5-0.

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 8:11 p.m.

Carl Robinette inquired if Clerk Bruestle contacted MN/Dot regarding the curbs within Mendota. Clerk Bruestle informed Council Sheila Kauppi, Regional Manager with MN/Dot, was contacted regarding the broken curbs along Highway 13 that were not repaired during the better roads project. Since the curbs were not replaced, the asphalt was placed directly up to the curb; therefore, there is no gutter for the water to flow, which is continuing the pooling issue within downtown Mendota. Mrs. Kauppi stated the issue will be looked into when the storm water project takes place along Highway 13. Mr. Robinette also recommended another electrical line be run to the park gazebo, as well as have the main panel near the gazebo inspected.

Public comment closed at 8:16 p.m.

Council Comment:

**Council Member Josh Lee:** Council Member Lee stated the street light between the Sibley House and Lee Education Center is not working. Clerk Bruestle will contact Xcel Energy.

**Council Member Adam Strain:** Council Member Strain stated the Mendota Picnic, which took place on September 8, 2012 went well, even though the jump house couldn’t be used due to the high winds. Fun Jumps will not provide a discount since they cannot be responsible for the weather. Council Member Strain stated he has a lot of leftover hot dogs, buns and soda. He suggested the Picnic be scaled back next year as far as the amount of food bought, as well as the length of time the DJ is at the Picnic. Since many residents leave after the prizes are raffled off, and the horseshoe tournament is over, Council Member Strain suggested the Picnic begin at 1:00 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. Council Member Strain wanted to extend his thanks to both Willard and Joan Perron for all of their help during the planning, preparation and clean up surrounding the Mendota Picnic. Council Member Strain would also like to extend a thank you letter to West St. Paul Cub Foods for offering coupon prices to many of the items purchased, as well as the level of customer service they provide each year. Council Member Strain would also like to organize another park clean up the second week in October to focus on the area behind the playground equipment. Council Member Strain stated the area needs to be sprayed for poison oak before the area can be cleaned up. Also, a particular tree which is rubbing away a very large branch hanging over the baby swing needs to be removed during the park clean up.

**Council Member Alan Ralston:** Council Member Ralston thanked all of the volunteers that helped out with the Mendota Picnic.

**Mayor Brian Mielke:** Mayor Mielke stated city mail is available for review during the City Council Meeting. Mayor Mielke also wanted to thank the volunteers for a great party and a great picnic.

**Council Member Joan Perron:** Council Member Perron reminded Clerk Bruestle to issue a check to JP Perron for the rental of the tent for the Mendota Picnic. Council Member Perron also informed Council Member Strain the bread and pop containers need to be returned to Cub Foods. Council Member Perron informed council if residents who are non-compliant with the Mendota landscape ordinance are sought; there are many properties within Mendota who are not in accordance with the ordinance. Also, Council Member Perron informed Council T & T Disposal has not recycled the railroad ties as of yet, so next month the City of Mendota will receive a bill for the removal and disposal of the railroad ties from Veteran’s Park.

Staff Comment: opened at 8:31 p.m.

**Building Official David Neameyer:** Building Official Neameyer stated this month has had light permit activity. Building Official Neameyer stated a resident contacted him to inform him a resident at 1316 Third Street is staking out a garage which appears to be too close to the right of way. Building official Neameyer stated a permit has not been applied for with regard to this property, so Building Official Neameyer will continue to monitor the situation.

**Police Chief Mike Aschenbrenner:** Chief Aschenbrenner stated he has no official report. Council member Ralston inquired about the big yellow X in front of Fun Jumps. Chief Aschenbrenner stated the X is used for global positioning satellites for GIS database systems. Mayor Mielke asked if Mendota Heights Police Department has purchased a speed trailer. Chief Aschenbrenner stated a speed trailer was purchased, but is statistically inaccurate. Therefore, the speed trailer is currently being used in slow traffic areas until the results can be proved accurate, then it will be placed in higher traffic areas, such as Highway 13.

**City Clerk Jennifer Bruestle**:

City Clerk Bruestle stated she has been attempting to research the Mendota Jail for historically significant information to begin the process to place the Mendota Jail on the Historic Registry per Council direction. Council was in agreement to stop the research for the Historic Registry of the Mendota Jail due to the high costs associated with restoring and maintaining historic structures. Council also became aware of Mendota resident Pete who is repainting the Mendota speed limit signs. Motioned by Strain, seconded by Ralston to approve Mendota resident Pete to paint the Mendota speed limit signs on a volunteer basis.

Clerk Bruestle provided Council with the two response letters received from Tim and Cheryl Perron regarding Ordinance 605(3) relating to landscaping. The Mendota City Council was in agreement the Council Minutes and Ordinances are available online at cityofmendota.org, or the Mendota City Code can be viewed at the Public Law Library in Hastings, at the Mendota Heights City Hall by appointment, or a copy of the Mendota Code Book can be purchased for $90.00. Also, Council concurred the city mail can be viewed during the regular Council Meetings. Council requested Clerk Bruestle provide the above mentioned information to Cheryl and Tim Perron, as well as inform them the Mendota City Council did not request Mendota Heights Police Department to go to their house, or to inquire about their landscape plans. The City Council stated if residents complain about fellow residents to a council member or city staff, a formal complaint will be asked of the resident to be brought before the council.

There being no further business, it was moved (Strain/Lee) to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Passed 5-0.

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

Jennifer Bruestle, City Clerk