

**BELLE PLAINE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 4, 2008**

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Meger led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CALL TO ORDER. 1.1. Roll Call.

The Belle Plaine City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, February 4, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Government Center, 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, MN. Mayor Tom Meger called the meeting to order with Councilmembers Tim Lies, Dawn Underferth, Tim O'Laughlin, Jim Lange and Peter Anderly present.

Also present were City Administrator David Murphy, Community Development Director Trisha Rosenfeld, Public Works Superintendent Al Fahey, Finance Director Dawn Meyer, City Engineer Joe Duncan and Attorney Linda Thompson filling in for City Attorney Bob Vose.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Mayor Meger requested that consent agenda item, Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Execute Agreement for Safety Training with Safe Assure, be moved to the business portion of the agenda.

MOTION by Councilmember Lange, second by Councilmember O'Laughlin, to approve the agenda with consent agenda item, "Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Execute Agreement for Safety Training with Safe Assure" being moved to the business portion of the agenda. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA.

4.1. Regular Session Minutes of January 22, 2008.

4.2. Large Assembly Permit for St. Patrick's Day Committee for March 15, 2008.

4.3. Resolution 08-012 Approving Annual Recycle/Clean Up Day for Saturday, April 26, 2008.

4.4. Resolution 08-006A Revising Change Order No. 1 for the Wastewater Pond Decommissioning.
4.5. Approving Belle Plaine's Water Supply Plan and Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute the Certification of Adoption.

4.6. Resolution 08-013 Authorizing the Preparation of Plans and Specifications for Water Tower #1 Improvements.

MOTION by Councilmember O'Laughlin, second by Councilmember Lies, to approve the consent agenda as follows: 4.1. Regular Session Minutes of January 22, 2008, 4.2. Large Assembly Permit for St. Patrick's Day Committee for March 15, 2008, 4.3. Resolution 08-012 Approving Annual Recycle/Clean Up Day for Saturday, April 26, 2008, 4.4. Resolution 08-006A Revising Change Order No. 1 for the Wastewater Pond Decommissioning, 4.5. Approving Belle Plaine's Water Supply Plan and Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute the Certification of Adoption and 4.6. Resolution 08-013 Authorizing the Preparation of Plans and Specifications for Water Tower #1 Improvements. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

5. REPORTS.

5.1. Fire Department.

Chief Randy Koepp was present. The Council acknowledged receipt of the Fire Department report.

5.2. Community Services Department.

Community Services Director Nelson Ladd was present. Councilmember Lies requested notification of the next Community Services Advisory Board meeting. The Council acknowledged receipt of the Community Services Department report.

5.3. Public Works Department.

Public Works Director Al Fahey was present. Councilmember Lange was encouraged by the removal of iron from the City's water as a result of the water treatment facility. The Council acknowledged receipt of the Public Works Department report.

5.4. Engineer Report.

City Engineer Joe Duncan was present. The Council acknowledged receipt of the Engineer Report.

5.5. City Administration Report.

City Administrator David Murphy was present. The Council acknowledged receipt of the City Administration report.

6. VISITOR'S REQUEST – None Scheduled.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None Scheduled.

8. BUSINESS.

8.1. Presentation of Claims.

8.1.1. Pay Request No. 6 by Heselton Construction for \$52,526.45 for the North Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Project.

8.1.2. Pay Request No. 5 by Chard Tiling for \$20,974.86 for the Wastewater Pond Decommissioning.

MOTION by Councilmember Lange, second by Councilmember Underferth, to approve the Presentation of Claims, Pay Request No. 6 by Heselton Construction for \$52,526.45 for the North Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Project and Pay Request No. 5 by Chard Tiling for \$20,974.86 for the Wastewater Pond Decommissioning. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.2. Discussion on Allowing Antenna on Water Ground Storage Facility.

Mayor Meger referenced a memo dated February 4, 2008 from City Administrator Murphy regarding a request from Ridgeview Medical to install an antenna on the City's water ground storage tank.

City Administrator Murphy explained that Ridgeview Medical has requested to install an antenna somewhere in the City of Belle Plaine to ensure complete paging coverage. They are looking at the site of the ground storage tank in the Farmer's Ridge Development. The City has not had an application for antenna placement, but does have a provision in the fee schedule for placement on City facilities.

Jeff Frederick and Doug Sweeney of Ridgeview Medical were in attendance.

Councilmember Anderly noted the height of the antenna was 4.7 feet in height. Councilmember Lange noted that because the antenna will be used for medical emergency response for our citizens, he favored a reduced antenna fee. Councilmember Lies inquired about the City's liability and also commented on the fee, supporting a reduction in fee due to its purpose of public service. City Attorney Thompson commented that Ridgeview Medical, as lessee, will be required to have insurance coverage. A lease agreement, versus a license, allows the City the right to cancel.

It was the consensus of the Council to direct staff and legal counsel to proceed with the preparation of a lease agreement with Ridgeview Medical for the installation of an antenna on the City's water ground storage tank in Farmers Ridge subdivision. The lease agreement will be added to a future agenda for review and approval by the Council. A fee will be determined at that time.

8.3. Discussion on Establishment of a Primary Election.

Mayor Meger referenced a memo dated February 4, 2008 from Finance Director Dawn Meyer regarding the discussion of establishing a primary election in the City.

Finance Director Meyer explained that this item is being brought forward per the request of Mayor Meger. The City Council discussed this item at the February 21, 2006 and March 6, 2006 Council meetings. The City Council may choose to adopt a resolution requiring that a municipal primary be held if certain parameters are met within a municipal general election year. The municipal primary would stay in effect until it is rescinded by a future Council. The City primary would be held at the same time as the national primary; the first Tuesday after the second Monday of September. The main parameter to be met for holding a municipal primary is that there is more than twice the number of candidates for the office being sought. If this parameter is not met, then the candidates for the municipal election would not appear on the primary ballot.

Finance Director Meyer provided this scenario: For the upcoming 2008 election, the City of Belle Plaine has two council seats and one mayor up for election. If at least five candidates file for City Council, their names would appear on the primary ballot and the top three vote getters would appear on the general election ballot. If there are four or less candidates, none of their names would appear on the primary ballot and all would appear on the general election ballot. The same holds true for the mayor seat in which at least three candidates would need to file to require a primary and the top two vote getters would go on to the general election. There are added City costs for holding a municipal primary, as well as other changes such as candidate filing dates and etc. Finance Director Meyer requested direction from the City Council as to whether a resolution for a non-partisan municipal primary should be prepared or not. If the Council chooses to move forward with a resolution for a non-partisan municipal primary, it must be adopted at least three months prior to the November 2008 General Election.

Mayor Meger commented on the potential for numerous candidates to file for the upcoming Council seats and believed that a primary election would be in order. Councilmember Lange supported the establishment of a primary.

It was the consensus of the Council to direct staff to prepare a resolution for the next Council meeting for the establishment of a primary election.

8.4. Parks Department - Hickory Park.

8.4.1. Recreation Ice Rink.

8.4.2. Authorizing Request for Proposals for Playground Equipment.

Mayor Meger referenced a memo dated February 4, 2008 from City Administrator Murphy regarding a recreation ice rink at Hickory Park.

City Administrator Murphy explained that the concept plan for Hickory Park was adopted on September 5, 2006 via Resolution 06-145. The Park Board has recommended improvements for Hickory Park be completed in the following phases: Phase I - Prepare & Adopt Concept Plan, Order Plans & Specs, Seeding & Grading, Parking Lot & Trail and Underground Utilities. This phase is nearing completion; Phase 2 - Playground Equipment and Recreation Ice Rink; Phase 3 - Restroom/shelter; and Phase 4 - Hockey Rink.

City Administrator Murphy further explained that the Park Board has been discussing the implementation of a recreation ice rink at their monthly meetings over the past year. At their meeting on January 28, 2008, the Park Board made the following recommendation to the Public Works Committee: 1) implementation of a recreation rink 2) location as indicated on concept plan, 3) tubing added to allow for future chiller use, 4) multi-use, with basketball hoops. The Park Board has been discussing pond-hockey style boards or some type of bordering system for the ice rink. No determination has been made at this time and further discussion is necessary. Public Works Superintendent Al Fahey has recommended that four lights be installed at the ice rink. Four benches, to be located at the sides of rink, will be considered. The Public Works Committee has discussed the inclusion of an ice rink as part of the 2008 Street Improvement Project.

The Park Board has been researching playground equipment for Hickory Park. At their meeting on January 28, 2008, the Park Board made a recommendation to the City Council to proceed with obtaining a minimum of three proposals for playground equipment at Hickory Park. The components are to include challenging equipment such as climbers, slide, swings and spinners. A draft request for proposal was included in the Council's packet.

Councilmember O'Laughlin commented that the Park Board has done a very thorough job of researching the proposed improvements to Hickory Park. Councilmember Lange commented that if the ice rink is too costly, the City Council still has the option to remove it from the 2008 Street Improvement Project.

MOTION by Councilmember O'Laughlin, second by Councilmember Lange, to direct the City Engineer to include the Hickory Park recreation ice rink, multi-use, as shown on the concept plan, in the plans and specifications for the 2008 Street Improvement Project and to authorize staff to proceed with obtaining proposals for playground equipment at Hickory Park. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.5. Schedule Joint Workshop with Pine Island City Council.

Mayor Meger referenced a memo dated February 4, 2008 from City Administrator Murphy regarding the scheduling a joint workshop with Pine Island City Council.

City Administrator Murphy explained that Pine Island, MN, is experiencing similar transportation issues as Belle Plaine.

It was the consensus of the Council to direct City Administrator Murphy to proceed with scheduling a joint workshop with Pine Island.

8.6. Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Execute Agreement for Safety Training with Safe Assure.

City Attorney Thompson advised that language be added to the proposed agreement for protection on the City's behalf.

MOTION by Councilmember O'Laughlin, second by Councilmember Underferth, to authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to execute the agreement with Safe Assure, contingent upon review and approval by the City's legal counsel. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

9. ADMINISTRATION.

9.1. Upcoming Meetings.

- 1. Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 6.**
- 2. EDA, 5:30 p.m., Monday, February 11.**
- 3. Presidents Day, City Offices Closed, Monday, February 18.**
- 4. City Council, 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 19.**
- 5. Visioning & Team Building, Carl Neu, Friday, February 22 & Saturday, February 23.**

The Council was reminded of the upcoming meetings as listed.

10. ADJOURN.

MOTION by Councilmember Underferth, second by Councilmember O'Laughlin, to adjourn at 6:47 p.m.
ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Krings
Recording Secretary