



*Office of City Administrator*

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2009

Mayor Alan Picha called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2009. Committee members present at the time the meeting was called to order were: Donald Ehler, R. Dale Jones, Greg Kubarski, Mark Lankey, and Mary Jo Onsager. Rick Hanke, Richard Sweeney and Darrow Novy were absent. Novy arrived at 8:04 p.m.

Mayor Picha asked if this meeting received proper public notice to which City Administrator Brett Klein confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed.

A motion was made by Onsager and seconded by Ehler to approve the March 10, 2009, Committee of the Whole minutes. Motion carried.

### **Safety and Welfare**

Administrator Klein updated the Committee on the status of the City's grant application for a police Rural Recovery grant as part of the "Stimulus Recovery and Reinvestment Act". Klein also discussed that new officer, Brian Koss, would be introduced at April's Council meeting and sworn in by the Clerk. Police Chief Tom Richardson presented the committee with the monthly police report, including all the arrest and citation activity for the month. Chief Richardson elaborated on the grant application including the amount of funding being sought and the type of grant. The grant will help fund the K-9 for an unspecified amount of time and contribute to the multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement efforts.

After being damaged, the Committee recommended removal of the downtown water fountain and capping the pipes for possible future use. The plaque will be replaced somewhere suitable in the downtown business district.

Klein advised that the DNR has recommended back-up WWTP operators to the point they become proficient with the essential functions of pumping,

treating, delivery and electronic controls, etc. No Council member present showed interest. Therefore, City staff will be utilized.

A citizen brought forth a request to install a speed bump device in Tinker's Bluff. A motion was made by Kubarski and seconded by Onsager that the City would not install the speed bump due to budget constraints.

### **Improvement and Services**

Klein discussed an inquiry from Betty Havlik about donating a log cabin to the Historical Society. The Committee requested further information before making any decision. Spring Clean-up was discussed and the letter issued from Vernon County in regard to such. The Committee chose to maintain status quo with regard to removal of scrap metal and did not come to a conclusion on private parties hauling away appliances. The Committee did recommend that fridges and microwaves be disposed of in accordance with the letter from Vernon County.

Klein updated the Committee on the sidewalk and pavement patching RFB, which are scheduled to be opened on April 28<sup>th</sup>. There was also an update on the School Road drainage project with possible additional grant funding opportunities.

Couleecap's Summer youth program was discussed as an option for seasonal temporary labor. The City will apply for the program and make a determination after hearing back from Couleecap.

The WWTP upgrade was discussed and the projected increase in rates. Klein advised the Committee that the rate increases will be significant especially for those with 4" service pipes.

With the Improvement and Services Chair absent, there was no further discussion on capital improvement project priorities.

### **Finance and Personnel**

As there were no issues with the bills, a motion was made by Ehler and seconded by Onsager for approval of the bills to be placed on the Council agenda.

Klein discussed the need for a new phone system at City Hall and that there were funds designated in the past for the project which should cover the majority of the project.

Klein recommended changing pest control contractors to a local and less expensive option, Wil-Kil Pest Control. The Committee recommended placing it on the Council agenda.

Two updates to the employee handbook were discussed, a new travel and business expense policy and adding a floating holiday. The Committee recommended placement of the two items on the Council agenda.

Klein recommended changing the City's life insurance vendor to the State of Wisconsin plan which provides the employee a better benefit, covers more employees and is still less expensive than the current plan. Motion was made by Onsager and seconded by Novy to place it on the Council agenda.

Novy discussed the land surrounding the Cheese Store and the need to identify what property is considered City owned, in order to utilize it for snow removal efforts next winter.

Onsager provided a detailed update on the City's Independence Day celebration, which includes the traditional events plus some added items to this year's celebration.

The Committee recommended the Ennis claim for the leaking water meter be placed on the Council agenda for covering whatever costs insurance does not pay for and to look into changing the ordinance to ensure this does not occur in the future.

There was not a need to convene in closed session. Therefore, with no other updates, a motion was made by Kubarski and seconded by Onsager to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. Motion carried.