

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
DECEMBER 3, 2013
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Eric Peterson called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for December 3, 2013 to order at 7:00 P.M.

CALL OF ROLL:

On a Call of the Roll the following members of the Wyoming City Council were present: Councilmembers Eric Peterson, Linda Nanko/Yeager, Roger Elmore, Steve Zerwas and Joe Zerwas

ABSENT: NONE

Also Present: Andy Pratt - Eckberg Lammers, Mark Erichson-City Engineer-WSB, Jason Windingstad, Public works Superintendent, Robb Linwood-Assistant City Administrator, Craig Mattson-City Administrator, Fred Weck, Building Official, Brenda Frechette, Accountant, and Paul Hoppe, Public Safety Director

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM:

"An opportunity for members of the public to address the City Council on items not on the current agenda. Items requiring Council action may be deferred to staff or Boards and Commissions for research and future Council Agendas if appropriate. You will be limited to two (2) minutes and we ask that you conduct yourself in a professional, courteous manner, and refrain from the use of profanity. Failure to abide by this policy may result in the loss of your privilege to speak".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 1 To consider approving the minutes of the "Regular Meeting" of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for November 19, 2013.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER NANKO/YEAGER SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER J. ZERWAS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE "REGULAR MEETING" OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2013.

Voting Aye: Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, Elmore, S. Zerwas and J. Zerwas

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

- 2 To consider approving the minutes of the "Work Session Meeting" of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for November 25, 2013.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER S. ZERWAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER J. ZERWAS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE “WORK SESSION MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL FOR NOVEMBER 25, 2013.

Voting Aye: Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, Elmore, S. Zerwas and J. Zerwas

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: “TRUTH-IN-TAXATION” HEARING

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER ELMORE SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER NANKO/YEAGER TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:02

Voting Aye: Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, Elmore, S. Zerwas and J. Zerwas

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

City Administrator Mattson – *discussed different ways of budgeting from zero based, performance based and priority based budgeting. If we opt for percentage cuts in departments budgets it will affect them differently based on the size of the department’s budget. We still have to provide the basic services to the community. We were able to develop a budget that was relatively flat at 3.9 Million. The state mandated levies to all communities in Minnesota this year. We will be putting \$500,000 into a designated street fund and this is included in our 3.9 Million dollar levy not in bonded in indebtedness. The notice you received in the mail reflects a higher not to exceed levy than the proposed flat levy that is in place.*

Mark Banta – 24778 Esquire Blvd – *Looking at City portion of taxes since 2009, they have gone up substantially, where the county has been down in a little. Options – possibly reduce the street project and public safety?*

Mayor Peterson – *as soon as people were annexed into Chisago City they were put up to 100% for taxes paid. In Wyoming this was staggered over a 5 year period, it is now 100%.*

City Administrator Mattson – *The percentage went up over 5 years at 50%, 50% 60%, 70%, and 100%.*

Mark Banta – *Questioned how Wyoming matches up to Stacy and North Branch taxes? Does North Branch have a greater tax base?*

Mayor Peterson – *North Branch and Stacy both receive aid from state that they rely on.*

Administrator Craig Mattson – *We have not received LGA since 2008 – There is a complex criteria, North Branch gets it.*

Mark Banta – *Forward looking hopes that budget will remain flat in coming years.*

Mayor Peterson – *Staff does best to keep the budget flat.*

Dan Babbitt- 26200 Glen Oak Drive – Wanted to Compliment on the numerous budget meetings.

Dan Babbitt – Do we have a new assessment policy in place?

Administrator Mattson – we have one existing and updated one that has not been adopted yet.

Dan Babbitt – So if my neighbors petition we could have our road done.

Administrator Mattson – Yes

Donald Waller – 28480 Forest Blvd – Says that his taxes has gone up 60% in the past three years. What costs more and wanted to know have there been services added.

Administrator Mattson – You have better police services now and receive the services that the city offers.

Donald Waller – Questioned why taxes have increased since the merger.

Council Member Steve Zerwas – It was the graduated and the agreement in place that was negotiated by the Wyoming City Council and Wyoming Town Board.

Public Safety Director Hoppe – As part of the agreement originally the township was not supposed to receive full police services, they would be slowly graduated. We made the decision to provide full service to the city and township. The county stopped providing police services, so we felt it was necessary to provide those services

Council Member Elmore – We are providing services to both the Former Township and city.

John O'Neill 24838 Kettle River Blvd – stated his taxes went up 34% this year. Which is \$1400 this year, thinks it is ridiculous. Stated he can't handle his taxes to continue to go up at this rate and his house valuation go down.

Judy Coughlin 8161 Pioneer Road – Had a question, the taxes of a \$200,000 house is at \$1238 and hers says her statement say \$1300.

Assistant City Admin Linwood – The numbers that we have passed out our directly from the county auditor, we can review them if there is a discrepancy.

Judy Coughlin – taxes went up 52%, wanted to know what are we getting for this increase. What are we going to do moving forward to bring down the taxes?

Administrator Mattson – Business - DaVita Dialysis Clinic – a seed development that will create tax base and hopefully start the development of 257th street. EDA developed a marketing video and we are currently working on marketing materials to give to potential businesses.

Mayor Peterson – We are working on ways to market ourselves.

Steve Sicheneder 6212 262nd Ct – Thank you for budget meetings, knows that the city council has a thankless jobs. Would like to see taxes staying down and repair of streets. Wants to see business Business coming in and make sure we are watching expenditures. Questioned if city is budgeting too much? Wants to make sure we are not just building up reserves.

Administrator Mattson – If it is budgeted, it does not necessarily mean it was not spent. Different

line items can be used where expenditures have not been incurring. This is an effort to have a cleaner more stream lined budget.

Jerry Owens 25157 Gramford Ave – EDA Member - We all want to get more businesses in the community. It is not easy to get new businesses, businesses are looking for handouts.

David Kline – 264th St – His taxes went up in former Township and city is not seeing their taxes going up. Why?

Administrator Mattson – We levy dollars - \$3.9 Million dollars – we don't get more money, the money is just redistributed. Initially after the merger the city residents and commercial and industrial were paying 100% for all shared services. The former Township tax rates were staggered at 50%, 50%, %60, 70% and then this year 100%. The \$300,000 dollars that we are generating from the township are being redistributed to the commercial businesses and city residential.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER NANKO/YEAGER SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER J. ZERWAS TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:02

Voting Aye: Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, Elmore, S. Zerwas and J. Zerwas

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

3 “TRUTH-IN-TAXATION” HEARING – TAX LEVY 2013 PAYABLE 2014
Consider adopting Resolution No. 13-12-72 – 2013 Tax Levy Payable In 2014

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER ELMORE SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER NANKO/YEAGER TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 13-12-72 – 2013 TAX LEVY PAYABLE IN 2014

Voting Aye: Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, Elmore, S. Zerwas and J. Zerwas

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Consider adopting Resolution No. 13-12-73 – 2014 Expenditures Budget

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER J. ZERWAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER S. ZERWAS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 13-12-73 – 2014 EXPENDITURES BUDGET

Voting Aye: Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, Elmore, S. Zerwas and J. Zerwas

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items under the “Consent Agenda” will be adopted with one motion; however, council members may request individual items to be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion and action if they choose.

4 To consider authorizing staff to hire John Peka as the Temporary Rink Attendant for the 2013-2014 season.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS

AND DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- 5 Report of the Director of Public Safety, Paul Hoppe November 26 , 2013
- 6 Report of City Building Official, Fred Weck, IV for November 26, 2013
- 7 Report of City Attorney Mark Vierling for November 26, 2013
- 8 Report of the Wyoming Public Works Supt., Jason Windingstad for November 26, 2013
- 9 Report of City Engineer Mark Erichson, WSB for November 26, 2013

Item #5 pulled for further consideration by Councilmember Nanko/Yeager.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER S. ZERWAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ELMORE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS NUMBER #4 AND #6 THROUGH #9 AS PRESENTED.

*Voting Aye: Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, Elmore S. Zerwas and J. Zerwas,
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None*

RECONSIDER ITEM #5

Report of the Director of Public Safety, Paul Hoppe November 26, 2013

Council Member Nanko/Yeager - *We are having a retirement party for Sergeant Scott Dexter and would like the details.*

Public Safety Director Hoppe – *The party will be on February 7th at 5:30 at Stella's in Forest Lake.*

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER NANKO/YEAGER SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ELMORE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS NUMBER #5.

*Voting Aye: Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, Elmore S. Zerwas and J. Zerwas,
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None*

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 10 To consider supporting the Geronimo Energy Aurora Solar Project in the City of Wyoming

Nathan Fransen – Geronimo Energy – *Was present to introduce Geronimo Energy – Based out of Edina, they specialize in wind and Solar energy. We sell wholesale power to Excel and co-ops. The Aurora solar project is one they have submitted to Excel's RFP. The utility commission has said that Excel needs to add so much green power by 2019. They have proposed 25 sites across the state, 4 in Chisago County with the one here in Wyoming near 250th St. on an agricultural plot. The project would power 875 homes on average. They are in competition against 4 other bidders and we are here to introduce ourselves and ask for your support.*

Mayor Peterson – *What does the letter of Support do?*

Nathan Fransen - Just lets people know we are talking to communities – they would have a small production tax.

Council Member Nanko/Yeager – Would it pass our zoning and building regulations?

Building Official/Zoning Administrator Weck – It would need a CUP as an essential service.

Council Member Nanko/Yeager – Have we been contacted by any competitors?

Building Official/Zoning Administrator Weck– was contacted 6 months to a year ago about possible site, does not no name of competitor.

COUNCIL AGREED TO OFFER LETTER OF SUPPORT TO GERONIMO

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

- 11 To consider adopting **Resolution 13-12-74** a resolution approving a site plan application to allow the construction of a boat storage facility located at 26192 Fallbrook Avenue

Building Official/Zoning Administrator Weck– Applicant has provided site drainage plan that is being reviewed by the City Engineer and it is a condition in the resolution. Recently met with Mr. Hallberg on another condition in the resolution - in regards the size and property line setbacks and impervious surface area. He has agreed to complete this condition.

Council Member Nanko/Yeager – Do we need a new resolution?

Building Official/Zoning Administrator Weck – We would want to approve the resolution with the conditions in place.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER ELMORE SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER S. ZERWAS ADOPTING RESOLUTION 13-12-74 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SITE PLAN APPLICATION TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BOAT STORAGE FACILITY LOCATED AT 26192 FALLBROOK AVENUE

Voting Aye: Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, Elmore S. Zerwas and J. Zerwas,

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

- 12 To consider approving **Agreement 13-12-03** to authorize the Wyoming Fire Department to Enter an agreement for a lease agreement with North Memorial Ambulance Service for (3) years in the amount of \$400.00 a month

Public Safety Director Hoppe – Currently North Memorial uses our building for a station during the day. In 2013 they started an initiative to find an indoor facility with a heated garage and an area for staff. We will change our layout in the fire hall to accommodate them. We will receive \$400 a month and keep that ALS ambulance service in Wyoming. The lease is for a 3 year contract at \$400 a month.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER J. ZERWAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ELMORE APPROVING AGREEMENT 13-12-03 TO AUTHORIZE

THE WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT TO ENTER AN AGREEMENT FOR A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH NORTH MEMORIAL AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR (3) YEARS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$400.00 A MONTH

*Voting Aye: Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, Elmore S. Zerwas and J. Zerwas,
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None*

- 13 To consider hiring Michael Tadych on probationary status as a full-time police officer at a starting wage of \$24.40 and full time employment to commence December 30, 2013**

Public Safety Director Hoppe – Sgt. Dexter will be retiring December 29th, 2013 – Officer Tadych has been a part time officer since 2011 and would fill the vacancy made by Sgt. Dexter.

Council Member Nanko/Yeager – This would allow us to promote from within for the open Sgt. position.

Public Safety Director Hoppe - Yes

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER J. ZERWAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER S. ZERWAS APPROVING THE HIRING MICHAEL TADYCH ON PROBATIONARY STATUS AS A FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER AT A STARTING WAGE OF \$24.40 AND FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT TO COMMENCE DECEMBER 30, 2013

*Voting Aye: Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, Elmore S. Zerwas and J. Zerwas,
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None*

- 14 To consider approving the qualifications and authorize the promotional process to begin to fill the Sergeant position for the Wyoming Police Department**

Public Safety Director Hoppe Staffing initiative is to fill the Sgt. position from within the department. Want to begin process and anticipate filling that Sgt. Position in January or February.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Do all internal candidates have Bachelor's Degree?

Public Safety Director Hoppe – No

Council Member Nanko Yeager – She would prefer the bachelor's degree be mandated.

Council Member Joe Zerwas – Does not agree with that

Council Member Steve Zerwas – Make a mandate to have bachelor degree in 4 years?

Council Member Nanko/Yeager – Yes

Council Member Steve Zerwas – Will bachelor degree be weighted for extra points for promotion?

Public Safety Director Hoppe - *What have the candidates done to prepare themselves, both the bachelor's degree and years of service will be taken into account and up to the interview panel. Not a scored point for either the bachelor's degree or years of service.*

Council Member Steve Zerwas – *In favor of promotional process but not in favor of the 4 year degree preference. Does not necessarily believe that the education you have makes you a better supervisor. Believes a supervisor that has street experience, work ethic and personality make a stronger candidate. Believes supervisory schools make you a better supervisor.*

Public Safety Director Hoppe - *Whoever is promoted will be sent to supervisor school and command School.*

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER ELMORE SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON APPROVING THE QUALIFICATIONS AS STATED ON THE MEMO PROVIDED BY PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR HOPPE AND ADDING THAT THE PREFERRED QUALIFICATION OF OBTAINING A DEGREE IN LAW IN FOUR YEARS MUST BE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIMINAL JUSTICE OR CLOSELY RELATED FIELD AND FOR THE PROMOTIONAL PROCESS TO BEGIN TO FILL THE SERGEANT POSITION FOR THE WYOMING POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Voting Aye: Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, Elmore S. Zerwas and J. Zerwas,
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None*

CLAIMS:

- 15** To consider **authorizing payment of recommended bills, payroll and Journal Entries for the period of November 20, 2013 through December 3, 2013.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER NANKO/YEAGER SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER J. ZERWAS TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF RECOMMENDED BILLS, PAYROLL AND JOURNAL ENTRIES FOR THE PERIOD OF NOVEMBER 19, 2013 THROUGH DECEMBER 3, 2013.

*Voting Aye: Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, Elmore, S. Zerwas and J. Zerwas
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None*

COUNCIL REPORTS:

COUNCILMEMBER NANKO/YEAGER

Attended Rush line Meeting –they are working on a predevelopment study – A bus to Forest Lake and Light Rail to White Bear. They have and selected URS as the consultant on the project.

Received updates on Lino Lakes and Vadnais Heights bus services - they will open in October and November 2014. City Commuter buses will continue to Forest Lake – they are averaging about 124 people/day.

COUNCILMEMBER J.ZERWAS

No Report

COUNCILMEMBER ELMORE

No Report

COUNCILMEMBER S.ZERWAS

Attended Highway 8 task force meeting, nothing happening in Wyoming at the moment. Possible future roundabouts on Hwy 97 and highway 61 and another roundabout at Hwy 8 and 95 west juncture by Franconia sculpture park. Task force brought up possibility of roundabout by the new Kwik trip in Chisago City.

MAYOR PETERSON

No Report

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER ELMORE SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER NANKO/YEAGER TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 3, 2013 "REGULAR MEETING" OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 8:56PM

Voting Aye: Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, Elmore, S. Zerwas and J. Zerwas

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

A portion of this public meeting may be closed to discuss "Labor Negotiation Strategies"; "Misconduct allegations or charges"; "Attorney-client privilege"; or "Performance evaluations" as per MN State Statute 13D.01-.05.

NEXT
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2013