

**KASSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 9, 2015**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular City Council meeting was held at City Hall on the 9th day of December, 2015 at 5:30 P.M.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: Buck, Egger, Johnson, and Coleman.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE ABSENT: Borgstrom

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Linda Rappe, City Administrator Theresa Coleman, City Engineer Brandon Theobald, Finance Director Nancy Zaworski, Economic Development Director Mike Martin, Library Director Art Tiff, Police Chief Ken Schuck, Assistant Fire Chief Doug Robinson, Chris McKern, and Everett Paulson

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Agenda:

Add: Old Business #3 March Fire Call

Motion to Approve the Agenda made by Egger, seconded by Coleman with all voting Aye.

Consent Agenda:

November 24, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

Claims processed after the November 24, 2015 regular meeting, as audited for payment in the amount of \$245,937.39

Conferences/Schools

Linda Rappe/Krista Weigel	MCFOA Conf	March 15-18, 2016	St. Cloud
Linda Rappe	IIMC Region Meeting	January 22-23, 2016	LaCrosse
Theresa Coleman	MCMA Meeting	January 28-29, 2016	St. Cloud

Resolution Decertifying TIF District 1-9 Southridge Townhomes

Resolution #12.1-15

Resolution Approving the Decertification of Tax Increment Financing District No 1-9 of the City of Kasson

Amusement Licenses:

American Legion
Pete's Repeat

Motion by Coleman and second by Buck, with all voting Aye, to approve the consent agenda.

VISITORS TO THE COUNCIL

PUBLIC FORUM

PUBLIC HEARING

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Library Board/Building Committee Updates – Library Director Art Tiff gave a brief update on the Library construction and stated that the inflation of the dome will now take place between January 4 -8. Director Tiff will make sure the public and media are notified of the specific date and time.

NEW BUSINESS

RFP for Attorney – City Administrator Coleman stated this was reviewed by the current City Attorney and he suggested a start date of March 1, 2016 so there would be some overlap. **Motion to approve the Request for Proposal for City Attorney made by Buck, second by Coleman with all voting Aye.**

2016 Fee Schedule -City Administrator Coleman stated that the document reflects the changes for the 5% utility rate increase and incorporates the aquatic center and fire department charges into the one document. Councilperson Coleman asked about the \$10 per day impound fee. Police Chief Schuck stated that this fee has been the same since they created an impound lot and it adds up pretty fast. Councilperson Buck asked if any of the Fire Department billing had changed. Per City Clerk Rappe and Assistant Fire Chief Robinson the only thing that was added was an EMR vehicle charge for accidents. Councilperson Egglar asked if Aquatic Center charges were changed. It was stated that they did not. **Motion to approve the fee schedule made by Coleman, second by Egglar with all voting Aye.**

MAYOR’S REPORT

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

ENGINEER’S REPORT

PERSONNEL

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was reviewed;

1. Police Report for November

OLD BUSINESS

Folkestad Building Investigation – Mayor Johnson stated that this has been discussed at EDA and they are still looking for answers as to how we spent so much on the building. They would like to know what happened and how the overspending was allowed. Mayor Johnson would like to hold someone accountable for this and thinks they should apologize for this mistake. Councilperson Coleman

suggested inviting WSN for a meeting to discuss this. Mayor Johnson stated that he is not going to let this die and he is getting a lot of questions about this. Mayor Johnson will set up a meeting with WSN. Councilperson Buck asked about the extra funds the City has set aside for the parking lot and the basement. Finance Director Zaworski stated that there is still \$448,000 we did borrow for, but it is still sitting there and will be used to pay down the debt once the building is sold.

March Fire Call – Councilman Egger stated that he got some calls about who has the authority to negotiate bills. The fee schedule is set by the council and do we have to approve the adjustments when the administrator makes adjustments to bills. Councilman Egger stated that people are asking why the person got a special discount. Was it because he was a firefighter or a city employee? City Administrator Coleman stated that she had gone through the documentation and the person had called for a grass rig and a tanker and then she figured the cost of the trucks and two men per truck. The person accepted that and paid it. Councilperson Egger asked who determines what we bring to a call, it is not the person who calls for the fire call. Councilperson Coleman stated we had two different parties with two different stories and is happy with the way it was settled. Councilperson Coleman agrees that this is a special situation. Mayor Johnson asked if the person paid for the trucks that showed up, Administrator Coleman stated that he paid for the trucks that he initially asked for. Councilperson Egger would like this spelled out in black and white as to who gets to negotiate the bills. Mayor Johnson believes that we should leave this as it is and this is a special circumstance.

Final Levy and Budget Discussion:

Finance Director Zaworski explained how the budget works and which funds are affected by taxes, highlighting a few items which had increased. The Mayor then opened this to discussion – Chris McKern asked if there were any decreases. Finance Director Zaworski stated nothing of significance except the pool wages decreased. Mayor Johnson stated that his taxes have increased 400% since 1999 and we are the highest taxed town in the area. Mayor Johnson stated that total expense for the city is \$2,062,000 in wages and benefits. Mayor Johnson stated that he is all for people making money but eventually we have to draw-in. Mayor Johnson also stated that the total levy is 8% and 2.4% is wages so without the wages it is 5.6% and that is lower than other towns so there are some good things happening. Councilperson Buck asked how many employees are due for steps besides the COLA. Finance Director Zaworski stated that she didn't separate how many employees and the amount of employees who are due for step increases but about half of the employees are long term employees and are at the top of their grade and won't receive steps. Mayor Johnson thanked the Finance Director for her work on this and this looks good to him. Councilperson Buck stated that this is better than the preliminary. Mayor Johnson heard that the average increase in the area in 10-20%. Councilperson Egger stated that if we want to cut wages we could not replace the Public Works Director and we already have the supervisors, and that would save \$100,000. Councilman Egger stated that the Public Works Director is nonunion and strictly management "they are not going to be out working, they're going to be behind a desk looking at the budget which is already made up by the supervisors." The supervisors are already in charge and doing their budgets and the Public Works Director is only overseeing/verifying everything. Councilperson Egger stated that the supervisors would report directly to the City Administrator. Mayor Johnson stated that we need someone out there all the time who is in charge and the position is already in the budget. Councilperson Egger stated that if you want to cut wages the Public Works Director is not union and cannot do union work. Everett Paulson asked if the Public Works Director can plow snow. Mayor Johnson stated that plowing snow is a union job and he can do it when it is an emergency. Mayor Johnson stated that we had talked

about this month's ago and it is already in the works. Councilperson Buck stated that there needs to be more jobs done in unison and not such separation between departments.

Motion to approve the Resolution Approving Final 2015 Tax Levy Collectible in 2016, made by Coleman, second by Buck with all voting Aye.

***Resolution #12.2-15
Resolution Approving Final 2015 Tax Levy, Collectible in 2016***

Motion Approving the 2016 budget made by Coleman, second by Buck with all voting Aye.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Linda Rappe, City Clerk

Steve Johnson, Mayor