

**KASSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2015**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular City Council meeting was held at City Hall on the 8th day of July, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

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

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE ABSENT: None

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Rappe, City Engineer Brandon Theobald, Finance Director Nancy Zaworski, Economic Development Director Mike Martin, Police Chief Ken Schuck, Library Director Art Tiff, Library Board Chairman Tarik Kamel and Jerry Berg.

Mayor Johnson called meeting to order at 6 P.M.

COUNCIL

Agenda:

Remove: Visitor Tim Penny

Add: Engineer Report, Water Main Easement

Motion by Egger and second by Borgstrom, with all voting Aye, to approve the amended July 8, 2015 agenda.

Consent Agenda:

- a. **Minutes:** Approved the June 24, 2015 regular meeting minutes.
- b. **Claims:** Approved all claims paid after the June 24, 2015 regular meeting, as audited for payment in the amount of \$259,712.70
- c. **Resolution Certifying Delinquent Utility Bills to Taxes**
Resolution #7.1-15
Resolution Certifying Delinquent Claims to the County Auditor
- d. **Fireworks Permit** – Festival in the Park
- e. **Resolution Park Hours** – Festival in the Park
Resolution #7.2-15
Resolution Waiving Park Hours for Festival in the Park, A Special Event
- f. **Resolution appointing Volunteers** – Festival in the Park
Resolution #7.3-15
Resolution Appointing Festival in the Park Volunteers
- g. **Resolution closing Streets** – Festival in the Park
Resolution #7.4-15

Resolution Approving Street Closings for Festival in the Park Activities

- h. **Conferences:**
Jeff Ulve – MPCA Land Application of Biosolids – Sept 15-17, 2015, Brainerd, MN

- i. **Acknowledge Evaluations:**
Mike Bolster – Ice Arena/Parks inc. to Grade 4 Step 4 \$17.20 eff. 6/26/15
Tom Ricke – Str Supervisor – inc. to Grade 13 Step 3 \$30.62 eff. 6/11/15
Jesse Reding – Investigator – at top of pay scale
Ken Schuck – Police Chief – inc. to Grade 16 Step 6 \$41.28 eff. 7/1/15

- j. **Acknowledgement of Committee and Meeting Minutes**
Park Board DRAFT - June 16, 2015

Councilperson Buck wanted to remove Street Supervisor Ricke’s evaluation to discuss this position. Finance Director Zaworski stated this is acknowledging the evaluation and the rate increase and if the Council wanted to talk about performance this would have to wait until the next City Council meeting so that Ricke could be present. Zaworski stated that if the Council would like to talk about the position they could re-open the Amend Agenda portion and add this to the agenda.

Motion by Egger and second by Borgstrom to approve the July 8, 2015 consent agenda, Ayes: Johnson, Borgstrom and Egger. Abstain: Coleman and Buck.

RE-OPEN AMEND AGENDA: Buck requested to add Street Supervisor Position to New Business.
Motion by Coleman, second by Borgstrom to approve the amended agenda with all voting Aye.

VISITORS TO THE COUNCIL – None

PUBLIC FORUM - None

PUBLIC HEARING

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

School Resource Officer Discussion – Mayor stated that Jerry Berg brought this to us and agrees that we are paying more than we should and we need to talk about it. Councilperson Borgstrom would like to know exactly how much each party is paying for the County SRO, there is a letter from the Sheriff stating percentages and a rough numbers but would like exact numbers. Finance Director Zaworski stated the school pays half at \$42,000 a year and the city pays the other half at \$42,000 a year for the KM SRO. Zaworski stated as far as the other funds go the other schools only have a SRO for 1 ½ days a week since they have many schools to cover and Kasson-Mantorville school needed a SRO fulltime. The Mayor would like all of the numbers and doesn’t think it is fair that the City is paying half. Councilperson Borgstrom wanted to know what we are getting for our money? Police Chief Schuck stated that there are about a 100 calls that Kasson Police would have to answer if the SRO was not there and the SRO teaches the DARE class at the middle school. Councilperson Buck asked if this comes out of the police budget, Chief Schuck indicated it did. Chief Schuck stated that when the former police chief retired there were 8

fulltime officers and there are still 8 fulltime officers with the SRO working most of the time for the schools. Councilperson Borgstrom would like a report from the SRO to see what we are getting for our money. Mayor would like all the costs and the County SRO's schedule to get as much information as possible.

Library Board Bids/Updates: Library Board Chair Tarik Kamel stated the Library Board met that afternoon to accept the bids for the new Library that were opened yesterday. Some positions have not been filled so they are going to rebid those 6 positions and the bid will go out July 15. Then there will be 21 days to fill those bids, so August 4 will be the deadline. The Library Board will approve the site contractor at their meeting on Tuesday, July 14. Councilperson Borgstrom asked what will happen if these bids are not filled and that contractors are doubling their bids because they are busy. Library Director Tiff stated the Board approved a motion today that if these bids come in under budget or at budget they will be considered but if they are out of line they will not be considered. Tiff passed out an update on Library programs. Friday they are doing a "Fun Friday" with the Police, Ambulance and Fire Department at the library. Tomorrow Darrell Thompson will be at the Library at 2:00 P.M. to visit with the kids and public. They have 562 kids signed up for the summer reading program.

Public Works Equipment and Work Discussion: Councilperson Buck stated that he and the Mayor met with public works to revise the street repair list and public works has since got some grinding and patching done downtown. Councilperson Buck lined up a mill and a sweeper from a person in Rochester, the mill broke down and they had to finish half of it by hand and they agreed the sweeper works well and they should buy one for around \$2600 and they can use money out of the patching fund. In the time being, Dodge Center has a mill we could use or rent one from Dykes and get a bunch of patching done at once. Councilperson Buck suggested the City buy a sweeper at a cost of \$2600; he would also like to get a mill but that is over \$11,000 so he would wait on that piece. Councilperson Buck stated that it is costing \$160 an hour for the rent of the person and mill.

Fire Hall Discussion: Councilperson Borgstrom had some citizens talk to him about a fire call made to Jeff Ulve's house and there has been discussion back and forth between the Fire Chief and Mr. Ulve. Councilperson Borgstrom has talked to another fireman who indicated that he doesn't feel safe knowing that everyone has his back going into a fire. Borgstrom feels that a committee should be formed to talk to people to get the dissention in the firehall straightened out. Councilperson Coleman asked Borgstrom if he has talked to the Chief and Borgstrom indicated he has not talked to anyone except the people who came to him and he wanted to bring this to Council first. Mayor Johnson thought a committee would be good. Councilperson Coleman volunteered to be on the committee. Borgstrom stated he would like to have a couple more individuals on the committee. Finance Director Zaworski suggested they talk to City Attorney Guzinski before starting their investigation. Councilperson Borgstrom would like the fire call bill for Jeff Ulve put on hold until this matter is resolved.

Street Supervisor Position: Councilperson Buck stated that on April 18 he brought up the department heads and their wages. Buck has had lots of comments from people on the wages. Councilperson Buck stated he got a call from a person from a major utility company. He has 21 towns that he covers and he worked for 25 years before he made \$30 an hour. Councilperson Buck stated that there are 5 supervisors in the public works that are over \$30 and he can't vote to put one more supervisor over \$30 an hour. Councilperson Buck stated that the Union said the job duties don't match their title and they are not doing the job to be exempt and Buck cannot figure out how we match these jobs to the wages. Councilperson Borgstrom stated that the street supervisor position is not needed and this has always been part of the Public Works Director position. Borgstrom stated that we need a City Superintendent and have all the

guys underneath him. Councilperson Egger asked Borgstrom if what he is saying is that the City needs to get rid of all the supervisor positions and just have one Superintendent running all of it? Councilperson Borgstrom stated that is the way we have always had it until recently. Councilperson Borgstrom stated that we don't need 5 people making top pay, we only need one strong Superintendent to run the departments under him. Councilperson Borgstrom stated we only need one person to run the 15 people in public works. Finance Director Zaworski stated that there are union issues and pay studies that need to be looked at. Councilperson Borgstrom stated that he is not in favor of cutting all the positions right now but looking towards the future and the street supervisor should be the first one to go. Zaworski stated the budget plan has been that when the Public Works Director retires, that position would not be filled and the Supervisors would then be in charge of their departments. This would save over \$100,000 a year. Zaworski stated that the current Supervisors are "working" supervisors. Councilperson Borgstrom is concerned with the City's debt and would like to get some of that paid down. Councilperson Buck stated that you need one person in charge of the public works department because all of the departments have to work together and work interchangeably in other departments. Councilperson Coleman suggested taking the Street Supervisor and giving him the Superintendent job then. Councilperson Buck stated that he was thinking of taking someone out of the field that knows how to do most of the work. Mayor Johnson stated that he believes there should be one person overseeing everything in Public Works. Councilperson Borgstrom stated that there used to be a strong leader in public works that actually made sure that the people got their work done. Councilperson Egger asked when the Public Works Director is retiring. Zaworski answered at the end of the year. Egger asked why we would eliminate a position that is making less than the Public Works Director and not the Public Works Director position. Councilperson Buck stated that Byron hired one for \$60-\$70,000 and the end of the year is a good time to hire someone for this position. Mayor Johnson asked Buck if he is correct in leaving the Electric, Water/Sewer and Park Supervisors to continue on and whoever is overall in charge would be in charge of the streets. Finance Director Zaworski would encourage more discussion as a budgetary issue with a budget committee. Councilperson Buck stated that he sees the small groups in the public works department and that they tend to stay in their small groups and we need someone to organize them to work together because we will be taking on more work and not subbing it out. Councilperson Borgstrom reiterated that there are 15 people in public works and we don't need 5 people in charge of a total of 10. Councilperson Buck stated that he has been looking at this since April 18 and since this evaluation takes another supervisor over \$30 an hour he wants to stop the bleeding and draw a line in the sand right now. Buck stated we are spending \$475,000 in supervision with benefits. Buck stated that we are not firing anyone - we are eliminating a position. Councilperson Coleman stated that he believes we should wait and see what the union and City Attorney have to say. Councilperson Egger asked that since this was an add-on to the agenda with no fore warning or paperwork can it be voted on? Community Development Director Martin stated that it is not illegal but is not "best practices". Councilperson Egger emphatically stated that this should not be voted on tonight since it was just added tonight and there is no appropriate amount of time for public input and discussion. Mayor Johnson stated that we have done this once already so we can make a motion tonight, but maybe we want to put this on the next agenda to have some time to consider this and asked if Councilperson Buck would be alright with that? Councilperson Buck stated that with this size of town and the way things will be brewing up to that point, I think we either need to make a decision or we don't, but to me I would just as well get it done. Councilperson Borgstrom came prepared with the minutes from the hiring of Street Supervisor Ricke in May of 2014, and stated that there was no public hearing then. Community Development Director Martin stated that this had been talked about many times when they were creating the position.

Motion made by Buck to eliminate the Street Supervisor position and give those duties back to the Public Works Director, second by Borgstrom, Ayes: Johnson, Borgstrom and Buck Nays: Coleman and Egger

MAYOR'S REPORT –

Mayor Johnson stated that he has been asked by Benike Construction to park a trailer on the Folkestad lot. Councilperson Borgstrom wanted to know if there is a contract showing that they are paying the utilities, maintenance of the grounds and restoration of the property. Community Development Director Martin stated that he will have a standard lease drawn up stating all of these things.

Mayor Johnson also introduced and welcomed the new reporter for the Dodge County Independent, Shannon.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

ENGINEER'S REPORT

City Engineer Theobald asked that they formalize the easement that has been discussed previously for the water main between the high school and Kasson Meadows and to allow the Mayor to sign the easement.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the water main easement made by Coleman, second by Egger with all voting Aye.

Engineer Theobald also stated that City staff has met with Mayo Clinic and the alley will be a project done in conjunction with Mayo Clinic.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Coleman and second by Buck acknowledging the retirements and resignations of Dennis Nawrocki, Mark Rappe and Michael Nockels and thanked them for their dedication and service. All Ayes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

SEMLM meeting notice was discussed and to let City Clerk Rappe know if you would like to attend, Egger, Borgstrom, Buck, Martin and Zaworski will attend, Johnson and Coleman will check their schedules.

City Clerk Rappe stated there is an Emergency Management Session in Dodge Center on Tuesday, July 21. Zaworski and Martin will be attending and if anyone else wants to go, to let her know.

The rest of the correspondence was acknowledged.

PUBLIC FORUM –

Library Director Tiff would like the Council to know how much Randy Carlsen has done for the Library and wanted to publicly thank him.

Jerry Berg – 506 5th Ave NW – Mr. Berg says the residents of Kasson as county taxpayers we are supporting the other two school districts SRO and we are getting nothing out of it for our district and people living outside the City of Kasson that are in the KM School District are paying for the other two districts SRO but are also not contributing to the KM SRO. Mr. Berg applauds the Council for looking into the workforce issue and has heard tons of people say we have too many supervisors. Mr. Berg thinks the City needs to run like a business and not a government. Mr. Berg stated that studies just rationalize what you are doing. All you need to do is what you need done and not ask anyone else what they are doing.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

Linda Rappe, City Clerk

Steve Johnson, Mayor