

KASSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 26, 2015

5:15 WORK SESSION – 2016 Budget Work Session – Finance Director Zaworski explained how budgeting works, and explained the bigger items requested by departments that are in the 2016 budget. The levy is only for the general fund, library and EDA operating budgets. The levy is the only thing that goes on your taxes. Zaworski explained that this is just the preliminary levy and the Council can still cut items but it cannot be increased. The wastewater plant upgrade will happen next year but won't hit the budget until 2017. Councilperson Buck is concerned with the I & I problem and 3rd, 4th and 5th Avenues NW. City Engineer Theobald stated that the improvements to the avenues are in need mostly for utility replacement and road damage, not for I & I. Theobald stated the WWTP upgrade will help with I & I but I & I reduction now won't help the treatment plant at this time. Zaworski asked for input and direction from the Council regarding amounts to put in the budget for Festival in the Park, street improvement and the requests made by departments. There were no questions.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: Buck, Egger and Johnson - Borgstrom arrived at 5:42 pm, Coleman arrived at 5:52 pm.

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, Library Director Art Tiff, Chris McKern.

6:00 PM - Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular City Council meeting was held at City Hall on the 26th day of August, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

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

COUNCIL

Agenda:

Add: Consent Agenda – Resolution for Charter Name Change
Personnel – change Post Journeyman to Apprentice lineman position
Move from New Business the Electric department Right of Way Request to Correspondence

Motion by Egger and second by Coleman, with all voting Aye, to approve the amended August 26, 2015 agenda.

Consent Agenda:

- a. **Minutes:** Approved the August 12, 2015 regular meeting minutes.
- b. **Claims:** Approved all claims paid after the August 12, 2015 regular meeting, as audited for payment in the amount of \$866,597.41

- c. **Approve Ordinance 856** – Changing All References from Clerk Administrator to City Administrator in the Kasson City Code of Ordinances

Ordinance #856

An Ordinance Changing all References from Clerk Administrator to City Administrator in the Kasson Code of Ordinances.

- d. **Approve MMUA Safety Management Program Contract**

- e. **Approve Heat Share Agreement**

- f. **Approve Charter Franchise Agreement**

- g. **Pay Estimates** –

Rochester Sand and Gravel	2013 Bigelow Resurfacing	Final	\$16,001.56
Swenke-IMS	3 rd Ave Park and Ride	Final	\$16,493.87

- h. Resolution for Consent for Charter Communication

Resolution #8.5-15

Consent for Charter Communications Merger

Councilperson Borgstrom asked if we use the 4 payments instead of one for the MMUA Contract. Zaworski stated it is easier to pay it once then to try to remember to pay it four times a year.

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

VISITORS TO THE COUNCIL

PUBLIC FORUM

Chris McKern – 523 21st Place NE – Mr. McKern had some comments since there are no more comments after the second part of the meeting anymore. Mr. McKern stated that we were urged to use perspective, but that goes both ways. As to the comment about the seven people losing their jobs and comparing that to the one we lost here, those were two totally different things. Those people that lost their jobs were told four months beforehand that their business was sold, 6 weeks before the changeover they were given the opportunity to interview for a job and a week later they were sat down and talked to face to face and told they didn't have a job. The way the Council did it was completely different. The person was given no warning, no supervisors were consulted and it was added to the agenda at the last minute. It is not what you did but how you did it. There was a lack of respect. Perspective with the numbers that were handed out; debt is not always great but it is sometimes necessary. We need to not condemn the past for debt we incurred because there will be debt incurred on this Council too. We need to look forward and not look back at previous years with blame. Questions – at the last meeting Councilperson Borgstrom mentioned the open meeting law and Mr. McKern would like to know how on July 8, Councilperson Borgstrom just happened to have the minutes of May 2014, regarding the hiring of the Street Supervisor, when it was an addition to the agenda after the meeting had started. Unless you knew it was going to be on there, that is a huge coincidence. Mr. McKern would like to know how much we have saved for eliminated positions. There have been buy-outs, unemployment and lawyer fees, etc. What are we doing to offset that? If we are spending it somewhere else, that is not a savings. Mr. McKern stated that at the January 14 meeting we were told that the City needed to move in a different direction.

Mr. McKern would like to know what that direction is and when the Council will let us know Mr. McKern also questioned the safety concern from a fireman at the firehall that prompted the fire committee. Mr. McKern spoke to the Fire Chief and the Chief stated that no one has talked to him yet. Mr. McKern stated that if we have a firefighter that feels unsafe, why aren't we talking to the Fire Chief? It has been 49 days and the department head has not even been contacted. Mr. McKern stated that there were bushes that were blocking a line of sight on Mantorville Avenue and in less than 10 days those are gone. Mr. McKern stated that there has never been an invitation to be in the parade. Mr. McKern stated that he has been at the last 6 Council meetings giving updates on the Festival and asked if there were any questions. The assumption is that since three of the Council are from here and this is the 26th parade that they should know how it works. Mr. McKern also stated that this is a business meeting and there should be no clapping.

PUBLIC HEARING

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Library Board/Building Committee Updates - Art Tiff, Library Director stated that they had a special Kasson Public Library Board meeting on the 24th to approve the bid on Division 15. He would like council approval to move forward. Councilperson Borgstrom asked if this was within budget and Director Tiff stated that this is \$17,000 over. Director Tiff stated that there is an untrue rumor that the library is \$187,000 over budget. Councilperson Borgstrom stated that these bids are coming in sporadically and the Council already approved one that was over budget and this one is over budget. Director Tiff stated that right now we are \$37,000 over and that is with 4 out of 17 divisions coming in. Tiff stated that they have received \$100,000 with \$33,000 earmarked for technology. Councilperson Borgstrom asked what the plan is if you go over budget. Councilperson Borgstrom stated that they don't want to have to bail out the Library. Mayor Johnson stated that some bids may come in under budget. Councilperson Buck stated that they have too much money in engineering and the building will be built if it has to stand there until they get more money.

Motion to approve the bid for Site Preparation for Kasson Public Library made by Coleman, second by Buck with all voting Aye.

Director Tiff invited the Council and Citizens to an update on the building process at the First Presbyterian Church. They are hosting an information meeting on Wednesday, September 2 at 7PM. There is a site manager on site now.

OLD BUSINESS

Truck Show Electricity – Councilperson Borgstrom stated that he left this on the agenda but doesn't think there is much we can do with it.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution calling public hearing for partial vacation – in Kasson Meadows 6th between lots 9 and 10. The city has a 30 foot easement. It was platted that way because it was intended for a watermain loop and we are currently working on a connection to the southwest. The developer has asked us to shrink this to a 20 foot easement. Lot 9 also has a 50 foot gas line easement. This resolution calls for a public hearing to be held the second meeting in September.

Motion to approve resolution Borgstrom, second by Egger with all voting aye.

Resolution #8.6-15

A Resolution Setting a Public Hearing on Vacation of a Portion of Public Utility Easements

MAYOR’S REPORT

The Mayor stated that he will be gone from September 12 – 21

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

ENGINEER’S REPORT

City Engineer Theobald stated that there is nothing formal to consider. The High School watermain will be started in the next couple weeks; Blaines 12th will also be starting next week. Engineer Theobald stated that we are working to adjust the MSA road to get Commerce Drive funded as much as will be allowed. City Engineer Theobald also stated that 3rd, 4th, and 5th Avenues are on hold and if the Council is interested in moving those projects forward he and the Finance Director are looking for direction for budgeting impacts and engineering.

PERSONNEL

Post Apprentice Lineman Position – Journeyman lineman was changed to apprentice by the Electric Superintendent. **Motion to post apprentice lineman position made by Egger, second by Coleman with all voting Aye.**

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was reviewed;
City Department Updates
PD Report
FD Report
Stewartville DMC and Journey to Growth Forum September 16 7:00 PM
Electric Department Right of Way Request

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

ATTEST:

Linda Rappe, City Clerk

Steve Johnson, Mayor