

## MAYER CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES 6 JANUARY 10, 2011

Workshop called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Mayor Chris Capaul

PRESENT: Mayor Capaul, Council Members Stieve-McPadden, Osborn, Boder and Lueth.

ABSENT:

STAFF: Administrator Murphy, Deputy Chris Nelson, Public Works Jeff Frost, City Attorney David Hubert and Clerk Maetzold

ALSO PRESENT: Don Wachholz, Nikki Larson, Ivan Raconteur, Rod Maetzold, Myron Taylor, Mike Dodge, Milfred Dalchow and Rich Cohrs.

- 1. Code of Conduct:** The Council reviewed a sample Code of Ethics put together by the City Administrator. It was discussed if this Code needs a penalty for violation. The Code will need to come back to the next Council meeting for approval. City Attorney David Hubert was on hand to answer any questions. He said that the City is not legally required to adopt a Code of Ethics, but more and more Cities are electing to adopt to cover their bases. Such a Code promotes impartiality and good government. Hubert also gave the Council information from the November 2010 issue of the LMC magazine "A Few Rules for Public Officials". Conflict of Interest was discussed as well as the Open Meeting Law and when the City can close a meeting.
- 2. Finn's Liquor License:** The Council was updated on the status of Finn's past due taxes. If they continue to fail to make payments, the property goes into tax forfeiture as of February 2012. The Council has a Policy decision to make to issue a Liquor License for the coming year. The City Ordinance does state that "no license shall be granted for any premises on which taxes, assessments and other financial claims of the city are delinquent". The City Attorney was asked to provide the City with a legal document for a payment plan for Finn's.
- 3. Fire Department Lot:** The City Administrator reported that the City has been contacted by Casey's Gas Stations about purchasing the City owned lot at 314 Ash Ave S. This lot had been purchased from Shimmcor in 2008 for a future Fire Station. Mayor Capaul said that he would not like to see the lot sold at this point. Should the City ever decided to sell the land, City Attorney Hubert will look into what method the land must be sold, auction or negotiation.

In a related matter, Administrator Murphy brought up the question of whether or not the City should pay off the Contract for Deed on this property. Currently we are paying 6.95% on the balance. The City is only receiving .5 to 1.2% on investments. The Council was given a chart of current City cash balances. It may be a good time to pay off the lot, given present earnings. Administrator Murphy was instructed to meet with Rich Cohrs on the matter.

- 4. Recycling Grant 2011:** The City receives a Solid Waste Grant from the County each year in the amount of approximately \$3,700. The Council was asked to think of possible programs for which to use the County Solid Waste Grant. Providing plastic pop bottle recycling and a coupon program for electronics were items discussed. The County will be asked to come to a Council meeting to discuss electronic recycling.
- 5. Copier Purchase:** Staff requested input from the Council on the purchase of a copier. The Council discussed this issue last year and delayed the purchase to 2011. Administrator Murphy was given authority to pursue the copier purchase by getting quotes.

6. **Annual Appointments:** The Council discussed the appointments for the year and decided which positions would be a good fit. These appointments will be confirmed and approved at the next Council meeting.

7. **Other Issues:**

- Complaint about snow removal from cul-de-sacs discussed.
- A Petition to remove the City Administrator was presented from Concerned Citizens with 42 signatures.
- A letter from a resident was reviewed complimenting the City Administrator for her support and caring above and beyond her job description.
- The Council decided to hold a Goals setting workshop after the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Mayor will bring pie!
- Problems with snowmobiles in City Parks were reported. Administrator Murphy will talk to the Snowmobile Club and put an article in the Newsletter.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the work session ended at 8:45 p.m.

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Chris Capaul, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lois A. Maetzold, City Clerk