

MAYER CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES – JANUARY 28, 2013

Call Work Session to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Mike Dodge

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

ABSENT:

STAFF: City Administrator Murphy, City Engineer Andrew Budde and Clerk Maetzold

ALSO PRESENT: Don Wachholz, Emily Hedges, Ivan Raconteur, Jack Fay, Chris Lund and Joel Landskroener.

1. **Review of Park Board 2013 Goals** – Council Stieve-McPadden, a member of the Park Board, reviewed the 2013 Park Board Goals with the Council.
2. **Review of EDA 2013 Goals** – Council Boder, a member of the EDA, reviewed the 2013 EDA Goals with the Council.
3. **Cash Flow Analysis Discussion** – Jack Fay, representing Ehlers Investment Partners, appeared before the Council to discuss investment options. The EIP staff are licensed investment professionals with combined experience of more than 60 years in investments, banking and treasury management. Their sole mission and responsibility is to work only in their clients' best interests. As local banks offer fewer options for investing, he indicated that they offer a third party custodian to hold the City of Mayer's assets. He created and reviewed graphs of the City of Mayer's Cash and Investment accounts from 2010 through 2012 with the Council. EIP proposes a tiered fee schedule to manage our assets.
4. **Discussion on Transparency and Sunshine Award** – Staff would like to build a financial section to our website in conjunction with the finance committee to create transparency for our City Government. Items to be included would be the City's Audit, budget and other fiscal matters. The City could then apply for a Sunshine Award which is given to Cities that demonstrate transparency in government. The Sunshine Review is about state and local government transparency, engaged citizens, and holding government officials accountable. The Sunshine Review wiki collects and shares information about state and local transparency using a 10-point Transparency Checklist to evaluate 6,000 state and local government websites. Sunshine Review is a non-profit that collaborates with individuals and organizations across America to promote state and local transparency.
5. **Proposed Changes to Council Meeting Dates** – City Engineer David Martini requested the possibility of changing Council Meetings from the 2nd and 4th Mondays to the 1st and 3rd Mondays in order to accommodate his presence at the Council meetings. Currently an associate Andrew Budde has been attending in his absence. Discussion included the fact that the 1st and 3rd Mondays are Fire Department meeting/training dates, of which two of the Council are members. The Mayor attends regular Fire Department business meetings on the 1st Monday of the month. It was decided not to change meeting dates.
6. **Finn's Liquor Licenses** – Finn's are delinquent on their 2012 property taxes. City Code section 111.20 states that No license shall be granted or renewed for operation on any premises on which taxes, assessments, utility charges, service charges, or other financial claims of the city are delinquent and unpaid. Because the liquor license renewal is coming up next month, the Council discussed options. Finn's are current in their utilities at this time. Staff will send a letter stating that the City is prepared to enforce our Ordinances. The Council would like to meet with the owners

- before the next Council meeting to hear their plan for paying off their property taxes and keeping current with the 2013 taxes. The Council spent time discussing options for payment suggestions.
7. **Repair of Creamery** – The overhead doors are in need of repair at the old Creamery. This space has been used by the City to store sand/salt. The Council reviewed a quote to replace/repair the doors. It was decided not to spend any funds to repair the building at this time.
 8. **IPad Discussion** – The Council discussed the possibility of moving to paperless agendas by purchasing iPads or tablets. The cost for an iPad is \$400 for each Council Member and Administrator (\$2,400). The City has spent \$340 on copy paper in 2012 and \$281 in 2011. Other costs involved with Council packets would be the time to copy and delivery of the packets. The City of Watertown has moved to this technology. Staff will research the cost to purchase the iPads and associated software, cases and insurance. The matter will be brought back to the Council for review.
 9. **Fare For All Express** – (Council Lueth requested this item be added to the work session for discussion.) Fare For All Express offers packages of fresh produce and frozen meat at up to 40% savings. Fare For All is community supported and open to everyone. The more people who participate, the better. There is no need to sign up in advance; come to any location and bring your food home that day. All of the food is purchased in bulk directly from wholesalers. Utilizing bulk purchasing power allows us to get product at a good value and pass on the savings to our customers. Fare For All strives to offer quality and nutritional food packages. The exact content of the packages changes each month while the value remains the same. There are distribution locations throughout the metro area where packages are sold. The Council instructed staff to look into what it takes to become a site.
 10. **Fire Department PERA Survivor Request** – The Mayer Fire Department joined the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter (SVF) Retirement Plan on January 1, 2013. To date a total of 63 fire departments have joined the SVF plan. The SVF Advisory Board, made up of representatives from township, cities and the firefighting community, met in December to review plan provisions. The Board recommended that we make one change to plan provisions to allow survivor benefits to be paid in the few instances when a firefighter dies before being in the plan five years, the minimum amount of service required to be vested. That plan provision is already a requirement for relief associations that are not a part of the SVF plan, so the change would put the SVF plan in compliance with relief association laws. Implementing the change would not add any cost to the plan, and would not affect the calculation of required municipal contributions. In order for the plan provision change to become effective, however, the plan provision needs to first be approved by each of the 63 entities that sponsor the SVF plan fire departments. If all 63 entities ratify the change, SVF will introduce legislation and attempt to have the change signed into law. The Council instructs staff to prepare a resolution of support for the next meeting.
 11. **Safe Routes to School Grant** – With the possibility of constructing the round-a-bout at Highway 25 and 62nd street, City Engineers have proposed applying for a Safe Routes to School Grant which if awarded could be constructed in conjunction with the round-a-bout. Discussion included the need to connect to Zion Lutheran School (K-8). Council instructed staff and Engineers to proceed with the application for a Safe Routes to School Grant using a connection from the Community Center to Zion Lutheran School and connecting to Fieldstone if possible.
 12. **Round-A-Bout Discussion** – Executive Director Joel Landskroener of Mayer Lutheran High School was on hand to discuss the round-a-bout funding options. Those options included 10 or 15 year bonds, and cost sharing for the remaining balance of the project after the MnDOT grant. Cost share options included 50/50 (City and MLHS), 1/3 and 2/3 and 40/60. No decision reached. The matter was tabled to the February work session.

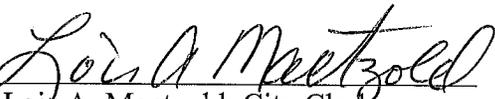
- 13. **Sprint Antennae Rent** – Sprint is proposing to place 4G capabilities on the water tower and is offering the City \$200 per month in additional rent. The question is if the \$200 per month is adequate for the additional equipment. Council asked if the same footprint will be used. If it is, they are satisfied with the additional \$200 per month. If the new equipment will require more space, there may be room to negotiate for more rent.
- 14. **Fire Department To Be Recognized For Work On Skating Rink** – Council Member Lueth would like the City to recognize key Fire Department members that have spent time getting the skating rink in shape, despite the non-cooperating weather.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.



Mike Dodge, Mayor

Attest: 

Lois A. Maetzold, City Clerk