

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROGERS CITY CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2008

Mayor Hall presided and called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with Council Member Greene leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT – Council Members Darrin Darga, Debra Greene, Gary Nowak, Thomas Sobeck, and Mayor Beach Hall.

OTHER CITY PERSONNEL PRESENT – City Mgr. Mark Slown, City Atty. Michael Vogler, Police Chief Matt Quaine, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Janet Nowak, and Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Heinzl.

It was moved by Council Member Nowak, seconded by Council Member Sobeck, that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of October 21, 2008 be approved as written.

ROLL CALL: Ayes – All, the motion carried.

CITIZENS APPEARING BEFORE THE COUNCIL:

Robert Boudreau, director of the American Wind Symphony, was scheduled to address Council, but was delayed and arrived later in the meeting. When he arrived, Mayor Hall suggested that he make his presentation at the end of the meeting, to which Boudreau happily agreed as he promised Council an entertaining presentation.

After the agenda items were completed, Mayor Hall asked Mr. Boudreau to address the Council. Boudreau gave a brief overview of the Wind Symphony's past concerts, the different cities and ports that were the sites of the concerts, and their plans to tour the Great Lakes. There are some concerns with coming into the Rogers City Harbor; the last visit was difficult and because of the low water levels, entry into the harbor may be even more of an issue. Boudreau suggested that the barge could drop anchor off the harbor into Lake Huron and boaters could drive up to the barge for the performance. Funding such an event is the main concern. Boudreau estimated about \$17,500 for a visit. However, he provided some examples on how to secure funding through various options, i.e., wine and cheese event, etc. Mr. Boudreau is hoping that Rogers City would be scheduled during the third week in July 2009. He offered the website address, which is AWSO@connettime.net. Mayor Hall thanked Mr. Boudreau for his visit and suggested that he check out the harbor. Council Member Nowak felt that this should be looked into further and suggested that some contact be made with the Chamber to study the possibilities of bringing the barge to Rogers City. Mayor Hall commented that he will see if some interest can be drummed up and he will follow up on this.

Presque Isle Advance reporter, Angie Asam, introduced Hannah Haszlett, who was job shadowing the Journalism field.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

City Clerk/Treasurer Heinzl was present although not taking minutes due to the election taking place this day. She reported that there has been a good steady turnout at the polls. The election inspectors are being kept busy and currently, there has been about a 64% turnout of voters. There have been no major glitches at the polls.

CHECK AND INVOICE APPROVAL:

It was moved by Council Member Greene, seconded by Council Member Darga, that the following total fund expenditures be recognized as payments made and payments to be made, approved as such, and the Mayor authorized to sign the check register.

General Fund	66,532.80
Major Street Fund	37,408.38
Local Street Fund	29,866.93
Band Fund	88.77
Community Development Authority	1,125.52
VSCI Capital Projects Fund	2,614.65
Wastewater Treatment Operation Fund	103,741.44
Water Utility Fund	65,075.97
Marina Operations Fund	2,462.58
Garbage Collection Fund	7,975.00
Equipment Fund	24,843.62
Trust and Agency Fund	5,123.32

ROLL CALL: Ayes – All, the motion carried.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Atty. Vogler had no report for this meeting.

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CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Mgr. Slown reported on the following:

- **Elected Officials Traffic Safety Course:** Council was provided a notice on the upcoming Traffic Safety Course, which provides an opportunity for the elected officials if they would like to attend.
- **RoadSoft Report:** This report has been submitted and Council was encouraged to ask any questions they may have.
- **Housing Commission Appointment:** Brenda Karsten will be re-appointed to the Housing Commission as her initial term has ended. She is willing to serve for another term on the Commission.
- **Snowmobile Trail Update:** A meeting was held on the snowmobile trail, both to the north and south of the City. Discussions are being held to reach a mutual agreement between all the involved parties.
- **Creating Entrepreneurial Communities:** The annual workshop for this program is scheduled for November 19th in Lansing. Slown will be attending and invited anyone interested to contact him for registration.
- **Nautical Heritage Committee Meeting:** A meeting was held on Monday, November 3rd. Fleis and VandenBrink representatives attended the meeting and questioned the committee on their expectations and hopes for the Street Lighting Project.
- **Incubator Project:** Slown deferred to Bill Valentine, who gave a brief update on the Incubator Project. He explained that he took part in a field trip that visited eight different areas to get an idea on various incubators already in place. He also reviewed the membership and mentioned funding mechanisms that can be pursued for this project.
- **Thunder Bay Health Services:** Council Member Greene reported on the drive-thru dispensing clinic sponsored by the Thunder Bay Community Health Services. The clinic took place at Gilpin Field for a period of three hours during which time 150 people were immunized with the flu vaccine. This was a practice drill for dispensing drugs in case of a bio-terrorist attack.
- **Council Workshop for Infrastructure:** Council was asked to begin considering a time and date for a workshop on the Rural Development Infrastructure Project.

Council Member Darga updated the Council on the November 3rd TAB meeting. He explained that a trial period will be used to log the time involved in providing webmaster services. Jamie Heinzl and Jodi Brege have agreed to each covering a three month trial period. This will be done on a volunteer basis at no monetary cost to the City. A brief discussion continued on the length of the trial period and the information that will be derived from this study. It will also help create the job description for a webmaster.

COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS:

Council was provided copies of the minutes from the **September 25th Housing Commission Meeting,** the **October 14th Harbor Advisory Committee Meeting,** the **October 15th Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting,** and the **October 27th Planning Commission Meeting.**

Council Member Nowak questioned the widening of the road on Forest Ave. Slown explained that the shoulder was widened not the road.

LIAISONS: No reports.

MAYOR:

Mayor Hall thanked Council Member Greene and City Mgr. Slown for the fall downtown decorations and added his thanks to the community for a safe Halloween. Hall appreciated the community attendance at the DEQ hearings held in late October. He also commented on the great presentation at the Rogers City Theater of "The Pajama Game". Council Member Nowak added his appreciation to Karl Heidemann, who was in attendance, for his contribution to the community since his purchase of the theater. Mayor Hall then continued with a thank you to the Rogers City Area Schools fall sports teams as they finish their season.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

AUDIT PRESENTATION – DAVID GWIZDALA

David Gwizdala was in attendance to present the findings of the FY2007-2008 audit. He offered to answer any questions from Council. He pointed out that Council should realize that this presentation and responsibility is directed to the Council, not City Staff. An auditor is regulated on what can and cannot be said in the report. His second point is that the information given to Council in their monthly reports should be consistent with the audit report; the only exception is in the manner of the presentation. Gwizdala explained that the audit report states a clean opinion and the financial statements are reported fairly. He briefly referred Council to different pages throughout the audit including the Management Discussion, insured funds, pension assumptions for the future, and post retirement benefits, i.e., health insurance for retirees. Council Member Nowak offered his concerns about the benefits. Council Member Sobeck asked about if the mandate requires funding, to which Gwizdala replied that it does not, but it is a qualification in the audit opinion which could affect bonding rates. Mayor Hall brought up the fund balance, which was not where the Council would like the number to be. Gwizdala agreed that the recent amendment to the budget added to the fund balance; however, it does not change the ending numbers for FY2007-2008.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2008-124

A motion was made by Council Member Nowak, seconded by Council Member Greene, that the City's Fiscal Year 2007-2008 audited financial statements be accepted as presented and that a copy of the audit document be kept on file in the office of the City Clerk/Treasurer.

ROLL CALL: Ayes – All, the motion carried.

BID AWARD – ROGERS CITY AREA SENIORS CENTER PROJECT

Council was provided a bid tabulation for the Senior Center Project in their meeting packet. Three bids were received with Curtis Excavating being the low bidder at \$61,365. C2AE is recommending award to Curtis Excavating and City administration concurs, contingent upon MSHDA approval for release of funds and also contingent upon the Senior Center Board accepting the bid and depositing their matching funds with the City. It is expected that the project will be undertaken in the spring at which time the Senior Center will provide their matching funds. Council Member Greene questioned the landscaping for this project and commented on her concerns that landscaping should be considered when these types of projects are reviewed at the Planning Commission level. Council Member Nowak explained that the plans include landscaping.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-125

A motion was made by Council Member Nowak, seconded by Council Member Darga, to accept the bid from Curtis Excavating in the amount of \$61,365 for the Rogers City Area Senior Center Site Improvement Project as recommended by C2AE and City staff.

ROLL CALL: Ayes – All, the motion carried.

BID AWARD – TWO FACADES

Council was also provided the bid tabulation for construction of two façade projects that were part of the in the original Downtown Façade Enhancement (Rogers Theater and A-P Super Service). Three bids were received for the work. Meridian Construction of Alpena was the low bidder in the total amount of \$147,695. The two other bids were North Country Construction of Harbor Springs for \$150,856 and David J. Zolnierok of Presque Isle for \$201,787.13. A letter from C2AE was included in the Council packet detailing the bids and the experience that C2AE has had with the bidders. Karl Heidemann, owner of the Rogers City Theater, addressed Council about his project. He would encourage the Council to go forward and accept the bid. Heidemann expressed his appreciation for the City following through with all the requirements to finalize the project and begin the renovations.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-126

A motion was made by Council Member Darga, seconded by Council Member Greene, to accept the bid from Meridian Construction of Alpena in the amount of \$147,695 for the Rogers City Downtown Façade Enhancement Project for Rogers Theater and A-P Super Service.

ROLL CALL: Ayes – All, the motion carried.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – ENGINEERING SERVICES AMENDMENT

C2AE provided a letter to the City requesting acceptance of the engineering services agreement amendment for the Rural Development Funding application. The additional \$5,800 is to cover the revisions to the water and sewer projects as requested by the City. City Mgr. Slown explained that by virtue of this amendment, C2AE is asking for approval to proceed on the options Council wanted considered in the Rural Development Funding application.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-127

A motion was made by Council Member Nowak, seconded by Council Member Sobeck, to accept the amendment for engineering services from C2AE to incorporate the options requested by the City to be considered in the Rural Development Funding application.

ROLL CALL: Ayes – All, the motion carried.

ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT COMMITMENT

At the October 21st Council meeting, Bill Valentine, the County CDC director, addressed Council asking that the City partner with the CDC to have EC&S, environmental consultants, prepare and submit an application for up to \$400,000 in grant funding for a county-wide environmental assessment. The City would contribute \$500 and the CDC would fund the remaining \$1,000 for the grant preparation. This brought about a brief discussion with comments from both City Mgr. Slown and CDC Director Valentine on the amount of contribution. Council Member Greene also addressed the Lakeview Project and the relationship to EC&S. City Mgr. Slown responded to her concerns asking City Atty. Vogler to comment on the relationship if any. Vogler felt that the issue of reassessing Lakeview or any other property could be of value.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-128

A motion was made by Council Member Nowak, seconded by Council Member Sobeck, to approve the contribution of \$200 in a team effort with the County Development Corporation to accept the proposal from EC&S, environmental consultants, to prepare and submit an application to secure up to \$400,000 in grant funding for a county-wide environmental assessment.

ROLL CALL: Ayes – All, the motion carried.

2009 MARINA SEASONAL RATES

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The Waterways Commission has notified the City that there will be no increase in the 2009 Marina seasonal rates. Their reasons for maintaining the rates are due to the poor economic climate and high fuel prices, an overall drop in transient docking, and the decline in seasonal activities as indicated through a private marina survey.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-129

A motion was made by Council Member Sobeck, seconded by Council Member Nowak, to approve the seasonal rates as presented by the Department of Natural Resources and approved by the Waterways Commissions for the upcoming 2009 season to reflect no increase. Said rates will remain as presented in the 2008 season.

ROLL CALL: Ayes – All, the motion carried.

ROGERS CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VISITORS GUIDE ADVERTISING

Mayor Hall addressed this agenda item and explained that the Chamber of Commerce is asking the City to purchase a full panel advertisement for their Visitors' Guide. The cost for the ad is \$550. The FY2008-2009 budgeted amount was \$475. It was proposed that the City pay for a full panel ad using the \$475 from the General Fund and \$75 balance be paid by the CDA. Council Member Nowak voiced his concern that the guide is being printed in Cheboygan.

Note: A roll call was taken; however, no motion was made on the Chamber request.

APPOINTMENT – TOURISM STEERING COMMITTEE

Mayor Hall explained that the City was requested to name a representative to the committee that is working to establish a new tourism group. Council Member Greene volunteered to serve as the City's representative. Council Member Nowak suggested that an alternate should be named should Council Member Greene be unable to attend. Nowak agreed to serve as the alternate.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-130

A motion was made by Council Member Darga, seconded by Council Member Sobeck, that Council Member Deb Greene be appointed to serve as the City's representative on the Tourism Steering Committee. Council Member Gary Nowak is named as the alternate for this same committee.

ROLL CALL: Ayes – All, the motion carried.

NOVEMBER 18, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING TIME CHANGE

The next regular Council meeting falls on November 18, 2008, which is the date of the Carl D. Bradley 50th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony. The event takes place at the Rogers City High School Gym at 5 p.m. A change in the meeting time will allow the Council Members to attend the ceremony.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-131

A motion was made by Council Member Sobeck, seconded by Council Member Greene, to change the time of the regular council meeting scheduled for November 18th at 7 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to allow the Council Members to attend the Carl D. Bradley 50th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony.

ROLL CALL: Ayes – All, the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Council Member Nowak stated that he is a member of the Festival Committee, which has recently reorganized. He will keep Council apprised as things progress with this committee.

Council Member Greene voiced her opinion on the light at Well House No. 5. She offered a motion that the light be changed to an energy efficient 25 watt bulb and she wants this done by the next regular Council meeting. There was a discussion about the bulb wattage and the following motion was made.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-132

A motion was made by Council Member Greene, seconded by Council Member Nowak, to install an energy efficient 40-watt light bulb at Well House No. 5 and that the change in the light bulb be made by the next regular Council meeting.

ROLL CALL: Ayes – All, the motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to come before Council, Mayor Hall declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

BEACH HALL, MAYOR

JANET M. NOWAK, DEPUTY CLERK/
TREASURER