

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

April 3, 2007

The City Council of Thief River Falls, Minnesota, met in regular session at 5:00 p.m., on April 3, 2007 in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The following Councilmembers were present: Cullen, Erickson, Holten (arrived after passage of the Consent Agenda), Kajewski, Lee, Schmalz, and Mayor Nordhagen. Councilmember Bendickson was absent. Mayor Nordhagen chaired the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-70-07: APPROVAL OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The City Council reviewed several sets of Council Proceedings. Following discussion, Councilmember Cullen introduced Resolution No. 4-70-07, being seconded by Councilmember Kajewski,

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to approve the March 20, 2007 Hearing Proceedings, the March 20, 2007 Council Proceedings, the March 27, 2007 Hearing Proceedings, and the March 27, 2007 Committee of the Whole Proceedings, as presented.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-71-07: APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilmembers Cullen and Lee indicated they reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. Following discussion, Councilmember Cullen introduced Resolution No. 4-71-07, being seconded by Councilmember Lee, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to authorize payment of the first half of April bills in the amount of \$363,019.53 and the March 19-23, 2007 prepayments in the amount of \$188,918.83. A printout of the bills approved for payment is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-72-07: APPROVAL OF PROGRESSION RAISE FOR CORY DELAP, POWER PLANT OPERATOR/ELECTRICIAN

Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Kajewski introduced Resolution No. 4-72-07, being seconded by Councilmember Erickson, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to grant Cory DeLap, Power Plant Operator/Electrician, a progression raise. Mr. DeLap shall progress to Step 9 of the Grade Level 5 Power Plant Operator/Electrician salary schedule, retroactive to April 2, 2007.

On vote being taken for the Consent Agenda, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-73-07: ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF DONOVAN ERLANDSON, HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Kajewski introduced Resolution No. 4-73-07, being seconded by Councilmember Erickson, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to accept the resignation of Donovan Erlandson, Heavy Equipment Operator, effective May 31, 2007.

On vote being taken for the Consent Agenda, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-74-07: REFER PROPOSED SUBMITTAL OF DEED GRANT APPLICATION BACK TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The City Council reviewed the proposed submittal of a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to assist in the financing of a contamination cleanup investigation of the Phillips Iron business located along Main Avenue North. Vince Miramontes and legal counsel, representing Phillips Iron, were also present for the discussion. Following discussion, Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 4-74-07, being seconded by Councilmember Erickson, that:

RESOLVED, to refer the proposed submittal of a DEED grant application back to the Community Development Director for further study and discussion.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-75-07: APPROVAL OF AYERS ASSOCIATES PROPOSAL FOR FERC DAM INSPECTION

Pursuant to Resolution No.'s 2-26-07 and 2-51-07, RFP's were received for a mandatory five-year interval inspection and study of the Thief River Falls dam. Following discussion, Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 4-75-07, being seconded by Councilmember Schmalz, that:

WHEREAS, proposals were received and tabulated from Ayers Associates in the amount of \$30,000 and from STS Consultants in the amount of \$43,000 to conduct an inspection of the Thief River Falls dam as required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, to accept the low proposal submitted by Ayers Associates in the amount of \$30,000 to conduct an inspection of the dam, to perform a Potential Failure Mode Analysis, and to prepare a Surveillance and Monitoring Plan.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-76-07: APPROVAL OF SUBMITTAL OF DNR PERMIT APPLICATION TO BORE UNDER THE THIEF RIVER FOR UNDERGROUND CABLE INSTALLATION

Arlo Rude, Director of Utilities, presented the Council with an application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to bore under the Thief River for installation of utilities cable. Following discussion, Councilmember Schmalz introduced Resolution No. 4-76-07, being seconded by Councilmember Cullen, that:

WHEREAS, this summer the Electric Department plans to bore under the Thief River to replace the existing overhead lines with underground cable.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, to authorize submittal of an application to the Department of Natural Resources and payment of the \$500 application fee, to permit the City of Thief River Falls to cross the Thief River with underground cables.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-77-07: APPROVAL TO INCREASE FLEET SUPPLY ENERGY CONSERVATION LOAN AND AMENDING RESOLUTION 2-32-07

Arlo Rude, Director of Utilities, presented an amendment to a loan application previously submitted by Fleet Supply and approved by Resolution No. 2-32-07. Following discussion, Councilmember Cullen introduced Resolution No. 4-77-07, being seconded by Councilmember Kajewski, that:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, to amend Resolution No. 2-32-07 to increase the five-percent (5%) interest loan granted to Fleet Supply Energy Conservation Program from \$3,108.00 to \$5,108.00. No other changes were made to the original approved loan amounts.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-78-07: APPROVAL OF STREICHER'S QUOTE FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT DUTY GEAR

Kim Murphy, Chief of Police, presented the City Council with a tabulation of quotes received for the replacement of worn out duty gear for the Police Department officers. Following discussion, Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 4-78-07, being seconded by Councilmember Kajewski, that:

WHEREAS, the following three quotes were received for the purchase of new duty gear:

Streicher's Inc.	\$3,960.00	(without 6.5% sales tax)
KEEPERS, Inc.	\$4,616.78	(includes 6.5% sales tax)
Uniforms Unlimited	\$5,229.00	(without 6.5% sales tax)

WHEREAS, Streicher's, Inc. appears to be the lowest acceptable quote.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, to accept the quote submitted by Streicher's Inc. in the amount of \$3,960.00 (plus 6.5% sales tax) for the purchase of new duty gear for the Thief River Falls Police Department officers.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-79-07: RESOLUTION FOR VACATING A PORTION OF ALLEY

The City Council considered information received from public hearings conducted with regard to the proposed vacation of an alley located along Taft Street. Following discussion, Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 4-79-07, being seconded by Councilmember Kajewski, that:

WHEREAS, The City Council of Thief River Falls has determined to vacate part of the alley located between Lots 4, 5, and 6 and Lots 7, 8, and 9, Block 2, in the Townsite of Red Lake Rapids, now a part of the City of Thief River Falls, Pennington County, Minnesota; and,

WHEREAS, public hearings were held on March 20th, 2007 and February 27, 2007 before the City Council in the City Council Chambers, 405 3rd Street East, Thief River Falls, Minnesota, after publication on February 28, 2007 and March 7, 2007, after posted notice on February 22, 2007, and after personal notice to all affected property owners, all persons interested were given an opportunity to be heard; and,

WHEREAS, it appears that it will be in the best interest of the City to vacate such portion of the alley; and,

WHEREAS, four-fifths of all members of the City Council concur in this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, that part of the alley located between Lots 4, 5, and 6 and Lots 7, 8, and 9, Block 2, in the Townsite of Red Lake Rapids, now a part of the City of Thief River Falls, Pennington County, Minnesota, is hereby vacated.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-80-07: APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT OF MICHAEL J. OLSON AS PARKS/ARENAS MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE

A request to fill the vacant Parks/Arenas Maintenance position was reviewed. Following discussion, Councilmember Erickson introduced Resolution No. 4-80-07, being seconded by Councilmember Cullen, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to approve the employment of Michael J. Olson, Parks/Arenas Maintenance employee, effective April 4, 2007. Mr. Olson's salary shall begin at Step 1 of the Grade Level 4 Parks/Arenas Maintenance salary schedule. Employment is contingent upon successful completion and passage of a background check and drug test.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-81-07: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BALANCED CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION

The City Council reviewed information with regard to climate change legislation. Following discussion, Councilmember Cullen introduced Resolution No. 4-81-07, being seconded by Councilmember Schmalz, that:

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature recently passed Renewable Energy Standard (RES) legislation requiring 25% of utility companies generation portfolio to be produced by renewable generation by the year 2025; and,

WHEREAS, the RES legislation would reduce the amount of additional CO2 being emitted into the environment by Minnesota utilities; and,

WHEREAS, the legislature is now considering major climate change legislation that could have significant impacts on achieving the recently adopted RES as well as on the ability of Minnesota utilities to meet the growing needs of the citizens of the State of Minnesota as well as neighboring states; and,

WHEREAS, legislators are urged to consider the result of significantly more expensive power due to climate change legislation and the impact that would have on economic development throughout rural Minnesota; and,

WHEREAS, the climate change legislation being considered could also compromise the reliability of the transmission grid in Minnesota and surrounding region to reliably deliver the additional electricity needed by Minnesota consumers; and,

WHEREAS, any climate change legislation adopted by the State of Minnesota needs to consider the proper balance between reducing CO2 emissions and meeting the growing energy needs of the citizens of the State of Minnesota to ensure the continued health and vitality of the Minnesota economy; and,

WHEREAS, the currently proposed legislation only targets the utility sector and ignores the more significant CO2 emissions from other sectors of the economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Thief River Falls urges the Minnesota Legislature to develop climate change legislation that will broadly consider the CO2 emissions of all segments of the economy rather than only select segments of the economy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the legislature is urged to consider the technological feasibility of legislation being considered as well as the ability to meet the growing energy needs of the citizens of Minnesota under any climate change legislation being considered, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Thief River Falls supports a deliberative approach to the passage of climate change legislation by the State of Minnesota involving an in depth study of the economic, technological and environmental elements to be considered in any such legislation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such a study be carried out in an environment that recognizes the adopted goals of the Minnesota RES but does not prohibit the electric utility segment from meeting the needs of the growing Minnesota economy.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 3-82-07: APPROVAL TO PURSUE TELEVISIONING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mayor Nordhagen discussed the possibility of televising the meetings of the City Council. Following discussion, Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 3-82-07, being seconded by Councilmember Kajewski, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, that Mayor Nordhagen shall pursue steps to televise the meetings of the City Council and shall work with Sjoberg's Cable and the Northland Community and Technical College in this matter.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 1) The City of Thief River Falls has been named as a 2006 Tree City USA.
- 2) The Board of Appeal and Equalization will meet at the County Courthouse on April 12, 2007 from 9 a.m. until Noon.
- 3) CGMC Labor and Employee Relations Seminar will be held in Melrose, Minnesota, on April 18, 2007.
- 4) LMNC Annual Conference in Duluth on June 27-29, 2007.
- 5) CGMC talking points on Local Government Aid, transportation, and the proposed unfunded phosphorus mandate.
- 6) Letter to NCTC President Temte on Airport Hangar.
- 7) The Monroe Crossing event held at the REA was reported to have gone very well.
- 8) NWRDC meeting was held last week. They have been invited to tour the NCTC in June or September.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Erickson moved, being seconded by Councilmember Kajewski, to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m. On vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion unanimously carried and the meeting adjourned until 4:25 p.m. on April 10, 2007.

Steve Nordhagen, Mayor

Attest: _____
Jodie R. Torkelson, City Administrator