

COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

September 11, 2007

CALL TO

ORDER: 4:30 p.m. by Mayor Nordhagen

COUNCIL

PRESENT: Mayor Nordhagen and Councilmembers Bendickson, Cullen, Erickson, Lee, and Schmalz

COUNCIL

ABSENT: Councilmembers Kajewski and Holten

STAFF

PRESENT: City Administrator Torkelson, Assistant City Attorney Sparby, Public Works Director Lindberg, Community Development Director Moore, Finance Director Johnson, Chief of Police Murphy, Director of Utilities Rude, Liquor Store Manager Olson, MIS Director Froiland, Electric Superintendent Narlock, Parks and Recreation Director Vigen, and Building and Grounds Supervisor Howe.

PRESS

PRESENT: KTRF Radio, The Times

OTHERS

PRESENT: Jolene Seibel and Barb Kalinowski on behalf of the Thief River Falls Public Library.

The following items were presented and discussed:

1. Presentation by Jolene Seibel and Barb Kalinowski on the status of the library building project to improve accessibility.

2. **RESOLUTION NO. 9-238-07: APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT OF ELAINE HALVORSON AND PATRICIA LINDQUIST AS BILLING OFFICE CLERKS**

A request to fill the vacant Billing Office Clerk position and to replace the part-time Billing Office Clerk position with a full-time employee was reviewed.

Following discussion, Councilmember Bendickson introduced Resolution No. 9-238-07, being seconded by Councilmember Lee, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to approve the employment of Elaine Halvorson, as Billing Office Clerk effective October 1, 2007 at Grade Level 4, Step 1 and to approve the employment of Patricia Lindquist effective September 12, 2007 at Grade Level 4, Step 5.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

3. **RESOLUTION NO. 9-239-07: APPROVAL OF INTERNAL TRANSFER OF TERRY REWERTZ TO FILL WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR POSITION.**

A request to fill the vacant Water Treatment Plant Operator position was reviewed. Terry Rewertz was determined to be a qualified candidate for the position. Pursuant to Article 9.3 of the Teamsters contract, he will have up to 30 days to return to his former position without loss of seniority. Following discussion, Councilmember Cullen introduced Resolution No. 9-239-07, being seconded by Councilmember Bendickson, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to approve the transfer of Terry Rewertz from the position of Water/Wastewater Operator to the position of Water Treatment Plant Operator effective immediately. Mr. Rewertz shall remain at his current grade and step level during a 6-month probationary period, after which time he will be placed at the appropriate grade and step in the Water Treatment Plant Operator salary schedule.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

4. **RESOLUTION NO. 9-240-07: APPROVAL OF WITHDRAWAL OF AQUATIC CENTER GRANT PROPOSAL FROM THE STATE BONDING PACKAGE.**

In light of discussions which took place in recent weeks among the Multi-Events Center Joint Powers Board, a request was made to withdraw the Aquatic Center grant proposal from the state bonding package until agreement can be reached on the funding of operating expenses. Following discussion, Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 9-240-07, being seconded by Councilmember Erickson, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to withdraw the Aquatic Center proposal from the state bonding package for this year.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

5. **RESOLUTION NO. 9-241-07: APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF LIQUOR LICENSE PREMISES FOR THE LANTERN.**

The City Council reviewed a request submitted by The Lantern to consume alcoholic beverages outside of their building. Following discussion, Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 9-241-07, being seconded by Councilmember Cullen, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to approve an extension of an Intoxicating Liquor License held by The Lantern, 1910 US Highway 59 SE, to include an

outdoor seating area with proper fencing, contiguous and compact to The Lantern business.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

6. **RESOLUTION NO. 9-242-07: APPROVAL OF PARADE APPLICATION FOR LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING PARADE**

The City Council reviewed an application submitted by the Lincoln High School National Honor Society and Student Senate for a parade permit. Following discussion, Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 9-242-07, being seconded by Councilmember Schmalz, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to approve a parade permit for Lincoln High School for a parade to be held on September 28, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., pending approval by the State of Minnesota – Department of Transportation.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

7. **RESOLUTION NO. 9-243-07: APPROVAL TO DECLARE VEHICLES AS SURPLUS PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AT THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2007 CITY AUCTION**

The City Council reviewed the disposal two city vehicles for sale at the September 13, 2007 city auction. Following discussion, Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 9-243-07, being seconded by Councilmember Bendickson, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to declare a Government Buildings department 1981 Ford Station Wagon (VIN# 2FABP37F6BB142926) and a Utilities department 2001 Chevrolet Impala (VIN# 2G1WF55K819284588).as surplus property and to be sold by the city.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

8. **RESOLUTION NO. 9-244-07: APPROVAL OF PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO BID ON BEHALF OF THE CITY ON A VEHICLE AT THE CITY AUCTION**

The City Council reviewed a request from the Public Works Director to authorize him to bid on a DWI seizure vehicle from the Police Department at the city

auction on September 13, 2007. Following discussion, Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 9-244-07, being seconded by Councilmember Cullen, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to authorize the Public Works Director to bid up to \$20,000 for a DWI seizure vehicle for sale at the city auction on September 13, 2007 to be used by the Government Buildings department.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

9. An update was provided by the Public Works Director on the Local Air Service Action Committee's (LASAC) intent to work toward a contract template to be used by all regional airports in agreements with Northwest Airlines.
10. The City auction will be held at the HOMCC on Thursday, September 13, 2007 beginning at 4:00 p.m.
11. The Northwest Transmission Zone forum on Local Energy Initiatives will be at the REA on Wednesday, September 19, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
12. The Electric department employees who volunteered their services at the Kick'n Up Kountry event over Labor Day weekend were complimented for their assistance.
13. The Mayor announced the appointment of Councilmembers Kajewski, Bendickson, Lee and Holten to the committee to review the Items for Discussion distributed at the beginning of this year's budget process. The committee's first meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on September 13, 2007 in Room 101 of City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Lee, Seconded by Councilmember Bendickson to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Nordhagen, Mayor

Attest: _____
Jodie R. Torkelson, City Administrator