

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

February 5, 2008

The City Council of Thief River Falls, Minnesota, met in regular session at 5:00 p.m., on February 5, 2008 in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The following Councilmembers were present: Erickson, Holten, Kajewski, Lee, Schmalz, and Nordhagen. Councilmembers Bendickson and Cullen were absent. Mayor Nordhagen chaired the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Kajewski motioned, being seconded by Councilmember Schmalz, to approve the agenda as presented. On vote being taken, the motion was unanimously approved and the agenda adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-37-08: APPROVAL OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 2-37-08, being seconded by Councilmember Erickson, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to approve the January 22, 2008 Committee of the Whole Proceedings and the January 22, 2008 Council Proceedings as presented.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-38-08: APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 2-38-08, being seconded by Councilmember Erickson, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to authorize payment of the bills and disbursements in the total amount of \$1,566,700.30. A printout of the approved disbursements is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-39-08: APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE FOR THE CITY OF THIEF RIVER FALLS

Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 2-39-08, being seconded by Councilmember Erickson, that:

WHEREAS, the City has an Electrical Contractor's License for the electrical wiring done in City facilities. This license is issued on a two-year basis, with the current license expiring on February 28, 2008.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, to authorize the renewal of the City's Electrical Contractor's License and to direct the Mayor and City Adminis-

trator to execute the necessary applications and issue payment in the amount of \$200.00 for the license application fee.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-40-08: APPROVAL OF 2008 ELECTRIC CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Director of Utilities Rude presented the City Council with the proposed 2008 Electric Conservation Program. Following discussion, Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 2-40-08, being seconded by Councilmember Kajewski, that:

WHEREAS, the State Conservation Improvement Program mandates the City spend 1.5% of the revenue from sales of electricity for energy conservation programs. Should the City not spend the 1.5% of revenue on energy conservation any amount less than the 1.5% has to be paid to the State; and,

WHEREAS, the Electric Department budget for 2008 is \$8,336,179 in power sales revenue which would mean 1.5% in conservation spending equals \$125,043; and,

WHEREAS, the City will be reporting the expenditures of the conservation program spending to the Public Service Commissioner; and,

WHEREAS, the conservation expenses for this state required program are recorded on work orders, rebate programs, and promotional programs. Labor costs for the customer service representative and other staff involved are also part of the CIP expenditures.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, to adopt the 2008 City Conservation Program and State Conservation Improvement Program. Funding for the conservation program is limited to the budget listed below. The City Council may change funding limits as determined appropriate.

2008 CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Residential Customers

Home Energy Improvement

1. Offer home energy audits.
2. Provide grants for insulation improvements to homes. Attic insulation, outside envelope insulation and insulated exterior door.
 - A. R19 insulation \$.20/sq foot R11 insulation \$0.175/sq foot for attic space or exterior wall space
 - B. Attic blown insulation, \$0.30 per cubic foot.

- C. Insulation applied for a residing project
 - 1. ½” insulation to and including 1” foam insulation, \$0.20/ square foot
 - 2. ¼” fan foil, R1.5 to R3, \$0.10/square foot
 - D. \$100.00 per insulated exterior door, not storm doors.
3. Provide grants for window replacement.
- A. Up 50% of the cost of the window not to exceed \$150.00 per window, limit of 5 per customer.

Maximum single facility energy improvement rebate of \$750.00 per year for windows and doors.
Maximum of \$250.00 per year for insulation.
Combined maximum of \$1,000.00.

- 4. Budget \$45,000.00

Geothermal systems

- 1. The City has an “Earth Energy” campaign for geothermal systems.
Transfer energy from the ground to heat a home or business. Transfer energy from the home to the ground for cooling.
- 2. Rebates for the installation of geothermal heat exchanger system.

\$2,000 per residential installation
- 3. Budget \$4,000

Appliances Rebate Program, Energy Star

- 1. Rebate amount to be:
 - Dishwasher \$75.00
 - Clothes washer \$100.00
 - Refrigerator \$100.00

Customer provides receipt, model number and energy star information from appliance.

- 2. Budget \$23,000

Home Air Conditioners/Heat pumps

- 1. Rebate \$100.00 for the purchase of an Energy Star central air conditioner.

Rebate \$250.00 for the purchase of an Energy Star heat pump.
- 2. Budget \$10,000.00

Low Income Conservation Assistance

Donate \$10,000 to Inter County Community Council for energy savings improvements for low income homes

in Thief River Falls.

Compact Fluorescent Lamps

Provide 750 compact fluorescent lamps to be given to residential customers.

Budget \$3,500

Financing **Residential**

Dual heat systems: 5% loans. Only finance a 100 % capable back up system (whole house). Include replacement of the secondary heating furnace for whole house.

Heat pumps: 0% loan for an energy star heat pump installed. For non-energy star units, if installed with a dual heat installation a 5% loan, for non-dual heat a 7% loan.

Air conditioners: If installed with a dual heat installation a 5% loan, if installed with non-dual heat system a 7% loan.

Municipal Government Facilities

Lighting Improvements

1. Convert traffic signals to LED lamps.

Budget \$17,000.

Commercial and Industrial Customers

Financing

Financing with low interest loans will be considered for commercial/industrial customers for electric heat or other large loads.

Fluorescent lighting

Conversion to energy efficient fluorescent lighting for a commercial customer. Loan to include material and labor to replace existing lighting with energy saving lighting.

Matching grant of up to \$2,000 to be matched by customer. Not for labor or material provided by the customer.

0% interest loan for a maximum of \$8,000 for 5 years. 5% interest 5 year loan for above \$8,000.

Grant Budget \$8,000. Loans from Utility Reserves.

Interest write down of loans

The interest that would have been collected for the 0% interest loans can be used towards the program.

Budget \$10,000.

Utility Conservation Projects

1. Upgrade street lights, mercury vapor luminaire conversion to high pressure sodium. Energy cost savings from the changing of luminaries.

Promotion

1. City Newsletter
2. Local press

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-41-08: APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN TO NORTHERN WOODWORK

Community Development Director Moore presented a Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB) recommendation. Following discussion, Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 2-41-08, being seconded by Councilmember Schmalz, that:

WHEREAS, the Community Development Advisory Board has considered and recommended approval of a loan application to the CDAB from Northern Woodwork, Inc. for Community Development Revolving Loan funds.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, to grant Northern Woodwork, Inc., an \$85,017.00 Community Development Revolving Loan for updating old equipment and enabling the business to remain competitive and retain employees, plus providing a greater degree of safety for their employees. Also, Northern Woodwork will be replacing equipment that will be more efficient and quieter for the surrounding area. Said loan shall be amortized at three and one-half (3.5%) percent interest over a five-year (5) period, with monthly installments.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-42-08: APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH MNDOT FOR PAYMENT OF THE CITY'S SHARE OF COSTS FOR PARKING LANE PAVING AND SIGNAL SYSTEM REVISIONS ON HIGHWAY 32

Public Works Director Lindberg presented a proposed agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Councilmember Lee introduced Resolution No. 2-42-08, being seconded by Councilmember Kajewski, that:

RESOLVED, that the City of Thief River Falls enter into Mn/DOT Agreement No. 92272-R with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purpose:

To provide for payment by the City to the State of the City's share of the costs of the parking lane paving and signal system revisions construction and other associated construction to be performed upon, along and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 32 from Oakland Park Road to 0.02 miles north of the City limits within the corporate City limits under State Project No. 5703-43 (TH 32=32).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Administrator are hereby authorized to execute the agreement and any amendments to the agreement.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously approved.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Administrative Services Meeting – February 11, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting – February 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
- Parks and Recreation/Public Safety
- Public Works Meeting – February 13, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.
- Public Utilities Meeting – February 14, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

INFORMATION

2007 Forestry Report: Myles Olson, City Forester, presented the 2007 Forestry Report to the City Council. As part of his presentation, Mr. Olson presented a concern about hazardous trees close to the City sidewalks and streets. The current City ordinance does not allow the City to remove that type of hazard. Another concern Mr. Olson indicated was the lack of tree planting incorporated into new developments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Schmalz moved, being seconded by Councilmember Lee, to adjourn the meeting at 5:22 p.m. On vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion unanimously carried and the meeting adjourned.

Steve Nordhagen, Mayor

Attest: _____
Jodie R. Torkelson, City Administrator