

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

February 1, 2011

The City Council of Thief River Falls, Minnesota, met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on February 1, 2011 in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The following Councilmembers were present: Cullen, Erickson, Haj, Kajewski, Swanson, and Mayor Nordhagen. Councilmembers Holten and Schmalz were absent. Mayor Nordhagen chaired the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Cullen motioned, being seconded by Councilmember Kajewski, to approve the agenda with the addition of four items. On vote being taken, the motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-27-10: APPROVAL OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Cullen introduced Resolution No. 2-27-11, being seconded by Councilmember Kajewski, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to approve the December 7, 2010 Tax Abatement Hearing Proceedings, the January 4, 2011 Council Proceedings, and the January 6, 2011 Street Improvement Project Hearing Proceedings.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-28-11: APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Cullen introduced Resolution No. 2-28-11, being seconded by Councilmember Kajewski, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to authorize payment of bills and disbursements in the total amount of \$162,988.26. A printout of the approved payments and disbursements is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-29-11: APPROVAL OF CITY OF THIEF RIVER FALLS MONITORING AND REGULATING OF FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES

The City Council expressed its concern regarding the future of City spending. Following discussion, Councilmember Kajewski introduced Resolution No. 2-29-11, being seconded by Councilmember Haj, that:

WHEREAS, the cuts to Local Government Aid that the City of Thief River Falls will receive for 2011 and 2012 has not yet been determined by the Governor and State legislature; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Thief River Falls is required under Minnesota Statute to operate with a balanced budget.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council instructs division and department managers to thoroughly monitor and hold down overtime and other premium pays, to only approve travel and training that is mandatory for maintaining necessary licenses and has received approval by the Budget and Finance Committee, and to continue to look for additional efficiencies and savings.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-30-11: APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The Mayor presented recommendations for filling of positions on various boards and commissions. Following discussion, Councilmember Kajewski introduced Resolution No. 2-30-11, being seconded by Councilmember Haj, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to accept the Mayor's recommendations and approve the following appointments, effective February 1, 2011:

HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – 5 year term
Emery Lee

PLANNING COMMISSION & BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS – 3 year term
Jim Mattson (reappointment)
John Johnson (reappointment)
Richard Sjoberg (reappointment)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD – 3 year term
Chad Broadwell
Tim Hagl

TRF LIBRARY BOARD – 3 year term
Brianna Drevlow
Mary Forney

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-31-11: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AID TO CITIES

In response to a concern of a reduction in Local Government Aid, Councilmember Cullen introduced Resolution No. 2-31-11, being seconded by Councilmember Kajewski, that:

WHEREAS, Local Government Aid (LGA) was established in 1971 as part of the “Minnesota Miracle” as a method of providing fairness in property taxation across the state. The underlying philosophy of the LGA program is that no matter what corner of the state we live in, no matter how poor a city’s property tax base is, and no matter how high a city’s need is, we all have the right to needed services such as police and fire protection, libraries, parks and recreation programs, and safe roads year-round, among others; and,

WHEREAS, the City began cutting costs with the 2004 budget and through merging of departments, streamlining operations, and other efficiencies have been able to reduce the city workforce by 10% while still maintaining services; and,

WHEREAS, LGA and Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) cuts to Thief River Falls have totaled \$782,181 since 2008 and if LGA were eliminated totally the property taxes in Thief River Falls would have to be increased by 180% or services drastically reduced or eliminated; and,

WHEREAS, higher property taxes and lower services in Thief River Falls will make us even less competitive for jobs and economic growth with suburban cities in Minnesota and with cities in other states; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor and Legislature in the past have not shown willingness to seriously scrutinize State agency budgets for savings and instead pass the increased cost of state government on to local governments in new or higher fees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Thief River Falls urges the Legislature to not reduce LGA without a comprehensive budget plan that shows all of the cuts to all segments of the budget that are needed to eliminate the State’s deficit; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature not cut LGA disproportionately more than any other segment of the State’s budget; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon passage, this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the Senate Majority Leader, and to the members of the State Legislature representing the City of Thief River Falls.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-32-11: APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 FOR SCHMITZ BUILDERS, INC. FOR AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING RENOVATIONS

Engineering Services Director Borseth presented a proposed Change Order for the Schmitz Builders contract. Following discussion, Councilmember Cullen introduced Resolution No. 2-32-11, being seconded by Councilmember Erickson, that:

RESOLVED, to approve Change Order No. 2 to Schmitz Builders, Inc. contract for renovations to the Thief River Falls Regional Airport. Change Order No. 2 will not increase or decrease the final contract cost of \$377,172.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-33-11: APPROVAL TO DONATE SURPLUS HURST JAWS OF LIFE TO VIKING FIRE AND RESCUE

A request from the Viking Fire and Rescue Department was considered. Following discussion, Councilmember Erickson introduced Resolution No. 2-33-11, being seconded by Councilmember Kajewski, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to donate the Hurst Jaws of Life extraction equipment that was declared as surplus property by Resolution No. 11-238-10, to the Viking Fire and Rescue Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Hold Harmless Agreement shall be signed by the Viking Fire and Rescue Department which holds the City harmless and that all applicable state and federal rules shall be followed.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-34-11: APPROVAL OF ANNEXATION AND COMPENSATION AGREEMENT WITH RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE REGARDING LAND ANNEXED INTO CITY LIMITS BY ORDINANCE NO. 48, 3rd SERIES

Director of Utilities Rude presented a proposed agreement. Following discussion, Councilmember Kajewski introduced Resolution No. 2-34-11, being seconded by Councilmember Erickson, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, to authorize and direct the Mayor and City Administrator to execute an Annexation and Compensation Agreement with Red Lake Electric Cooperative regarding the land recently annexed into the City limits by Ordinance No. 48, 3rd Series.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-35-11: APPROVAL OF SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT WITH JEFFREY AND TRISTA LUND

A proposed Subordination Agreement was presented to the City Council. Following discussion, Councilmember Cullen introduced Resolution No. 2-35-11, being seconded by Councilmember Haj, that:

RESOLVED, by the City Council, that the City hereby agrees to subordinate its position on a slow second mortgage issued by the City of Thief River Falls to Jeffrey D.G. Lund and Trista L. Lund to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. on property legally described as Lot Eight, Block One, Oakland Park Fourth Addition.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

- Utilities Committee – February 7, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.
- Parks and Recreation/Public Safety Committee – February 8, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.
- Administrative Services Committee – February 9, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.
- Public Works Committee – February 10, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.
- Public Hearing 2011 Street & Utilities Improvement Project – February 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
- City Council Meeting – February 14, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Day at the Capitol – St. Paul, MN February 15, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Cullen moved, being seconded by Councilmember Kajewski, to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 p.m. until Monday, February 14, 2011 at 5:30 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