

MINUTES
CITY OF THORP REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015 AT 6:30PM
IN THORP CITY HALL

ROUTINE BUSINESS

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. In attendance were Mayor Stroinski; Alderpersons Baumgarten, Lawcewicz, Abramczak, Smriga, and Wnek; DPW McCredden; Police Chief Verges; Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Pogodzinski; and City Administrator Reeg.
2. Comments and suggestions from pre-registered citizens
None.
3. Consent Agenda—The City Council, with a single vote and without debate, may act upon the following items. Any council member wishing to debate an individual item may request that it be considered separately
 - a. Approval of minutes from February 9, 2015 Regular City Council meeting
 - b. Approval of Operator’s License—Dawn Geraty
 - c. Approval of Operator’s License—Michelle Barforth
M/M/S (Abramczak, Wnek) to approve. Carried unanimously.
4. Discussion and possible action relating to monthly reports:
 - a. Police Department monthly report
In addition to the monthly report, Verges reported on an increasing regularity of the PD being asked to perform routine PBT tests, such as for probation compliance. She inquired about establishing a fee to offset costs. It was agreed by general consensus to consider a fee at a future meeting.
 - b. Public Works/Utilities monthly report
McCredden reported that the warming house was closed for the season, and that very soon, as the ice continues to degrade, the lights would be shut off and the rink closed for the season. He also reported the first frozen water service of the season, as the frost had dropped in February.
 - c. Administrator’s Report, Financial Report, Vouchers, Payroll Register & Journal Entries
Reeg briefly reported on a new service the City would be piloting, called SeeClickFix, which enables citizen to report issues to the City in real-time via a smart phone app.
M/M/S (Abramczak, Wnek) to approve all as presented. Carried unanimously.
 - d. Library monthly report
Nothing in addition to the monthly report.
 - e. Reports from various committees
Aldersperson Smriga reported that the Sustainability Committee had acquired a prescription drug drop off box and it would be installed soon.
 - f. Reports from elected officials
None.

OLD BUSINESS

5. Discussion and possible action to award bid for 2015 lawn mowing services
Green Shoes Lawn Care was the low bidder on cemetery mowing.
M/M/S (Smriga, Baumgarten) to award the cemetery mowing to Green Shoes. Carried unanimously.
Larson Lawn Mowing LLC was the low bidder for city parks & green space mowing. Reeg and McCredden had met with Tim Larson and felt he would be able to handle the job.

M/M/S (Baumgarten, Lawcewicz) to award the bid to Larson Lawn Mowing LLC. Carried unanimously.

6. Discussion and possible action to award bids for pool tiling and caulking projects
McCredden reported that 4 bids had been received, but only three that met specifications. Of the 3 qualified bids, Henke Construction was the lowest at \$8150. This was well below the estimated cost of \$14,000.
M/M/S (Wnek, Lawcewicz) to award the bid to Henke Construction. Carried unanimously.
7. Discussion and possible action to approve recommendations from Equipment Committee regarding 2015 equipment purchases
M/M/S (Smruga, Lawcewicz) to sell the 2000 Ford pickup as surplus. Carried unanimously.
M/M/S (Wnek, Smruga) to approve up to \$1900 for the purchase of a flatbed box to be installed onto the 2001 Ford pickup. Carried unanimously.
M/M/S (Abramczak, Wnek) to put out sealed bids for a new pickup truck. The lowest bid meeting specs would be awarded. Carried unanimously.
M/M/S (Smruga, Lawcewicz) to put out sealed bids for a new skidsteer. The lowest net cost to the city after trade-in, with the new machine meeting specs, would be awarded. Carried unanimously.
8. Discussion and possible action to approve purchase of additional LED Christmas decorations
M/M/S (Wnek, Lawcewicz) to approve the purchase on new lights not to exceed \$5253 with \$2003 coming from the sale of surplus lights, donations, and the balance to come from reserve funds. Carried unanimously.
9. Approval of revised right of way plat for S. Adams Street bridge project
M/M/S (Smruga, Wnek) to approve the revised right Right-of-Way Plat and Relocation Order. Carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

10. Discussion and possible action to establish a formal debt and borrowing policy
After discussion on various options, the City Council asked Reeg to bring back 3 options for a debt policy: debt ceiling at 65% of statutory limit, debt ceiling at 75% of statutory limit, and debt ceiling \$1 million below statutory limit.
No action taken.
11. Discussion and possible action to declare certain pieces of equipment as surplus and order their disposal including:
 - a. Toro mower
 - b. Snapper mower
 - c. Old roller (brand unknown)
 - d. Scrap metalM/M/S (Wnek, Smruga) to declare all to be sold as surplus, and to earmark up to \$2000 in proceeds for a cover for a dump truck bed. Carried unanimously.
12. Discussion and possible action relating to purchase of tri-pod for Public Works & Utilities
M/M/S (Abramczak, Lawcewicz) to approve \$2340 to purchase a new tripod from SafeFast. Carried unanimously.

13. Discussion and possible action to approve 2015 membership in CCEDC
M/M/S (Smriga, Lawcewicz) to approve 2015 membership. Carried unanimously.
14. Resolution 2015-03-1 “Resolution Approving a Jury Duty Policy”
M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Wnek) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.
15. Resolution 2015-03-2 “Resolution Declaring April 20-24, 2015 as Sustainability Week in Thorp”
M/M/S (Baumgarten, Smriga) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.
16. Discussion and possible action relating to establishment of snow plowing policy
There was some concern over a recent decision to plow on a Saturday with very little snowfall. After discussions, it was agreed that for now the informal policy of evaluating each snowfall individually would be continued rather than establishing some arbitrary benchmark. No action taken.
17. Discussion and possible action relating to building permit requirements for commercial renovations and the \$30,000 threshold for remodeling projects
Reeg noted that he had been contacted by the state commercial inspector, asking the City to consider requiring permits for commercial renovations. Reeg felt that a more comprehensive review should be done concurrently to any changes being made. It was agreed by general consensus to repurpose the recently established Ad Hoc Equipment Committee to an Ad Hoc Special Projects Committee and have them do the review. Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Bob Christensen would be included in this review. No action taken.
18. Discussion and possible action relating to community branding project
Reeg had obtained a quote from WCWRPC to facilitate a community branding project. With the quote at ~\$10,000, Reeg felt an internal attempt should be made first. It was agreed by general consensus to have each member of the council bring back ideas for community partners to include in the process. No action taken.
19. Discussion and possible action relating to possible agreement with Thorp Area Chamber of Commerce to perform Tourism function
An informal idea had been circulating for a few months to consider contracting with the Chamber of Commerce to perform Tourism function—a model being used in Chippewa Falls and many other places. There is a significant amount of overlap between goals and objectives—the idea would be to streamline process, provide greater flexibility, and defragment core community efforts. A 1-year trial basis would be suggested. Because the Tourism Commission has autonomous authority, City Council approval was not specifically required, but input and feedback was welcomed. There were no concerns voiced at the concept. Reeg noted that formal discussion would be beginning soon. No action taken.

CLOSING BUSINESS

20. Consider moving into closed session per Wis. Stats 19.85(1)(e) to discuss the following:
 - a. Potential development agreement for pending project in TID #5
 - b. Discussion of municipal business that for bargaining reasons requires a closed sessionM/M/S (Baumgarten, Abramczak) to move into closed session. Carried unanimously.
21. Reconvene into open session for any action required as the result of closed session
M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Smriga) to reconvene into open session. Carried unanimously.
No action taken as the result of closed session.

CLOSING BUSINESS

22. Comments and suggestions from pre-registered citizens

None.

23. Reports from Department Heads, Mayor, Council, Committees, and discussion of future agenda items

Reeg noted that Pippi Spletter had applied for liquor licenses to reopen Pippi's Firehouse Restaurant. The application had not been received in time to meet statutory publication requirements for this meeting, but it would be considered at the next meeting of the City Council.

Mayor Stroinski reminded the City Council that the annual organization meeting would be April 21st, and to let him know if they were happy with current appointments, or if any member of the City Council desired a different committee assignment.

No action taken.

24. Adjournment

M/M/S (Abramczak, Wnek) to adjourn at 8:43pm. Carried unanimously.

Date of Publication

Ray Stroinski
Mayor

Randall D. Reeg
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer