

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

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. In attendance were Mayor Stroinski; Alderpersons Cowley, Lawcewicz, Abramczak, Smriga, and Wnek; DPW McCredden; Police Chief Verges; Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Pogodzinski; Library Director Beloungy; and City Administrator Reeg.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

2. Public Hearing on 2016 General Fund Operating Budget

a. Open Public Hearing

Mayor Stroinski opened the public hearing.

b. Public Commentary

Reeg noted there were copies of the budget summary available to the audience. There was no public commentary.

c. Close Public Hearing

M/M/S (Smriga, Wnek) to close the public hearing. Carried unanimously.

**ROUTINE BUSINESS**

3. Comments and suggestions from pre-registered citizens

Mayor Stroinski noted that item #11 (review of determination of CUP denial for HFC) was a review of written documentation only and no additional public commentary would be accepted on the subject. No public comments.

*Items #11 and #13 were taken out of order at this time. Minutes will be kept in numerical order for record-keeping purposes.*

4. 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 October 12, 2015 Regular City Council meeting
- b. Approval of minutes from October 15, 2015 Special City Council meeting
- c. Approval of minutes from October 19, 2015 Special City Council meeting
- d. Approval of minutes from October 29, 2015 Special City Council meeting
- e. Approval of minutes from November 4, 2015 Regular City Council meeting
- f. Approval of appointment of Brad Ceranski to the Park & Recreation Board
- g. Approval of Operator's Licenses for Linda F. Krahn and Shannon Clark

M/M/S (Wnek, Lawcewicz) to approve the consent agenda. Carried unanimously.

*Items #7 thru #10 and #16 were taken out of order at this time. Minutes will be kept in numerical order for record-keeping purposes.*

5. Discussion and possible action relating to monthly reports:

- a. Administrator's Report, Financial Report, Vouchers, Payroll Register & Journal Entries  
M/M/S (Wnek, Abramczak) to approve all as presented. Carried unanimously.

b. Police Department monthly report

In addition to the monthly report, Alderperson Smriga inquired as to why there was only police coverage until midnight on Halloween. Verges noted that she filled in for an officer who had requested off, and that it was very quiet before she went off duty at midnight.

c. Public Works/Utilities monthly report

In addition to the monthly report, McCredden noted that there was a service leak on E. Rusch Street that required repair.

- d. Library monthly report  
Belongy reported that some citizens had coordinated an “Exercise Your Mind” fundraising walk for the library and preliminary numbers looked like about \$2500 raised.
- e. Reports from various committees  
None.
- f. Reports from elected officials  
None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- 6. Resolution 2015-10-1 “Resolution Authorizing the Reallocation of Expenses for City Hall Improvements from Operating Budget to City Hall Reserve”  
M/M/S (Wnek, Lawcewicz) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.
- 7. Discussion and possible action relating to S. Adams St. bridge project including:
  - a. Update on project status and timeline  
Reeg noted that the land acquisition would likely not be complete until late December. Accordingly, construction activities would not commence until spring.
  - b. Resolution 2015-11-1 “Resolution Approving Pay Application #1 from Haas Sons Inc. for S. Adams Street Bridge Project”  
M/M/S (Abramczak, Smriga) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.
- 8. Discussion and possible action relating to W. Lawrence Street water improvements including:
  - a. Update on infrastructure improvements  
Reeg and McCredden detailed all the work that had been completed in the area including the installation of alternate mains exiting the water treatment plant, installation of a new section of water main in the 500 block of W. Lawrence Street, new service connection for 2 homes on the new main, re-televising of Well #9 to assure integrity, and pigging of the mains in the vicinity to remove residual sediment.
  - b. Resolution 2015-11-2 “Resolution Approving Pay Application #1 from Haas Sons Inc. for W. Lawrence Street Water Main Installation”  
M/M/S (Abramczak, Lawcewicz) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.
  - c. Update on water quality assessments  
Reeg reported that after proactively engaging the state and county health departments in order to eliminate any health concerns residents had expressed, the final step was for the county health department to visit the two effected homes and resample the water to reconfirm the safe water results the city had achieved after previous testing. This had not been done to date.
  - d. Potential additional sediment remediation steps in affected homes  
It was agreed by general consensus to postpone this discussion until after the county health department process was complete.
- 9. Discussion and possible action relating to Well #15 project including:
  - a. Project status update; approve Change Order #4  
M/M/S (Smriga, Wnek) to approve Change Order #4. Carried unanimously.
  - b. Resolution 2015-11-3 “Resolution Approving Pay Application #2 from Haas Sons Inc. for Well #15 Project”  
M/M/S (Abramczak, Smriga) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.
- 10. Resolution 2015-11-4 “Resolution Approving Final Pay Application from Haas Sons Inc. for Phase 2 of the W. Liberty Drive Improvements”  
M/M/S (Abramczak, Cowley) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.

11. Review of determination under sec. 68.09 Wis. Stats. of the denial of Conditional Use Permit to Holland's Family Cheese  
Mayor Stroinski allowed a brief statement from Attorney Gill representing Holland's Family Cheese. City Attorney Salm was asked if members of the City Council who were absent at the previous meeting were required to abstain now. He indicated they were not.  
Aldersperson Smriga noted that Ward 4 in particular had odor issues and reports of health concerns. Aldersperson Wnek reiterated his stance that they should not exceed the total of 435 animals until the odor is mitigated.  
Aldersperson Lawcewicz inquired of Salm if they were unable to consider the existing odor problem. Salm replied that the decision was if the number of animals requested in the new CUP would be significant enough to noticeably add to the problem.  
Attorney Gill suggested that they could bring scientific evidence to a future meeting to prove it would not add to the odor.  
Aldersperson Smriga noted that it was an outstanding business, but that the needs of all constituents needed to be considered.  
Aldersperson Lawcewicz indicated that they should remedy the existing problem first, then ask for more animals.  
M/M/S (Wnek, Smriga) to reconfirm the denial of the CUP. Carried on a 4-1 roll call vote with Alderspersons Cowley, Lawcewicz, Smriga, and Wnek voting aye, and Aldersperson Abramczak voting no.
12. Discussion and possible action relating to application for water and sewer service by Cory Treffert at N14952 Wilderness Ave.  
Reeg reported that while the Trefferts were undertaking the annexation process, they encountered issues that required them to seek permission for immediate connection to municipal water and sewer.  
M/M/S (Smriga, Cowley) to approve the water and sewer service connection contingent upon them first submitting a petition for annexation, agreeing not to withdraw the petition for a specified period of time. Carried unanimously.
13. Discussion and possible action relating to potential baseball field complex and fundraising and operational relationship with Thorp Ball Club, Inc.  
After lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the city should retain ownership of the land, and that the baseball complex should be a city owned facility.  
M/M/S (Smriga, Abramczak) to authorize the Thorp Ball Club Inc. and the Parks & Recreation Board to fundraise for the construction of the ball field complex, authorize the City Administrator to collect and hold in trust financial donations or commitments for donated goods and services, authorize the Parks & Recreation Board to work with the Thorp Ball Club Inc. to further plan, design, and coordinate for construction various phases of completion—each phase to be approved by the City Council in advance, and to draft an annual operating and maintenance agreement for the complex with the Thorp Ball Club Inc. when timely. Carried on a 4-1 roll call vote with Alderspersons Abramczak, Smriga, Wnek, and Cowley voting aye, and Aldersperson Lawcewicz voting no.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

14. Resolution 2015-11-5 "Resolution Authorizing the Write-Off of Bad Debt Owed the City of Thorp"  
M/M/S (Abramczak, Lawcewicz) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.
15. Discussion and possible action relating to authorizing bidding out for a new primary squad for the Thorp Police Department  
It was agreed by general consensus to have Verges collect estimates for Expeditions, Explorers and Durangos with the necessary equipment to put each into service.

16. Discussion and possible action relating to Urban Nonpoint Source & Stormwater Management Grant including:
- a. Ordinance 2015-11-6 “Ordinance Creating and Ordaining Title 8-8 of the City of Thorp Code of Ordinances Regarding Stormwater Management”  
M/M/S (Smriga, Wnek) to enact the ordinance. Carried unanimously.
  - b. Resolution 2015-11-7 “Resolution Adopting an Updated Stormwater Management Plan for the City of Thorp”  
A specific resolution had not been drafted, but copies of the stormwater management plan had been provided.  
M/M/S (Smriga, Wnek) to approve the Stormwater Management Plan for the City of Thorp. Carried unanimously.
17. Discussion and possible action relating to establishing an incentive for achieving 2015 recycling goals  
M/M/S (Smriga, Cowley) to approve a 1-month credit for residential recycling fees if the goal of a 10% increase was met. Carried unanimously.
18. Discussion and possible action relating to selecting the 2016 insurance carrier for liability, property, worker’s compensation and related coverages including:
- a. Renewal quote from LGPIF  
Reeg noted that since the LGPIF was being phased out in a few years, the premium renewal came in with a greater than 70% increase.
  - b. Compare quotes from EMC (current carrier) and LWMMI  
Reeg recommended switching coverage to LWMMI due to the lower premiums and better coverage—noting that EMC had been a good provider and that it was a financial decision only.  
M/M/S (Wnek, Cowley) to approve the switch the LWMMI. Carried unanimously.
  - c. Resolution 2015-11-8 “Resolution Authorizing Withdrawal from the Local Government Property Insurance Fund”  
M/M/S (Abramczak, Lawcewicz) to adopt the resolution. Carried unanimously.
19. Discussion and possible action relating to selecting the 2016 dental insurance carrier  
Reeg had acquired alternate quotes for dental insurance. Delta Dental was significantly cheaper with virtually identical coverage. Reeg noted the past practice for splitting dental premiums was convoluted and suggested setting the split at 75% paid by the City, 25% paid by the employee. Significant savings would still be achieved for the city.  
M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Wnek) to approve switching to Delta Dental and splitting premiums 75%/25%. Carried unanimously.
20. Discussion and possible action relating to selecting the 2016 health insurance carrier  
Alternate quotes had been acquired, including high deductible plans with and HSA. With all things considered, Mayor Stroinski and Reeg suggested renewing with Anthem for the same coverage at 10.3% premium increase.  
M/M/S (Smriga, Lawcewicz) to renew with Anthem. Carried unanimously.
21. Adoption of the 2016 General Fund Operating Budget  
Reeg suggested several small amendments due to Fire & Ambulance levies, and liability and dental insurance decisions.  
M/M/S (Smriga, Lawcewicz) to amend the proposed budget to increase the ambulance levy from \$6124 to \$6128, the fire levy from \$33,209 to \$36,737 and reduce contingency funds from \$12,500 to \$8968 (a net effect of zero on the levy). Carried unanimously.

M/M/S (Wnek, Smriga) to amend the proposed budget to decrease Administration insurance by \$359, Police insurance by \$1061, DPW insurance by \$1769, and Parks insurance by \$627, and to increase contingency funds by \$3816 (a net effect of zero on the levy). Carried unanimously.

Reeg was also instructed, during a brief recess, to calculate the effect of the dental insurance switch, the two amendments above, and make the final exempt computer aid calculation and to bring a revised budget back.

After the recess, Reeg returned. The levy after the requested adjustments would be \$427,047 (up from \$410,132 the previous year).

M/M/S (Wnek, Smriga) to adopt the summary budget as amended. Carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

22. Discussion and possible action relating to the 2016-2020 5-Year Capital Plan

It was agreed by general consensus to table. No action taken.

**CLOSING BUSINESS**

23. Comments and suggestions from pre-registered citizens

None.

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

None.

25. Adjournment

M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Smriga) to adjourn at 8:54pm. Carried unanimously.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Publication

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Ray Stroinski  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randall D. Reeg  
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer