



**200 Center Avenue South
Montrose, Minnesota 55363**

**CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
December 14, 2009**

Pursuant to call and notice the Montrose City Council met in regular session on Monday, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Mayor Andy Kauffman, Council Members Ryan Andreae, Scott Jensen, Sharon Knodel and Jeff Petersen. Also present were Sean Diercks, public works director, Sarah Sarah Schwarzhoff , city attorney, Justin Kannas, city engineer, Wendy Manson, deputy clerk and Barb Swanson, city administrator.

Agenda

Motion by Andreae, seconded by Knodel to approve the amended agenda changing approval of the 2010 levy and budget to immediately follow the public hearing. Carried 5-0.

Truth in Taxation Public Hearing

Mayor Kauffman read the following statement:

“It is the hope of the Montrose City Council that the following information will help you better understand the impact for the 2010 taxes.

In September the city council adopted a *proposed* 18.5% levy increase for 2010. Historically the city has adopted a higher proposed levy because it can easily be decreased but cannot be increased without special legislation this approach provides much more flexibility during the budget process. Since the September meeting the city council has met twice to review the 2010 budget and find ways to decrease the proposed levy.

The obstacles the city has to contend with include the following items:

- Local Government Aid reduction in 2008 of \$48,205
- Local Government Aid reduction in 2009 of \$45,537
- Local Government Aid reduction in 2010 of \$105,070
- Reduction in market values averaging 10%
- Reduction in tax collections from 95% to 75%

On December 14, 2009, the city council will consider adopting a 4% increase for the final 2010 levy.

A 4% increase will provide the current level of operation without reducing services to the residents.”

Barb Swanson review the year to date savings of \$211,197.00 and the total Local Government Aid loss of \$198,812.0.

The following people spoke during the public hearing: Evan Siljander, Eivind Birkelo, Mary Handt, Bob Chantland, Mark Krotzer, Lloyd Johnson, Jennifer Simmons, Chris McGill, Eric Ellwoods, Tim Solien, Charlie Nelson, Sue Trettor and Jason Simmons.

The public hearing was closed at 8:13p.m.

Adoption of 2010 Levy and Budget

Motion by Andreae, seconded by Jensen, to adopt a 0% increase for the 2010 levy. Carried 5-0.

The total levy will remain the same as 2009, which is \$847,580.

The meeting was recessed until 8:30p.m.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Knodel, seconded by Andreae to approve the Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes: November 9, 2009
- B. Accounts Payable: December 14, 2009, \$217,132.66
- C. Fire Department Accounts Payable: December 14, 2009, \$3,358.13
- D. November 2009 utility adjustments
- E. 2010 Wright County Dept of Highways Maintenance Agreement

Carried 4-0-1, abstain Jensen.

Creekside Hollow

Motion by Andreae, seconded by Jensen to extend the preliminary plat for two years for Creekside Hollow. Carried 5-0.

Administrative Fines

The city council directed staff to proceed with finding a hearing official.

Engineering

Justin Kannas updated the city council on all of the current engineering projects.

Council directed Kannas to provide a monthly update of each project with total costs at each council meeting.

Kannas was directed to stop working on the Safe Routes to School project until the council is updated on total costs to date. Kannas will provide that information along with the original feasibility report at the January council meeting.

The greenway habitat corridor project was put on hold until the city is informed if the grant was awarded to Montrose.

2009 Budget Amendment

Motion by Petersen, seconded by Andreae to approve the budget amendments as presented. Carried 5-0.

Park & Recreation

Kauffman provided a short update on park fund raising projects including snow mobile run later in the winter.

Planning & Zoning

Staff was directed to proceed with the public hearing regarding keeping chickens in a residential zoning district.

Motion by Kauffman, seconded by Jensen, to appoint Chuck Smallwood and Roy Henry to the planning commission for a three year terms. Carried 5-0.

Water Ordinance

Motion by Petersen, seconded by Andreae to adopt Ordinance 2009-06 the Montrose Water System. Carried 5-0.

Sewer Rate Increase

Motion by Knodel, seconded by Petersen to adopt Resolution 2009-22 increasing the sanitary sewer rates. Carried 5-0.

Water Rate Increase

Motion by Knodel, seconded Petersen to adopt Resolution 2009-23 increasing the water rates. Carried 5-0.

Donations

Motion by Petersen, seconded by Andreae to adopt Resolution 2009-25 accepting the donations received by the city in 2009. Carried 5-0.

Rolling Green

Motion by Andreae, seconded by Jensen to extend the preliminary plat for Autumn Winds for two years. Carried 5-0.

Council Retreat

Staff was directed to cancel retreat with Don Salverda due to budget restrictions.

Motion by Andreae, seconded by Knodel to hold a retreat without a facilitator under 4 hours to review city goals, planning etc. Carried 4-1. Opposed Jensen.

Acknowledgements

- Al Mohring thank you for years of service on the Planning Commission
- Eric Ellwoods and Greg Youmans for their time at Breakfast with Santa
- Joanne Kilmer for winning \$10,000 on American's Funniest Videos
- Newer council members for asking the tough questions
- Barb and staff for their work reducing expenses and with the 2010 budget
- All residents who took the time to come to the Truth in Taxation hearing

Adjournment

The council meeting was adjourned at 9:40p.m.

Andy Kauffman, Mayor

Barbara Thwing-Swanson, Administrator