



**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HIGHWOOD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE HIGHWOOD CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – DECEMBER 1, 2009**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pecaro called the meeting of the Highwood City Council Committee of the Whole to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Pecaro; Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Fiore, Harpster, Falberg, Murphy-Pieri, and Linari

Absent: Aldermen Sepulveda

Also present: M. Burke, City Clerk; T. Lenzini, City Treasurer, G. Jackson, City Manager; A. Marrin, Assistant City Manager; D. Blondin, City Attorney

There being a quorum present, the Mayor announced the meeting to be in session.

3. Executive Session

Attorney Blondin announced the need for an Executive Session under 2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting and 2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

Alderman Fiore made a motion that was seconded by Alderman Bruni to go into executive session under exceptions 2(c)(11) litigation and 2 (c)(2) collective bargaining as described by Mr. Blondin. Passed unanimously by voice vote at 6:07 p.m.

At 6:48 pm, Mayor Pecaro called the COW back into session. Alderman Fiore made a motion that was seconded by Alderman Murphy-Pieri to reconvene the COW meeting. Vote:

Ayes: Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Fiore, Harpster, Falberg, Murphy-Pieri, and Linari

Nays: --

Absent: Alderman Sepulveda

The motion passed and the meeting reconvened at 6:48 pm.

4. Any Action Necessary Coming Out of Executive Session

n/a

5. Review of Minutes

Consideration of the minutes of both the COW and regular Council Meetings held on November 17 would be tabled at the request of Alderman Fiore who said that he had seen some inaccuracies that he wanted to address.

6. Appointments

Library Board: Judy Broderick for the term ending July 1, 2010. Ms. Broderick was present at the meeting and spoke to the council about her prior service on the Library Board and why she wanted to be reappointed at this time. She also talked about the popular adult programming she had instituted and still ran (two book clubs) and the Cookbook she was in charge of publishing as a fundraiser.

Library Board: Bertha Chavez. Being referred to the Library Board. Ms. Chavez was not at the meeting.

7. Review of Bills

n/a

8. Special Business

None

9. New Business

9.1. Discussion of Executive Session Minutes to be released.

Mayor Pecaro initiated a discussion about the semi-annual review and release of Executive Session minutes, stating that he would like to start releasing these, especially the ones that are several years old. Mr. Blondin said that Highwood typically did this in January and July. He said that the council at a minimum had to state that the council had reviewed the executive session minutes and had determined not to release any.

Alderman Murphy-Pieri noted that Bill Balling had done a review of the executive session minutes and had produced detailed notes about what each covered. She said that the Legislative Committee had asked Clerk Burke prepare a similar document based on her review of the executive session minutes from where Mr. Balling left off to date. Mayor Pecaro asked Clerk Burke to have this complete by the end of December.

9.2. Discussion of Sandwich Board Signage.

Alderman Fiore reviewed the recent history on this issue. About four years ago, there had been objections to sandwich signs because they cluttered the sidewalks. In spite of being fined, however, businesses have continued to put them out because they are effective. He said that business owners have been telling him that they really need to be able to use this type of sign.

After some discussion, the general consensus was that it is only fair to allow such signs but that their appearance should be controlled so that there would be a uniform look (size; materials used), to require an annual fee for such signs, and to provide for insurance requirements to protect the city from any additional liability.

This may require some change to the ordinance establishing the ARC.

Mayor Pecaro referred this to the Long Range Planning Committee for a formal recommendation.

9.3. Review and Discussion of IBC 2006 Building Code.

Alderman Falberg explained that this had come up when the property maintenance code was being discussed. The same oversight happened with the Building Code when the city adopted the IBC 2006 Building Code in 2007 – the local ordinances/provisions were not

carried through. These provisions being omitted from the new code is the basis for the current problem with Morningside and they need to be put back in.

Mr. Jackson was asked to provide a PDF version of the previous ordinance to all council members.

10. Old Business

10.1. Review and Discussion of Estimated Tax Levy for FY 2010-2011

The Mayor said this was the second reading of this motion. The estimated tax levy targets a 4.8% increase in Highwood's property taxes. It is based on: Library - .154% for an increase of \$33,500; Firefighters Pension - \$143,500; Police Pension - \$166,590 with the City's General Fund receiving \$561,500 or about \$16,000 more than in the current year. The variance was characterized as an amount that will almost pay for the increase in the cost of the City's liability insurance. The formal motion to adopt the estimated tax levy will be read at the tonight's regular meeting of the City Council. The Council must then wait 20 days before adopting it. A special meeting has been schedule on December 21 for this purpose.

10.2. Discussion of Boards and Committees Enabling Ordinance.

Has been referred to Legislative Committee

10.3. Review and Discussion of City of Highwood Liquor Ordinance

Has been referred to Legislative Committee

10.4. Review and Discussion of Salary and Compensation Ordinance for Elected Officials

Alderman Murphy-Pieri explained that the aldermen's pay went from \$600/year to \$1,080/year sometime between 1999 and 2001 and that there had to be a previously adopted ordinance covering this. The aldermen who took office in May, 2001 were the first ones covered by this so the ordinance had to have been passed by the prior council. Alderman Murphy-Pieri will continue to search for the enabling ordinance.

10.5. Discussion of Highwood Code of Conduct

Has been referred to Legislative Committee

10.6. Discussion of an Ordinance Amending the Highwood Code Related to the Mayoral Standing Committees.

Has been referred to Legislative Committee

10.7. Discussion of an Ordinance Amending the Highwood City Code Regarding Social Hosting and Underage Drinking

Alderman Falberg assured the community that this ordinance had nothing to do with bars or restaurants, that it only dealt with parties at private homes. It will be on the agenda for passage at the December 15, 2009 meeting of the city council.

10.8. Discussion of an Ordinance Transferring Previously Appropriated Funds Amending the Annual Appropriations Ordinance for Special Events.

Alderman Falberg asked that this be tabled until have the specific line items in the General Fund – Department 11 from which the appropriation will be transferred and in Fund 25 – The Special Events Fund to which it will be transferred. Mr. Jackson said that it would be coming from 01-11-573. Mayor Pecaro said that the particular line items were not the business of the council.

11. Announcements

There will be a Lake County Forest Preserve meeting at Oak Terrace School at 6:30 pm Wednesday, December 2, 2009. Mayor Pecaro will be representing the City of Highwood.

12. Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Alderman Linari, seconded by Alderman Cahnmann, and passed unanimously by voice vote the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

MBURKE
MARCIA BURKE, CITY CLERK

REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED BY THE HIGHWOOD CITY COUNCIL ON: DECEMBER 15, 2009