



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
HIGHWOOD CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HIGHWOOD CITY HALL  
JUNE 15, 2010**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pecaro called the regular meeting of the Highwood City Council to order at 7:45 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone present rose to say the pledge of allegiance

**3. Roll Call**

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

Absent: Alderman Harpster

Attending: M. Burke, City Clerk; T. Lenzini, City Treasurer, ; S. Hannon, Director of Finance

Not attending: R. Pieri, Deputy Fire Chief; A. Marrin, Assistant City Manager; J. Ponsi, Superintendent of Public Works; L. Rossi, Chief of Police; J. Harding, Director of Community Development & Water Distribution; A. Marrin, Assistant City Manager

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

**4. Review of Minutes**

**4.1.** Committee of the Whole: June 1 and June 8, 2010

**4.2.** Regular City Council: June 1, 2010

**4.3.** Executive session: February 16, May 18, June 1, 2010

Motion by Alderman Falberg to:

- o accept the minutes of the Committee of the Whole on June 1, 2010 and June 8, 2010 as presented
- o accept the minutes of the Executive Sessions on February 16, 2010 and May 18, 2010 as presented and
- o to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council on June 1, 2010 as corrected (Alderman Linari was not present for the vote to retain Lindy Fox). Seconded by Alderman Sepulveda.

Vote:

Yes: Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Fiore, Linari, Murphy-Pieri, and Sepulveda

No: –

Absent: Alderman Harpster

Abstain: –

The motion to accept the minutes as listed passed by a vote of 7 yes, 0 no, 1 absent, 0 abstain

**5. Special Business**

none

**6. Appointments**

none

**7. Approval of payments to be made**

The list of June bills to be paid was distributed and reviewed in detail. Alderman Linari made a motion to pay the bills as presented with the exception of Medino Excavating which is approved for payment after exclusion of the overtime charges and NSSRA which is being held pending confirmation that it can be paid from the Nordstrom Fund.

Seconded by Alderman Cahnmann. Vote:

Yes: Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Fiore, Linari, Murphy-Pieri, and Sepulveda

No: --

Absent: Alderman Harpster

Abstain: --

The motion to approve the payment of the bills as presented with the noted exceptions passed by a vote of 7 yes, 0 no, 1 absent, 0 abstain

**8. Public Input regarding items not on agenda**

**Bruce Bertucci, restaurateur**

- complained about Highwood Avenue being closed off for the farmers' market;
- said that the local businesses support the City and have accepted Highwood's liquor license and other business fees even though they were higher than other places;
- requested that businesses and residents pay same rate on water;
- Said that City residents do not know what's going on since our web-site does not function well and we have no newsletter. He said that the City should get email address on everyone in town and send newsletter that way

**Chuck Wixom, CPAC Chair**

Reported that there were two critical meetings coming up. The first one is an open meeting on Monday, June 21 at 7 p.m. the Library. He asked elected officials to attend and requested their help to generate a good turnout of the people who were on key boards

On July 15, Houseal Lavigne will run an envisioning review at the Rec Center. This will be preceded by a report on Highwood facilities being available for review. A copy of Mr. Wixom's remarks are included with these minutes as an attachment.

**David Strosberg, Morningside** – Mr. Strosberg said that he had obtained Ms. Hannon's report through a FOIA request and said that there are fundamental flaws in her analysis and that the numbers are incorrect. He offered Morningside's help in going through the ordinance.

**9. Mayor's Report**

none

**10. Committee Reports.**

The following committees did not report:

**10.1. Long Term Planning** – Alderman Harpster, Chair

**10.2. Finance** - Alderman Linari, Chair

**10.3. Public Safety** – Alderman Cahnmann, Chair

**10.4. Parks and Recreation** – Alderman Fiore, Chair

**10.5. Mayor's Committee on Special Events** - Alderman Falberg, Chair and **Public Outreach**

Alderman Murphy-Pieri, Chair

**10.6. Legislative** – Alderman Murphy-Pieri, Chair

**11. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported the fund balances as of May 28.

She noted that in June the City should receive about \$280,000 in property tax plus additional monies from vehicle stickers but that spending continues to outpace revenue.

Treasurer Lenzini said that the Council needed to work on ways to get expense side under control and reminded everyone that the Line of Credit has to be re-paid.

Mayor Pecaro said that he was being very tight on approving P.O.'s He asked Ms. Hannon to work on the PO procedure to make it more effective.

Ms. Hannon was asked if the payments that were flow-through's could be reported separately. She will look into it.

Alderman Fiore said that he thought that some of the money from property taxes was supposed to go towards paying back the Line of Credit.

A Locis representative will be here on Tuesday (June 22) to explain what their new software would allow Highwood to do.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Alderman Murphy-Pieri; second by Alderman Sepulveda. Vote:

Yes: Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Fiore, Linari, Murphy-Pieri, and Sepulveda

No: –

Absent: Alderman Harpster

Abstain: –

The motion to accept the Treasurer's Report passed by a vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, and 0 Abstain.

**12. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported that she was working with the Mayor on the agenda process that would solicit input from the Aldermen early in the process.

**13. Action Items**

**13.1. Approval of window signage for Nueva Hair Salon, 548 Sheridan Road**  
*ARC has recommended approval of signage. Minutes in packet*

**13.2. Ordinance 10-O-20: An Ordinance Amending SWALCO Agreement**  
*Requested by SWALCO to allow alternates to attend Board meetings. Proposed Ordinance in packet.*

**13.3. Ordinance 10-O-21: An Ordinance Amending the Vehicle Sticker Fee Structure**  
*Imposes significant late fees on people who do not purchase city stickers for their vehicles by July 1. Proposed Ordinance in packet.*

**Omnibus motion to:**

- \* approve the window signage for Nueva Hair Salon, 548 Sheridan Road
- \* adopt Ordinance 10-O-20: An Ordinance Amending SWALCO Agreement as presented
- \* adopt Ordinance 10-O-21: An Ordinance Amending the Vehicle Sticker Fee Structure as presented

was made by Alderman Falberg and seconded by Alderman Bruni.

Discussion: none

Public Input: none

Vote:

Yes: Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Fiore, Linari, Murphy-Pieri, and Sepulveda

No: --

Absent: Alderman Harpster

Abstain: --

The motion to approve the window signage for Nueva Hair Salon and to adopt Ordinances 20 and 21 as presented passed by a vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, and 0 Abstain.

#### 14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Discussion and consideration of Ordinance 10-O-22:** An Ordinance Revising Water And Sewer Charges

Alderman Cahnmann made a motion to adopt Ordinance 10-O-22: An Ordinance Revising Water And Sewer Charges. Alderman Murphy –Pieri seconded.

**Public Input:**

**Ralph Schwartz – general partner/shopping center;** Mr. Schwartz said that Highland Park has lower rates and suggested that it would be cost effective for Highwood to just buy water from Highland Park and close our plant. He also claimed that charging different rates for residential and commercial users is illegal. Highwood has used water funds illegally and the water plant makes money at the current rates .

Mayor Pecaro told Mr. Schwartz that his claims are not accurate. Ms. Hannon explained how the funds generated by water have been used, showing that they were used for proper purposes. She said that a part of the problem is that there were no rate increases over 5 years.

**David Strosberg** – presented based on audited reports City officials with a spreadsheet that he described as a detailed study of the proposed ordinance.

**Paul Diambri** cautioned against over-simplistic analyses. He said that the distribution costs can't be ignored.

Discussion:

Alderman Linari said that she was not comfortable with such a large rate increase. She said that she was not in favor of a 28% increase.

Alderman Fiore asked why the City couldn't start with 10% or 12% increase.

Alderman Falberg responded by saying that the City had a study done by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and that the report supported these increases. He pointed out that capital reserves are needed not only for the plant but for fixing the pipes under almost every road in Highwood. He said that at this time almost every road in Highwood cannot be fixed because of the water damage underneath.

Mayor Pecaro suggested just doing the immediate increases.

Alderman Cahnmann amended his motion to adopt Ordinance 10-O-22 as presented to a motion to adopt Ordinance 10-O-22 modified to exclude the July 1, 2011 increases. Alderman Murphy-Pieri seconded.

Discussion: The rate increases for July 1, 2011 will be removed from the Ordinance as presented. Any future increases will be considered at a later time.

Vote:

Yes: Aldermen Cahnmann, Falberg, Murphy-Pieri, and Sepulveda  
No: Aldermen Bruni, Fiore, and Linari  
Absent: Alderman Harpster  
Abstain: --

The Aldermen voted 4 Yes, 3 No, 1 Absent, and 0 Abstain. The Mayor voted yes and the motion to adopt Ordinance 10-O-22: An Ordinance Revising Water And Sewer Charges excluding the 2011 rate increases passes.

- 14.1. Motion to authorize the Mayor to implement additional group health insurance premium sharing with non-bargaining unit employees**  
**14.2. Discussion and consideration of offering a group health insurance opt-out plan.**

**Items 14.2 and 14.3 were taken together.**

Alderman Falberg made a motion to authorize the Mayor to implement policies:

- requiring non-bargaining unit employees who participate in the Highwood Group Health Insurance Plan to pay 20% of the cost of employee coverage and 50% of the cost of dependent coverage AND
- offering employees who can show that they are covered by a spouse's group health plan the option of not participating in the Highwood group health insurance plan. Those employees who opt-out of the group health plan and remain out of the plan for the entire plan year would be earn a cost-saving award of \$2,000, to be paid as soon as is practicable after the end of the plan year. This payment is only to be made to people who are on the City's payroll when the checks are distributed. Per BC/BS requirements, a maximum of seven (7) employees may be allowed to opt-out. Those employees will be chosen by lottery from the qualified applicants.

Motion seconded by Alderman Sepulveda.

Discussion:

Alderman Falberg said that he did not think that either of these required an ordinance as they are personnel policy issues. Alderman Linari asked what percent of annual premiums \$2,000 was and how that compared to Northbrook. She also said that she wanted to know

what Northbrook's employee only premiums were and how much of that was paid by employees.

Vote:

Yes: Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Fiore, Linari, Murphy-Pieri, and Sepulveda

No: --

Absent: Alderman Harpster

Abstain: --

The motion to authorize the Mayor to implement the group-health insurance premium sharing and the opt-out plan described in the motion passed by a vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 0 Abstain.

**15. New Business**

none

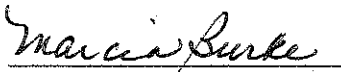
**16. Executive Session**

none

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Fiore, seconded by Alderman Bruni, and passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



MARCIA BURKE, CITY CLERK

REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED BY THE HIGHWOOD CITY COUNCIL ON: JULY 6, 2010