

**MINUTES OF THE HIGHWOOD CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FEBRUARY 16, 2010**

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 Sepulveda

Absent: Alderman Linari

Also present: M. Burke, City Clerk; T. Lenzini, City Treasurer, G. Jackson, City Manager; A. Marrin, Assistant City Manager; M. Zimmerman, City Attorney; J Ponsi, Superintendent of Public Works

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

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Attorney Zimmerman announced the need for an Executive Session under 2(c)(1) personnel issues, 2(c)(2) collective bargaining, and 2(c)(1) salary schedule.

Alderman Falberg made a motion that was seconded by Alderman Cahnmann to go into executive session under exceptions 2(c)(1) personnel and salary schedule and 2(c)(2) collective bargaining as requested by Mr. Zimmerman.

Vote:

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

Nays: --

Absent: Alderman Linari

The motion passed by a vote of 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Absent. The COW recessed to go into executive session at 6:06 p.m.

At 7:15 pm, Mayor Pecaro called the COW back into session.

Alderman Falberg made a motion that was seconded by Alderman Harpster to reconvene the COW meeting.

Vote:

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

Nays: --

Absent: Alderman Linari

The motion passed by a vote of 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Absent. The COW reconvened at 7:15 pm.

4. ANY ACTION NECESSARY COMING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

none

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Alderman Falberg pointed out that the minutes referred to "Judy Putlak" rather than "Lucy Putlak" and asked that the minutes be corrected. The review and acceptance of the minutes for the January 19, 2010 Executive Session was deferred again so that the Clerk can correct an omission.

6. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Pecaro will appoint Mike Steffens, owner, Cellar Gate, to the Parks and Recreation Board for the term 2009-2012. He will be replacing Lucy Putlak whose term expires upon the appointment of her successor.

7. REVIEW OF BILLS

Will be done at the regular meeting of the City Council.

8. SPECIAL BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Discussion of Resolution Opting Out of Video Gaming

The Highland Park ordinance opting out of video gaming and a cover letter detailing the potential revenue loss were in tonight's packet. It was noted that for municipalities that did opt out a set of rule on enforcement had not yet been defined. Also there is a bill pending in Springfield that would impose costs on municipalities that opted out of this. Mayor Pecaro suggested that the council might want to hear from potentially affected members of the business community. Alderman Fiore said that he felt a town meeting to discuss this was needed once we had additional information from the State.

Disposition: consider again in two weeks and determine if want to move ahead with a town hall meeting before additional information about enforcement and penalties is available.

9.2. Discussion of Parking Shortfall Ordinance

Alderman Falberg stated that the parking shortfall fees assessed by Highwood was keeping some businesses from opening in Highwood. He said that the council should want to make it easier to locate in Highwood, not harder. He asked that the council consider a moratorium on such fees for some period of time. To make a moratorium fair to both current and future businesses, what will be explored is a one year moratorium on parking shortfall fees for new businesses and for existing businesses that are current on their fees as of July 1, 2010. Alderman Falberg said that one of the things that needed to be taken into consideration when looking at any issue concerning the business district was the need to tie the north and the south business districts together and to make it easy to go from one to the other. There was extended discussion about the parking shortfall fund and how it should be used. Mr. Jackson confirmed that the fund was owed monies from other fund(s).

Disposition: Mr. Zimmerman was asked to draft an ordinance for the council to consider that incorporates the key items on which there was general agreement. Mr. Jackson said that Ms. Zborowski will prepare a complete schedule of "due to's" for the Treasurer.

9.3. Discussion and Review of City Snowplow Ordinance.

Several aldermen questioned whether the current snowplow ordinance was being enforced. There were a lot of complaints about piles of snow blocking access to streets but there weren't corresponding citations. Mr. Jackson is to instruct the Police Chief that this ordinance is to be strictly enforced. It is the property owners who allowed their snowplowing provider to dump snow inappropriately who would get the ticket. There was also some discussion about whether the fees were too low for violations of the snow plow ordinance. Staff was instructed to put a notice on the city's web-site about the stepped up enforcement of this ordinance.

Disposition: Staff to take the requested actions. Examination of fees to be on the COW agenda for the next meeting.

9.4. Discussion of Engineering Agreement for Green Bay Road Phase III, Baxter & Woodman and Application to Lake County under Recovery Zone Economic Development Bond.

Ms. Marrin explained that Phase II was the part of the Green Bay Road and Highwood Ave. projects that included a lot of sewers and water mains. Having the engineering work done now by Baxter & Woodman is so that the project would be shovel ready if federal or state funding becomes available for infrastructure projects of this type.

The application to Lake County under the Recovery Zone Economic Development Bond is to participate in the lottery to participate in this financing for the Western Avenue projects. A successful application would cut interests cost by 45%.

Disposition: To be brought to the regular council meeting for approval.

9.5. Review and Discussion of Reallocation of Manpower Resources for Rental Inspections.

Mr. Jackson said that he had asked Jeff Harding, Director of Community Development & Water Distribution, to provide him with a memo showing the manpower requirements to do the inspections. Mr. Jackson also mentioned using the Fire Department to do inspections during their down time.

Disposition: Mr. Harding will be told to complete this report.

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1. Discussion of an Ordinance Establishing Boards, Committees and Commissions.

Disposition: Alderman Murphy-Pieri will provide Mayor Pecaro with a complete list of Boards and Commissions and their current membership with terms of office where available

10.2. Discussion of an Amendment to the Appearance Review Code regarding Appearance Review Committee (ARC) Jurisdiction.

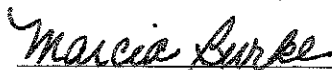
Mr. Zimmerman was asked to draft an Amendment that would make the Appearance Review Committee wholly recommendatory. This is on the regular agenda for a first reading and will be discussed at that time.

Disposition: to be discussed at tonight's regular meeting of the Highwood City Council

11. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Alderman Fiore, seconded by Alderman Sepulveda, and passed by voice vote with no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



MARCIA BURKE, CITY CLERK

REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED BY THE HIGHWOOD CITY COUNCIL ON: MARCH 2, 2010

