

September 8, 2009 **Common Council Minutes**

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The City of Owen Common Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Timothy Swiggum presided and City Clerk/Treasurer Terri Ernst served as secretary. Present Alderpersons: Tolzmann, Lulloff, Shelton, Lorence, Riihinen and Heggemeier. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order. Also present were Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Cardinal, Police Chief Randy Poirier and Police Officer Brad Tatro.

Approve Minutes

A Lorence/Riihinen motion and subsequent vote approved the minutes for the 8/25/09 meeting.

Treasurer's Report

A Shelton/Tolzmann motion and subsequent vote approved the Treasurer's report for August 2009.

Police Report

A Heggemeier/Lorence motion and subsequent vote approved the Owen-Withee Police report for August 2009. Chief Poirier also announced that the Owen Department was awarded an \$8,000 Homeland Security Grant for new radios. The grant covers 75%.

Public Opinion

Present: Nathan LePage with the OW Enterprise, Brian Reilly with Ehlers, Sheila Nyberg, Director for the Clark County Economic Development, and Sue Hossman with Green Energy Technologies.

Public Hearing

The public hearing was opened at 7:10 p.m. by Mayor Timothy Swiggum for consideration of Sec. 13-1-25 Agricultural Business Zoning District Ordinance. The ordinance was reviewed with one change to I. (b) (9) to read as Bio-energy business/research facilities. The public hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

New Ordinance

A Heggemeier/Riihinen motion and subsequent vote approved Sec. 13-1-25 Agricultural Business Zoning District Ordinance.

Financing

A Shelton/Lulloff motion and subsequent vote approved the financing of the 71 acre County land purchase with Community Bank of Central Wisconsin under Resolution #2009-16.

Other Loan Programs

Brian Reilly of Ehlers Financial Advisors reported that the State Trust Fund Loan papers will be addressed at September 22, 2009 Council meeting.

Potential Business

Sue Hossman of Green Energy Technologies was present to discuss her involvement and potential business in the previous Owen Manufacturing buildings. The business would produce wood pellets using all natural wood ingredients. They propose to be in production by July 2010, will invest approximately \$15 million dollars and will bring approximately 20 jobs @ \$10-\$14/hour. The current property needs to go through environmental assessments and contamination testing and then removal. The City is applying for a Brownfield Grant to assist in the costs of that clean up. Another investor in this purchase currently has a plant in Minnesota. The investors highly encourage any type of green energy that may be implemented into the plant also.

Building Contractors

City Hall was recently notified that the Wisconsin Department of Commerce is currently working on a campaign to get all building contractors registered with their department. The City will need to implement an ordinance to regulate contractors working in the City. A Lulloff/Heggemeier motion and subsequent vote approved to check with other local communities in working towards a new ordinance for the City.

Sign Workshop

Council member Bernie Shelton attended a Sign Retro Relectivity Workshop on September 2, 2009. Shelton reported that by 2013 all City responsible signs will need to be updated to the new state requirements. It's essential now for the City to prepare a Plan for replacing of old signs and that can be presented to the State. A Heggemeier/Lorence motion and subsequent vote approved for a sign inventory to be conducted during the evening hours by the Owen Police Department.

Parks & Rec. Committee

Minutes for the 9/2/09 meeting were provided to Council. The message boards will be built over the winter by the Department of Public Works. Proposals will be requested for replacement of shingles on the band stand pavilion and also for a steel roof. Park and Rec. meetings will now be held on the second Wednesday of every month. The campground registration forms are completed and are available on the City's website. A report of a horse and buggy was seen on the walking trail by the Mill Pond plus another report of a car. A hitching post should be considered near the Mill Pond Park and Old School. There is a picnic table near the river in Crowley Park that should be removed. The campsite posts are requested to be moved closer to the road and located on the left side of each site. More tables and fire rings are needed in the campground.

Payroll Report

Presented were time cards for all employees and overtime report for the pay period of 8/8/09 through 9/4/09. A Shelton/Lulloff motion and subsequent vote approved the report. Overtime was reported for emergency functional exercise and water line to new house in Country Side Estates.

Vouchers

A Tolzmann/Riihinen motion and subsequent vote approved paying the following vouchers: City Pooled 40705-40758, City Total \$22,508.05, Water Total \$11,891.87, Sewer total \$6,635.17.

Adjourn

A Heggemeier/Riihinen motion and subsequent vote approved to adjourn the 9/8/09 open session meeting at 8:40 p.m.

(To be considered for approval at the 9/22/09 Council Meeting. Published 9/16/09.)