

SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Sternat with the following roll call:

Members Present: Ald. Voss, Ald. Nitschke, Ald Heron, Ald. Sabel, Ald. McKinnon

Members Absent: Ald Liebenow

Others Present: Mayor Sternat, Kathie Wild, Shelley Eilbes, Karen Christianson, Sally Kahlhamer, Bryan Paynter, Dottie Hoy, Bob Parduhn, David Brandenburg, Duwayne Crist, Clarence Wendorff, Ed Bosch, Pat Wilmont, Jim Klawitter, Chuck Brockhaus, Brian Wendorff, Amy Krieser, Susan Smith, Bob Smith, Dick Pichotta, Roger Becker, Roseann Birr, Mel Drinkwine, Harold Cheesbro, David Pasbrig, Brian Thom, Eugene Gassner

Public Forum and Council Discussion Regarding the Management and Operation of the Mayville Golf Course. Topics may include:

- A. Capital Improvements.
- B. Equipment Purchases.
- C. Financial Reports.
- D. Management.
- E. Communication.
- F. Financial Condition.
- G. Continued City Ownership of the Golf Course.
- H. Terms and Conditions of the Management Agreement.
- I. Operational Controls as may be suggested by Auditor.

The Mayor explained how the meeting was going to be run and that there will be no finger pointing allowed. He wants this to be a civil meeting.

The Mayor reviewed the motion he made to terminate negotiations on the current offer as it pertained to the sale of the City owned Golf Course. He explained that the council could have revised the motion to state that the city wanted to take the golf course off the market and that no further offers will be accepted. It is the council's decision if they want to proceed in that manner.

Joe Cheesbro expressed that he thought that the golf course approves the budget and the board of directors' job is to run the golf course. He thinks that the council is trying to micromanage the golf course.

Ed Bosch asked what the reasons are that they want to sell the golf course. The Mayor explained that an offer to purchase came in and it was his responsibility to bring the offer to the council and for them to look at the offer. There was approval in 2005 by the Planning Commission, Park Board and council to advertise the sale of the golf course. Nothing was done to formally take the golf course off the market. The city was not currently trying to actively sell the golf course. When this offer came in they were trying to determine if the city should be in the golf course business but while doing that the offer became void.

Mel Drinkwine stated that isn't the golf course helping the city's bond rating by paying the \$75,000 bond payment. The Mayor reviewed what the money was used for from the sale of the golf course land. All the money the golf course takes in goes into its own enterprise fund. The bonds for the golf course will be paid off in 9 years.

There was some discussion as to the Tag Center debt and operations and the Mayor explained that we look at each one as a stand alone business. The Tag Center has been given the opportunity to correct itself. When the council approved that gift of the Tag Center they were told that it would not be self supporting.

Ald. McKinnon reported that he had been told there was a problem with the cash register system and that people did not have the proper training. Bob Parduhn stated that the program itself did not have the reports that they needed and that they still have a problem with the inventory. Bob and Shelley are currently working with the company to resolve the issues.

Ald. Heron expressed that we need to start looking at the future and if the city should be in the golf course business. The "for sale" cloud hasn't gone away. We need to address this issue very soon. We also need to address the accounting issue.

Brian Wendorff had a discussion regarding money from the course going into the Enterprise fund and money going out should only be budgeted items or items they have requested that have council approval. They are concerned however when money is going out of the fund that they aren't notified of since they are responsible for the budget. He mentioned that the council approved an hourly increase for the acting Superintendent which was not communicated to the golf board. This has affected their budget.

There was a discussion regarding communication being an issue and how this needs to be overcome. The Mayor mentioned that communication needs to be both ways. The city is finding out about problems from reading the golf board minutes. Problems need to be brought to the city's attention.

How do we see the golf course running smoothly was a question asked to the council by Chuck Brockhaus. Ald. McKinnon would like to give the golf course board more control and find out what they can do. Ald. Voss wants things to go back to the way it was run for the last 75 years. Ald. Sabel would like to have an independent firm run it. Ald. Heron wants the board to run the golf course but wants to make sure proper checks are in place. There was additional discussion regarding the board running the whole course which included the board getting their own accountant and having the golf course employees no longer be city employees.

Ald. Heron felt we need to recommend a statement in the form of a resolution to stop the sale of the golf course. He was wondering if we could put a time frame in the resolution. Attorney Karen Christianson explained that the resolution would only be binding for the term of the current council members and the next council could come in and change it. Ald. McKinnon expressed that we need to put the animosity behind us and keep trying to bring the issues up until they're resolved and put to rest. The Mayor expressed that we need to find a way to make this work for both sides.

Set Time and Place for Next Meeting.

There was some discussion as to when the next meeting would be and what type of meeting it would be. It was decided that the meeting would be on Monday September 24th at 6:30 and that it would be a Special Common Council meeting.

Adjournment.

Motion by Ald. McKinnon, second by Ald. Nitschke to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Kathie Wild
City Clerk