

SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 24, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Mayor Sternat with the following roll call:

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Mayor Sternat, Kathie Wild, Shelley Eilbes (arrived at 6:50), Karen Christianson, Sally Kahlhamer, Bryan Paynter, Ryan Stitely, Craig Warmbold, Chuck Brockhaus, Brian Wendorff, Tom Herman, Susan Smith, Bob Smith, Harold Cheesbro, Gary Krueger

Discuss/Approve Resolution 4183-2007 (Resolution To Approve the Ownership Status of the Mayville Golf Course).

Motion by Ald. McKinnon, second by Ald. Heron. Ald. Heron stated that he would like to amend the resolution to add the wording “for 7 years” to the last paragraph so it would then read “that no further offers will be accepted for 7 years”. Ald. Heron expressed that he knows that adding the timeframe wasn’t binding for future councils but felt that it would make a stronger statement by the council for the sole purpose of making it a comfortable environment for a new groundskeeper to bring his family here. The Mayor asked Ald. Heron why he chose 7 years. Ald. Heron did not have a reason for choosing that time frame. The Mayor stated that it would make more sense if they are adding a time frame to make it 9 years since that is when the bonds for the golf course would be paid off. Motion by Ald. Heron, second by Ald. Voss to amend the resolution to add the wording “for 9 years” to the last paragraph. Motion failed 2-4 with Ald. Sabel, Ald. McKinnon, Ald. Nitschke, and Ald. Liebenow voting nay. A vote was then taken on the original motion to approve the resolution as is. The motion passed 4-3 with Ald. Sabel, Ald. Nitschke and Ald. Liebenow voting nay and Mayor Sternat voting yes to break the tie.

Discuss Management and Operation of the Mayville Golf Course. Topics may include:

A. Capital Improvements.

The Mayor mentioned that the city is looking into whether we can put the capital improvements for the golf course into their enterprise fund and have the golf course make payments for their capital improvements. We are waiting to hear back from Phil Cosson from Ehlers & Associates if that is a possibility.

B. Financial Reports.

The Mayor explained that the audit is not done yet for the Mayville Golf Course Inc portion and that Shelley is working with the auditors to set up a time for them to come in. We already have the numbers for the city portion of the golf course enterprise fund. The Mayor expressed that he would like the auditors to come up with some checks and balances that need to be in place. Ald. Sabel expressed that he has a problem with paying that kind of money to the manager for working at the bar and fry grill. This issue will be addressed at a future meeting.

C. Management.

This item was addressed in a later agenda item.

D. Communication.

The Mayor acknowledged that we need to continue to work on improving the communications.

E. Financial Condition.

This item couldn't be discussed in more detail until the Mayville Golf Course Inc audit is done.

F. Operational Controls as may be suggested by Auditor.

This item was not discussed.

Discuss Current Mayville Golf Club Management Agreement Dated April 1, 2006 & Discuss Amendments to the Mayville Golf Club Management Agreement Dated April 1, 2006.

The Mayor mentioned that he read in a recent paper that Brian Wendorff stated that he thought the management agreement seemed to work very well before the talk of the sale. The Mayor asked the council if they were ready to talk about the management agreement and if they had time to look at the current agreement. The Mayor mentioned that the current contract we are using right now covers the manager, head grounds keeper, assistant grounds keeper, part-time pro shop staff and part-time grounds staff as city employees. This was a major change that was done from their last contract. Ald. McKinnon expressed that he would like to hear input about the current contract from the golf course board representatives that were at the meeting. Brian Wendorff expressed that the big problem is the financials. The financials have been a problem since they were turned over to the city. He expressed concerns with vendors not being paid and taxes not being paid in a timely fashion and also that the audit should have been done in April/May. Joe Cheesbro expressed that when they had an independent accounting firm doing the account they would submit the minutes and financials to city hall in order for the city to know how things were going with the golf club. Chuck Brockhaus said that there were positives in the agreement which included having the employees be city employees. He also thought that it was possible for them to pay for the capital improvements. Tom Herman asked the council how they felt about having the manager and superintendent be city employees. The Mayor replied that Bob was a full time employee of the city but that Mayville Golf Club Inc was also paying him. This has been a problem and a possible solution was to revise the management agreement and put the banquet facility management under the city and Mayville Golf Club Inc would only manage the bar and fry grill. Attorney Karen Christianson reviewed the auditors report from 2006 that talked about the separation of duties. There was discussion as to how the separation of duties will be handled and how we determine who the golf club employees report to. Chuck expressed that Bob was originally hired to run the whole golf club and his salary should be the total salary of what he is being paid by the city. Karen urged the council to work with Virchow & Krause to find out the best way to handle the accounting. The Mayor reported that he did receive a signed amendment to the management contract dealing with assigning the banquet facility to the city but that no action has been taken on it. This will be put on a future agenda.

Discuss Role of Golf Course Operations Committee (proposed Section 1.30).

Karen reviewed the proposed ordinance. This will be a formalization of the duties of the committee. It will be put on another agenda for further discussion and future action.

Set Time and Place for Next Meeting.

There was discussion as to putting on the next personnel agenda the hiring of the superintendent. Other items that need further discussion will be put on the appropriate committee agendas. Chuck Brockhaus requested that the golf board would be able to give input and asked their opinion on items concerning the golf course before any decision is made.

Adjournment.

Motion by Ald. Heron, second by Ald. Nitschke to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Kathie Wild
City Clerk