

The meeting was called to Order by McKinnon with the following Roll Call at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: McKinnon, Nitschke

Members Absent: Sabel

Others Present: Mayor Sternat, Ald. Voss, Ald. Heron, Ald. Liebenow, Kathie Wild, Shelley Eilbes, Vern Hilker, Bill Linzenmeyer, Chris Macneill, Roger Williams, John Hennig, Sally Kalhammer, Fred Luehring, Robert Czaplicki, Sharon Chmielewski, TJ Jones, Bob Smith, Sue Smith

Item #2 - Approve the minutes of the May 21, 2007 meeting(s).

Motion by Nitschke, second by McKinnon to approve the above minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #3 - Citizens Comments.

Fred Luehring said that he is in the 1st Ward and has brought up the stray cat issue in a prior meeting. He said he knows it is going to boil down to the cost. He talked about the various vet costs involved with getting them spayed or neutered and also for shots and check ups. He feels the council needs to know that we do have a stray cat issue.

Item #4 - Monthly Fire Department Report.

- A. Personnel Update – Nothing to report.
- B. Department Activity –Roger stated that he and Tom went to Wausau for some training. He stated that it was very intense and that a lot of laws that they talked about the state hasn't adopted yet but they will be adopting some in August of 2007. He reported that Wisconsin is stricter than the nation in regulations. He stated that he knows some of the new regulations will affect some of the factories in town.

Item #5 – Monthly EMS Report.

- A. Personnel Update – Nothing to report.
- B. Department Activity –John stated that they are rolling along. Nothing new to report. The Mayor asked what the staffing level is at. John stated that they have 12 people and that one is starting school in August. He currently now is a driver.

Item #6- Monthly Police Department Report.

- A. Department Statistics – Sergeant Macneill gave the stats from the month. Ald. McKinnon asked what the 1,031 dictated reports included. Chris stated that it is any type of report that the officer has to do during the month including follow ups.
- B. Department Activity –Bill stated that things have changed as to how work is done. He invited all council members to stop in to discuss the department and its operations. He feels it would be beneficial to understand the process in order to be able to answer questions in a more informed manner. He feels there is a lot of misinformation and a lot of it is from Mr. Voss. He invited him to stop in. He stated that if citizens have questions they should give him a call. He feels his department does a lot to satisfy citizens. He also handed out some complaint forms to Mr. Voss to fill out if there is a complaint. He also stated that they have the CPA group that meets once a year also that give citizens a chance to learn what the police department does. Bill explained that they have applied for portable radios from a Homeland security grant. Recently EVS Chevy has donated \$500 to the K9 fund. He reminded everyone that the K9 is supported by the teen dances in which they have two left for the year in November and December and is also supported by donations. The K9 is a valuable asset to the community. Recently they had a drug arrest in which the K9 found marijuana. They performed a search warrant at 215 Grove Street and two people were arrested for drugs. Bill also stated that they gave out two life saving awards.

Item #7– Emergency Government Report.

- A. Department Activity –Bill stated that there was one tornado watch last month. They have a set procedure of notifying people when a tornado watch takes place. When the sirens go off people are notified a second time. The Mayor asked what happened Saturday with the sirens and if they were doing a special test since he noticed the sirens had a different tone. He stated that Ron Guse had told him about this and that they will be looking into it tomorrow.

Item #8 - Mayor's Report.

Nothing to report.

Item #9 – Discuss/Approve Run/Walk for Mike and Madion Ohm on September 8, 2007.

Kathie stated that she was notified that they are no longer going to be doing the run/walk.

Item #10 – Discuss/Approve Request to Fire Cannon in Foster Park for White Limestone Celebration.

The Mayor stated that August 18th-19th the White Limestone is having a 150 year celebration. They are having different activities and one activity is a civil war encampment. They would like to fire cannon shots throughout the weekend. They want to fire one shot on Saturday and Sunday morning, one shot on Saturday and Sunday noon and one shot on Saturday night and then three shots during the dedication. Ald. McKinnon asked what this all entails. The Mayor stated that there will be no projectile. The Chief stated that he has no concerns. Motion by Ald. Nitschke, second by Ald. McKinnon. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #11 – Discuss/Recommend Contract with Dodge County Humane Society for Stray Cats.

Shelley stated that we recently had two cats that were taken to the Humane Society. They called to get approval to take them in since we don't have a contract with them. The Humane Society did come in recently to talk to Shelley about a stray animal contract. Shelley reviewed the costs included in the contract which include \$75 for each stray. They have agreed to waive the \$35 pick up fee. There is an additional cost of \$10 if they need to euthanize an animal that is brought over and is found to be sick. Bill stated that we currently are paying \$50 for stray dogs and a \$50 transportation fee for a company in Ripon that they take stray dogs to. They charge \$15 when we pick up the dog. Currently they have 4-5 dogs a year that can't be returned to their owners. Bill stated they have over ten times in stray dogs that come in but they release a lot more of them than they have to keep. Bill explained that they don't pick up cats because the police department has no place to house them and also no way to manage it. He would like to contract for both cats and dogs with the Humane Society. Ald. McKinnon stated that he is worried about the cost and that if we have this contract that a lot of citizens will put traps up and would call the Humane Society. It could cost the city a lot of money. Shelley stated that the Humane Society would still need to call for approval when someone brings them in. She said that the contract would only be for this year and we would need to sign another contract for next year. Once they start the contract they take the average and prorate the contract for the next year. She summarized the stray intake by municipality report from the Humane Society. The Mayor stated that we have had an issue with stray cats. We may need a person in the community to pick up animals if the police won't do it. We need to have an answer. Ald. McKinnon expressed that he isn't sure if the answer is to approve this. He is wondering if we are making too much out of the issue. Ald. Heron stated that he doesn't know if this is a big problem. Maybe we need to put out a notice to remind people. Ald. Liebenow stated that he feels raccoon and squirrels are also a big problem. The Mayor asked how many cats are owned by someone and just left out to roam and not a wild cat. How do we find out how many true stray cats there are in the city. Ald. Nitschke stated that it's all about the responsibility of the cat owners. She stated that she doesn't have a stray cat issue in her neighborhood. Fred Luehring stated that he doesn't believe that the fines are high enough for stray dogs. He has captured cats and fixed them. He urged the council to do something. He doesn't have any recourse. If the stray has tags the owner will have to reimburse the city for the charges incurred. Bill stated that if you open end this you will have many people trapping them. He stated that they don't get a lot of cat complaints.

Ald. McKinnon stated that he believes we have a problem and that we should have a higher penalty. He doesn't believe the answer is the \$75 fee. Ald. Nitschke stated that we may need to put a notice in the paper and if they don't control we will come down heavy. She also didn't think the contract with the Humane Society was the right action at this point. It will cost the city a lot of money. Ald. McKinnon stated that we aren't dropping the issue. We will come back to this issue. Lee Luehring stated that he has a cat that took him three years to catch. He asked what he is supposed to do with it. He has called seven different agencies and no one could tell him. The Mayor stated that we may need to create a cat ordinance. We do have a dog ordinance. Motion by Ald. Nitschke, second by McKinnon to table the issue for further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #12 – Discuss/Review Liquor License Application Inspection Requirements.

Kathie explained that TJ Jones requested this be put on the agenda to be discussed. Kathie stated in the process of our recodification project and looking over the code it was found that the code states inspections should be done by the Fire Department, Police Department and the Building Inspector. In past years, the Building inspection was not done. By the advice of the city attorney, this year all three inspections were performed. Kathie stated that the city attorney had put together a memo stating her opinion on having all three inspections done. The Mayor stated that he initially questioned why we couldn't have two inspections instead of three and have one of the other entities take on the other inspections. However after talking to the city attorney it was explained that each entity has their own authority. There was a particular instance for a business that this has come into play. The situation was explained by the Mayor. TJ Jones expressed that he wanted to have uniform inspections. He feels it is harassment that only the liquor licensees have to be inspected yearly. He feels that all the buildings need to have capacity signs in them. He stated that currently only when you change ownership or license you have to have a full inspection. He stated that the building inspection for liquor licenses hasn't been done for 20 years maybe even 100 years. Vern stated that in the past this fell under the fire department inspection however the State of Wisconsin adopted a new code a few years ago and the city hasn't changed its ordinance yet. Sergeant McNeill stated that the police department follows uniform inspection sheets for all their liquor license inspections. TJ stated that he gave all council members a letter stating his frustrations and also put something in the paper. He was surprised that no one called him to discuss the issue. Ald. McKinnon stated that he understood where he was coming from and that the letter he wrote explained his side very well but that he should have called him to follow up. The Mayor stated that he would like to know if there is a yearly inspection of all buildings or just at change of ownership. Motion by Ald. Nitschke, second by Ald. McKinnon to table the issue for further discussion.

Item #13 - Adjournment.

Motion by Nitschke, second by McKinnon to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Kathie Wild, City Clerk