

**CITY OF RANIER  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING  
TUESDAY APRIL 21, 2015 @ 6:30 pm**

Mayor Dennis Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Council Present: Mayor Dennis Wagner, Councilmembers JoAnn Kellner, Todd Coulombe, Ron Wilcox and Tony Cole

Others present: Deputy Clerk Tara Mai, Gary and Deborah Abrams, Thomas Hall, Sheriff Perryn Hedlund, Buddy Lessard, Tom Kellner, Dianna Hoopingarner

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

- To approve tonight's agenda.

**A motion to approve tonight's agenda was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously.**

- Sheriff Perryn Hedlund introduction.

Newly elected Sheriff Perryn Hedlund stopped by the Council meeting to introduce. Mayor Wagner asked for cooperation with any issues relating to blight ordinance compliance and other ordinances. Hedlund's goal is to work with all communities on any situations that arise. Hedlund suggested that we ask Koochiching County if the City of Ranier could have a link on its website. Mayor Wagner and the council thanked Sheriff Hedlund for his visit.

**BUDGET/ADMINISTRATION**

- To approve the minutes of the previous Council Meeting (03/17/2015).

**A motion to approve the minutes from the previous Regular Council Meeting of 03/17/2015 was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously.**

- To approve the List of Claims for March, 2015 expenditures.

The list of claims presented at the Committee of the Whole was amended with additional Liquor and General Claims.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously to approve the March, 2015 list of claims in the amounts of:**

**\$ 44,184.51 for General Fund**  
**\$ 24,864.51 for Liquor Store Fund**  
**\$ 20,427.55 for Water Fund**

- To accept the account balances for Liquor, General and Water accounts and Profit and Loss Statements for all three accounts.

**A motion to accept the account balances and profit and loss statements for the Liquor, General and Water/Sewer Fund was made by Councilmember Kellner; seconded by Councilmember Cole and carried unanimously.**

- Approve LMC clerk training June 24-26<sup>th</sup> in Duluth.

The League of Minnesota Cities 2015 Clerk's Orientation Conference is being held in Duluth on June 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. Administrator Gautreaux requests approval for she and Deputy Clerk Tara Mai to attend. The Registration fee is \$250 and hotel rooms are \$109 a night. \$1000 was set aside in the 2015 budget for clerk training.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Cole; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to authorize Mai and Gautreaux to attend LMC clerk training.**

- To approve 2014 financial audit report.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Cole; seconded by Councilmember Wilcox and carried unanimously to accept the 2014 financial auditor's report.**

- To approve transfer of \$28,488 from liquor fund to water fund in order to balance the 2012 Capital Improvement Project Fund.

The deficit fund balance in the 2012 Capital Improvement Fund must be made whole after the final payment on the 3-Points North project resulted in a negative fund balance. At the end of 2012, there was residual cash of \$16063 remaining in the fund which was restricted due to the bonding fund source. These funds could only be spent to cover costs associated with the project (3 Points North). Because of the final payment due of \$44,531 which was paid in 2014, the fund was left with a negative balance of \$28,468.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to follow the auditor's recommendation to transfer \$28,468 from liquor fund to water fund in order to balance the 2012 capital improvement fund.**

- To approve purchase of CTAS software for City Administration office

Doug Host, CliftonLarsonAllen highly recommended that the City change its accounting software from QuickBooks (which is small business oriented) to CTAS, which is an accounting software published by the Minnesota Office of State Auditor specifically for small Minnesota cities. The cost of the software is minimal - \$300. This software will allow the City to appropriately manage its fund accounts and various other governmental accounting related activities.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously to authorize the purchase of the CTAS accounting software.**

- To approve Resolution 2015-04 adopting the Unified Land Use Ordinance and Zoning Map.

Two public hearings and an open forum were held with substantial public input received. Following council approval of the ULU, a summary must be posted in the newspaper, filed with Koochiching County and a land use planning commission must be appointed. A posting will be made and published requesting volunteers to serve on this important board. Since Councilmember Wilcox served on the "Citizen's Advisory Committee" who assisted in drafting the ULU, Mayor Wagner would like to see Wilcox serve on the planning and zoning commission. Following its adoption, the ordinance will take effect on May 15, 2015.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Wilcox, seconded by Cole and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 2015-04 adopting the Unified Land Use ordinance and zoning map.**

- To approve waiver of Ranier Community Hall rental fee for Joyce Christianson's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Wilcox, seconded by Coulombe and carried unanimously to waive the community hall rental fee for Joyce Christianson's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.**

## **LIQUOR STORE**

- To approve the March 2015 Liquor Operating Statement.

Liquor Store Operating Statement for the month of March 2015 posted an unaudited net income of \$2,031 for the month.

**A motion to approve the March 2015 Liquor Store Operating Statement was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously.**

## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

- To approve Building Permit for Kate & Pat Miller @ 3394 Pine Street for a garage renovation.

Request to renovate the existing concrete garage and replace with wood frame garage matching the house siding and roofing. Because the garage is currently constructed over a storm drainage ditch which is causing erosion under the structure, it will be moved five feet toward the lake shore. It is an existing non-conformity in the Shoreland Overlay.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Cole and carried unanimously to approve the building permit for Kate & Pat Miller to reconstruct their garage at 3394 Pine Street.**

- To approve extension of Fred Woods @2110 Spruce St. 2012 building permit.

Woods asked for his 2012 building permit to reconstruct his house at 2110 Spruce Street be extended for another year. Councilmember Coulombe stated that the house plan would comply with setback rules. Wagner suggested that the council extend the building permit until October 15, 2016 in order to give Mr. Woods ample time to complete his project (since he is currently working in North Dakota).

**A motion was made by Councilmember Cole; seconded by Councilmember Wilcox and carried unanimously to extend Fred Wood's building permit for 2110 Spruce Street until October 15, 2016.**

- Propose Ranier Community Work Day. Councilmember Tony Cole.

Councilmember Cole proposes hosting "community work/volunteer days" where community members come together and volunteer their time to work on specific projects that benefit the community. Cole suggests re-landscaping the beds on the Community grounds as the first project. Several folks have volunteered to work on the project which can begin as soon as the weather is appropriate. Councilmember Coulombe suggested working on the Community Building deck to temporarily repair it until we are notified about our grant application. Wagner suggested that Sears could determine which deck and railing boards are deteriorated and must be replaced. Wagner has some supplies that he could donate. The council set May 4-8 as the dates for working on the deck. Councilmember Kellner told the council of a community in Iowa which holds 2 community "clean-up days" where the town picks up items that need to be hauled to the dump. Residents put items on the curb that the town will pick up. Wagner suggested that only household items can be picked up, not garbage, because the transfer station requires them to be sorted. Wagner has a truck and trailer that he could donate for use in the project. Tom Hall suggested that Kooch Co. might be amenable to waiving the dump fees in order to encourage the "clean-up day". He used the example of the illegal dumping on the

Moonlight Rock road which Kooch Co might also like to have cleaned up. The council decided on May 16th for “community clean-up day” where city volunteers will pick up disposable items residents can leave on their curbs. No household garbage or hazardous waste will be accepted.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Coulombe and carried unanimously to schedule Ranier “community clean-up day” for May 16<sup>th</sup>, and Ranier “community work days” for May 4-8 to work on the Community Building deck.**

- To approve expenditure of balance of Marshall Knudson grant funds for landscaping Community Building.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Wilcox and carried unanimously to approve the expenditure of the remaining Marshall Knudson beautification grant funds on landscaping for the Ranier Community Building.**

- Discussion of Thomas Hall’s icebox rail car.

The council discussed the impending sale of Thomas Hall’s property on River Street. Hall has an icebox rail car from the 1920’s which was used to transport fish on the rail lines back in Rainy Lake’s commercial fishing days. The train car needs to be removed from the property has a closing date of May 27<sup>th</sup>. Several citizens suggested that the railcar should stay in Ranier as part of its history. Hall stated that he would give the car to the Ranier but the city would have to undertake moving it from his property. Hall spoke with Lake Superior RR museum about the railcar and its condition. The museum suggested that the car was in too poor of a condition for preservation.

## **WATER AND SEWER**

- Discussion of Loon’s Nest proposal for water cistern filling station.

Steve Lindberg, Loon’s Nest owner, proposes to put a water/cistern filling station at the Loon’s Nest and asked the council for a bulk price for the water. In an e-mail, Lindberg asked whether he could connect 2 curb stops that not are currently being used into a 1” line in order to service a water/cistern filling station. He asked if the city would provide a 1” water meter or would he have to purchase it himself. The ordinance states that he has to purchase the water meter. He asked if there would be a connection charge; the ordinance states that multiple connections can be made on one piece of property without an additional connection charge. The council reviewed existing water rates and will bring a proposal to Steve Lindberg.

Abutting property owner Tom Kellner raised an issue about the 2 water curb stops. He believes that one of the curb stops leads to his property. Kellner will work with Nick Sears, Ranier Public Works manager, to determine which water lines service his property.

- To approve 3-year extension of water billing software package from Softline Data, Inc.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Cole and carried unanimously to approve a 3-year extension of the water billing software package from Softline Data, Inc.**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Railroad Update. With Governor Dayton's Railway Safety Improvement Project specific money is proposed for inclusion in the 2015 bonding bill. Following US Rep Nolan's visit of 4/6/15 and with his support, in relation to various issues surrounding the increasing traffic on the CN rail line beginning at Ranier, Koochiching County officials were asked to submit a priority list of projects that would alleviate or minimize adverse conditions caused by increasing traffic on the CN rail line with the priority being based on the greatest concern to public health and safety or the items that will have the longest and greatest overall impact on the situation. The Koochiching County board presented eleven specific project proposals to Dayton's office last week; later in the week they were asked to pare it down to 4 projects. At the end of the week, they were asked to pare it down to only one specific GO bondable construction project. Kooch County proposed extending CSAH 24 (Van Lynn Rd) connecting it to Hwy 11 on the east end to provide an ingress/egress route for emergency vehicles and first responders. In conjunction with this project, Kooch Co is proposing a new bridge carrying CSAH 24 over the CN tracks for the same reason.

After meeting with Kooch Co on 4/21/15 discussing the various issues surrounding the bonding bill, Mayor Wagner proposes that Ranier also request funds in this bonding bill for construction of a trunk highway across Peterson's property connecting Hwy 11 to CSAH 20. The trunk connection is proposed because of limited access to the north side of Ranier when trains are blocking the Spruce Street/CSAH 20 crossing and would provide an ingress/egress route for emergency vehicles and first responders. In addition, it would help preserve the viability and connectivity of downtown Ranier. Wagner feels it is prudent to propose this project at this time especially in light of the 2017 Hwy 11 overpass project intersection near the proposed trunk road. Kooch Co will continue to work with Mr. Peterson on property appraisals and feasibility studies on the proposed project. Wagner asked for the council's support on the proposed CSAH 24 project and the proposed Hwy 11 trunk road project across Peterson's property.

Citizen Tom Hall asked to comment on the railroad issues stating that (looking at the bigger picture) these types of projects encourage the RR to be a bigger bully. Why should local governments and tax payers have to fund improvements benefitting the RR? Hall commented

on potential hazardous chemical spills, stating that any other industry would have to take care of their own spills, such as Boise, and not rely on local governments to clean up a mess. Wagner offered that railroad companies do pay federal use taxes into a fund that is distributed to local governments for issues such as this. Hall would like to see CN construct some sort of right of way fence or berm for sound mitigation.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Cole and carried unanimously to endorse the two proposed construction projects, i.e., requesting inclusion in the 2015 state bonding bill to fund construction of a Hwy 11 trunk road across Peterson’s property connecting Hwy 11 to CSAH 20 and to endorse the Koochiching County proposal connecting CSAH 24 (Van Lynn Rd) to Hwy 11 on the east end and constructing a bridge on CSAH 24 over the CN rail line.**

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously.**

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED @ 8:00 pm.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor Dennis Wagner**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City Administrator Sherril Gautreaux**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**