

**CITY OF RANIER  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING  
TUESDAY MARCH 21, 2017 @ 6:30 PM**

Mayor Pro-Tem Todd Coulombe called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Council Present:** Councilmembers Todd Coulombe, JoAnn Kellner, Ron Wilcox, Bob Dunbar  
**Absent:** Mayor Dennis Wagner  
**Others present:** Bud Lessard, Gary and Deborah Abrams

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

- To approve tonight's meeting agenda.

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

**BUDGET/ADMINISTRATION**

- To approve the minutes of the previous Council Meeting (02/28/2017).

**A motion was made by Councilmember Dunbar; seconded by Councilmember Wilcox and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the previous Regular Council Meeting of 01/17/2017.**

- To approve payment of the Claims for the month of February, 2017.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to approve the February, 2017 claims in the amounts of:**

**\$21,751.31 for General Fund  
\$22,420.88 for Liquor Fund  
\$16,432.75 for Water Fund**

- To approve Bremer Bank letter of credit proposal.

Bremer Bank offered a proposal to provide a letter of credit for collateral rather than pledged securities. In compliance with state law, the letter of credit must be issued by a federal home loan bank. Bremer Bank's proposal is a tri-party agreement with FHLB Des Moines.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to approve Bremer Bank's proposal to provide a letter of credit to collateralize city deposits in compliance with state law.**

- To approve letter in support of OARS reform.

Voyage Forward representatives made a presentation during the 3/14/17 Committee of the Whole Meeting regarding OARS (Outlying Area Reporting Station) reform which would provide for the use of technology in reporting back in to the US on Rainy Lake. They stated that their team identified the remote reporting station as a safety and convenience concern for tourists in addition to locals. Cellular access will only improve and could be a viable method for remote reporting. The group is asking that the City of Ranier send a letter to our federal delegation supporting OARS reform. The group worked with Lake of the Woods officials on the issue who also sent a letter to their federal delegation asking for reform.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to send a letter to federal officials in support of OARS reform.**

### **LIQUOR STORE**

- To approve the February, 2017 Liquor Store operating statement.

The Liquor Store Operating Statement for the month of February 2017 with a net profit of \$1,409.57 or 5.47% compared to February 2016 with a net profit of \$562 or 1.96%.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Dunbar; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to approve the February 2017 Liquor Store Operating Statement.**

- To approve amendments to Ordinance #146 Intoxicating Liquor to allow for Sunday Sales effective July 1, 2017.

In reaction to Minnesota liquor law changes, Sunday off-sales will be allowed effective July 1, 2017. Amendments to the ordinance reflect this legislative change.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar Sunday Sales effective July 1, 2017.**

### **BUILDING, STREETS AND GROUNDS**

- To approve Resolution 2017-02 vacating portions of North Street.

A petition was filed by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bruers to vacate portions of North Street running north/south between Govt. Lot 2, section 25-71-24 (parcel # 98-025-00210, 3500 River Street)

and Lot 14 of Block 26 Ranier Plat (parcel # 98-001-26080, 3498 River Street) and signed by the majority of property owners abutting that portion of North Street (Mark Lessard and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bruers). A public hearing was held on 2/27/17 regarding the petition. The section of North Street in question is 35 feet wide and 206 feet long beginning at River St and ending at unnamed creek. As background information, Bruers purchased the property in 1976 and moved into the existing house. In 1995, a legal survey was certified for Govt. Lot 2, section 25-71-24 and whereupon it was discovered that 5.8 feet of the existing home (built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century) encroached onto North Street as platted, thereby clouding title to the property.

In order to clear up the encroachment issue, the council discussed vacation of portions of North Street. Resolution 2017-02 was drafted to describe the vacation of 10 feet on the east and west sides of North Street between 3500 and 3498 River Street with title of such going to the adjacent property owners.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Kellner; seconded by Councilmember Wilcox and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 2017-02.**

- To oppose legislative bills limiting city authority.

A multitude of bills have been introduced in Minnesota legislature that pre-empt the authority of local governments. The League of Minnesota Cities advised cities to send correspondence to their elected officials opposing the bills.

Gautreaux will send correspondence to Sen. Bakk and Rep. Ecklund opposing the bills.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to oppose the series of bills limiting city authority.**

### **OPEN FORUM**

Mr. Abrams complained that his street (1<sup>st</sup> Street) wasn't plowed last week when it snowed 3 inches. The County didn't plow it because the ground is thawing and it would have pulled all the gravel up. Mr. Abrams wants his street blacktopped. Mayor Pro-Tem Coulombe would like to address the issue next month when the Mayor is at the meeting. Councilmember Dunbar complained about his frozen ditch and wants the city to purchase a pump to pump the water out of the ditch. Coulombe suggested that we continue using Kooch Co Highway department to steam the gutters with their equipment. Coulombe would like to address any blight issues again since spring is coming. Blight issues will be reviewed at the next meeting.

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED @ 6:49 p.m.**

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**Mayor Pro Tem Todd Coulombe**

**ATTEST:**

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**City Administrator Sherril Gautreaux**

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**Date**

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**Date**