REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CALEDONIA, MINNESOTA
Tuesday, May 26, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Following due call and notice thereof, Member Vick called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Council Room, City Hall.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Mayor Robert H. Burns (6:15 p.m.); Council Members: Randi Vick, Peggy Perry, Robert Lemke and Tom Murphy (6:37 p.m.). Members absent: None. Consultants and City staff present: Matt Blocker, Mike Gerardy, Stephanie Mann and Robert L. Nelson. Visitors present: Charlie Warner, Report.

CONSENT AGENDA: Following brief discussion of the Consent Agenda Items, listed below, a motion was made by Member Vick, seconded by Member Lemke, to approve the Consent Agenda items as stated below. All members present voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

A. MINUTES OF PAST MEETINGS: Clerk Nelson explained that he was unable to recall the motion made to approve the "short list" at approximately the time Member Perry left the meeting. Following brief discussion, Member Lemke, recalled that a "short list" had been presented of extra claims which were payable. Approval was then made for the minutes of the Regular Meeting held Monday, May 11, to include adding paragraph B under Old Business to apply the motion for approval of the list of additional bills after the computer run-off list for claims payable.

B. CHARITABLE GAMBLING

1. KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: To approve an application for Exempt Permit submitted by the Knights of Columbus Council 1198, proposing to conduct a charitable gambling event at St. Mary's Elementary School, 308 East South Street, to be held June 21, 2009, to include raffles. Further, to grant a waiver of the waiting period.

2. ST. MARY'S PARISH: To withhold approval for submittal of an Exempt Permit by St. Mary's Parish for an event to be conducted at Holy Family Hall, 513 South Pine Street, but with no date given for the event.

VISITORS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. ELSIE VESTERSE'S BAR & GRILL: Clerk Nelson reported that Elsie Vesterse had requested authorization to close Pine Street from the Police Station down to the intersection at Caledonia Wheel Alignment. That closure was to be in connection with an event held for fundraising for Camp Winnebago on June 20, 2009. Ms. Vesterse had planned to be at the Council Meeting to describe her plans in further detail. Member Vick commented that she had met with Elsie within the last week or so and Elsie commented that she may no longer need the street closed. Since Ms. Vesterse was not present, the Council continued with the Agenda, taking no action on this topic.

(6:15 p.m. Mayor Burns arrived at the meeting)

B. ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR TOPICS

1. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: Mike Gerardy, Administrative Coordinator, informed the Council that he had conferred with a representative of the Workforce Development Program, asking for consideration for a recreation department position to perform grounds maintenance, building maintenance, painting, and the like. As well as two positions for the City Electric Department, one being a labor type position performing multiple ordinary tasks and the other being a meter reader position. Mr. Gerardy explained to the Workforce representative that all prospective employees should be at least 18 years or older in order to drive city vehicles. Mr. Gerardy confirmed to the Council that the Workforce Development representative indicated these were temporary positions with no expectation or guarantee of a permanent position to be employed with the City. Mr. Gerardy indicated that proposals for the City positions are to be submitted to the Workforce Development Office by the end of May. Following discussion, a motion was made by Member Lemke, seconded by Member Perry, to approve two training positions to be acquired through the Workforce Development Program, if possible. All members present voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

2. OUTDOOR WOOD BURNERS: Mr. Gerardy alluded to the discussion at the last Council Meeting and said he had contacted other municipalities, finding that Rushford and Houston had outlawed all outdoor wood burners. Some discussion was held on the variety of outdoor wood burners, including those used to pipe heat into a residence as well as perhaps heat the water for the residence and those such as recreational wood burners where wood is placed inside a steel frame work with openings to small to allow embers to escape. In addition, mention was made of pellet burners and corn burners which are perhaps used in residences as fireplaces or single room heaters or in garages. No action was taken at this time.

C. CITY ACCOUNTANT REPORTS

1. CASH AND INVESTMENT REPORT: City Accountant Stephanie Mann presented the Cash and Investment Report showing as of the end of April a total cash and investment amount of $2,712,412.48 with investments being $2,359,150 of that amount.

2. BUDGET WORKSHEET: Ms. Mann then reviewed the budget worksheet pointing out that under intergovernmental revenues, the local government aid shown in the amount of $836,085 was the remaining amount after Governor Pawlenty's projected un-allotment of approximately $72,000 to the City of Caledonia.

(6:37 p.m. Member Murphy arrived at the meeting)

3. ELECTRICAL RATES: Ms. Mann and Clerk Nelson reviewed a proposal to increase electrical rates by 12.5%, based upon notice from Tri-County Electric Cooperative that the City's wholesale rate would be increasing by approximately 10%. There was significant discussing concerning the impact such rate change would have on persons, particularly senior citizens, with fixed incomes. Mayor Burns calculated a few hypothetical billings to determine by what amount the monthly bill would change. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Burns, seconded by Member Vick, to increase the overall rate for electric service by 12.5% to be effective on the July 1, 2009, billing date. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

4. AMBULANCE REPORTING STATEMENT: Ms. Mann and Clerk Nelson reviewed the ambulance reporting statement, explaining that certain representatives of townships did not agree with the treatment of expenses at a recent meeting. There was a contest of using bad debt/uncollectible amounts as an expense item since it was argued bad debts are not really a cash loss. There was also contention of amortizing the purchase price of an ambulance vehicle over a period of 5 years, contending that the cash payment should have been shown in the year 2007 (only) in which it was made. Mention was also made that the City needed to contribute $7.50 per capita as the donating townships do, according to the agreement. Following discussion, the Council indicated agreement with removal of the bad debt/uncollectible amounts being part of expenses. The Council determined that amortization of the ambulance cost should be amortized over a period of 5 years and the council indicated that the City should continue $7.50 per capita but would include the line item revenues under OTHER REVENUES to be counted as a portion of the City's contribution. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Burns, seconded by Member Vick, to accept the example shown by Ms. Mann and to assert that the 2009 budget will remain as set with the City to add its amount for revenue of the $7.50 per capita at the end of the year. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

5. STREET MARKINGS: Mr. Gerardy informed the Council the 2009 Budget had an entry of $1,000 for street marking which encompassed yellow curb painting and white crosswalk painting. In order to stay within the $1,000 limit, Mr. Gerardy recommended painting the white crosswalks but not the yellow curb markings. The council agreed by general consensus.

D. TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT: Clerk Nelson explained to the full Council that the Committee of Members Perry and Murphy had met with Matt Blocker who was selected to move up to from the position Journey Lineman to City Electrician or Line Forman with certain terms of employment to be resolved. While Mr. Blocker had initially requested to be moved from Tier III to Tier II as concerns insurance premium payments, the Committee had countered his offer

with an increase of $1.25 per hour en lieu of his request. Then in a meeting at the Clerk's Office with Clerk Nelson, Mr. Blocker indicated that he wished to pursue additional wages, over and above $1.25 per hour. This evening, Mr. Blocker restated his demands to be the move from Tier III to Tier II, concerning insurance premium payment and that additional wages per hour would not be deemed acceptable. In summary, the only acceptable terms and conditions of employment for him to accept the City Electrician job would be to move from Tier III to Tier II in addition to the already granted $2.00 increase from the Journey Lineman rate to the City Electrician rate paid to his predecessor. By general consensus, the City Council indicated they would consider Mr. Blocker's demand at a future meeting.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Mediacom notice, addition of two definition channels, being Lifetime and Fox News as of June 29, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS

A. POLICE DEPARTMENT POSITION: Clerk Nelson reported that Officer James Stemper submitted notice to the Clerk's Office that he would be willing to accept the position of lead officer until a new police chief reported for duty for a base rate increase of $1.00 per hour. Nelson said there had been some discussion on the title that would accompany this position and asked if the Council had a preference over Interim Police Chief, Temporary Commanding Officer or Temporary Officer in Charge, or another title. Following discussion, the Council selected the title Temporary Officer in Charge. Following all discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Burns, seconded by Member Vick, to appoint James Stemper as the Temporary Officer in Charge for a rate increase of $1.00 per hour until a new police chief reports for duty. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. MOTORCYCLE TESTING AREA: Having reviewed the agreement drafted by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Resolution for adoption of that agreement, a motion was made by Mayor Burns, seconded by Member Perry, to approve entering the agreement for the motorcycle testing area and for adoption of the Resolution, authorizing the agreement and signing of documents by the Mayor and Clerk Administrator. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

B. MEMBERSHIP: Clerk Nelson introduced a notice from the Minnesota Association of Small Cities, inviting the City of Caledonia to takeout a membership for an amount of $1,523 per year. Nelson explained that the City had never previously been a member of that organization, choosing to join the League of MN Cities and Southern League of Municipalities, instead. Following brief discussion, a motion was made by general consensus not to become members of the Minnesota Association of Small Cities.

C. POLICE DEPARTMENT FUND: Clerk Nelson informed the council that Police Chief Shefelbine had informed him of an incident going back to 2005 when a resident was arrested for a felony charge and firearms, cocaine and $795 in cash was confiscated from the individual. Chief Shefelbine's understanding is that the $795 was taken by Officer Logan to Houston County and presented as evidence for the County Attorney to prosecute the case. The County did not prosecute and the statute of limitations ran out, requiring the property be returned to the individual. Chief Shefelbine said the firearms were returned to a relative since the accused individual was already a felon. The $795 was unable to be found and Chief Shefelbine took $263 from a Petty Cash Fund in the Police Department and the remaining $532 from his own funds in order to repay the $795 to the individual. Chief Shefelbine asked if the Council was willing to reimburse the $795 to him in which case he would refund the $263 to the petty cash fund. Following discussion, the Council by general consensus directed that City Attorney Murphy investigate this issue, checking on the change of custody and timeline for these events and documenting as far as possible what happened to the cash, cocaine and fire arms.

CLERK'S REPORT

A. SALES TAX: Clerk Nelson informed the council that Minnesota Sales Tax is to increase from 6.5% to 6.875% on July 1, 2009.

B. FLUORESCENT BULB COLLECTION: Enclosed with the Agenda was a summary of the various types of fluorescent bulbs turned into Houston County on the annual collection date. A total of 1,353 were collected. These bulbs were divided into multiple sizes and lengths. The cost to the City of Caledonia was $422.96.

C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Clerk Nelson inquired whether or not any Council Members were interested in becoming members of the Board of Directors for the League of MN Cities. Any interested persons could review materials describing the duties, meeting dates and the like.

D. EMPLOYEE TIME RECORD: Enclosed with the Agenda was the employee time record for pay period May 4 – 17, 2009.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
A. POLICE OFFICER SHIFT SCHEDULING: Member Murphy asked Clerk Nelson to contact Goodview Police Chief Kent Russell to request he send a sample shift schedule of the 8 hour, 10 hour and 12 hour shifts that may be used in the City of Goodview.

B. SPECIAL MEETING: Mayor Burns and the Council Members briefly discussed how to approach the request of Matt Blocker for a change in insurance premium coverage to be moved from Tier III to Tier II of the Labor Agreement. Following brief discussion, Mayor Burns scheduled a Special Meeting for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 2009. Between now and the Special Meeting, the Committee (Perry and Murphy) who had been negotiating with Mr. Blocker was to meet with the Officers of the Caledonia Employee Association to solicit their opinions and understandings of the workings of the labor agreement and whether or not they deemed it appropriate to make certain changes to that agreement, regarding the requests of Mr. Blocker.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Burns and seconded by Member Vick. All members voted in favor, the motion was declared carried and the meeting then adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the City Council is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Monday, June 8, 2009, in the Council Room, City Hall.

_____
Robert H. Burns, Mayor

_____
Robert L. Nelson
City Clerk – Administrator

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CALEDONIA, MINNESOTA
Monday, June 1, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Following due call and notice thereof, Mayor Burns called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Council Room, City Hall.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Mayor Robert H. Burns; Council Members: Randi Vick, Peggy Perry, Robert Lemke and Tom Murphy. Members absent: None. Consultants and City staff present: Matt Blocker, Mike Gerardy, Dewayne Schroeder and Robert L. Nelson. Visitors present: None.

BUSINESS ITEMS
A. CLOSED SESSION FOR NEGOTIATION STRATEGY: All five Council Members and Clerk Nelson met in Closed Session for the purpose of negotiation strategy from 6:03 p.m. until 6:37 p.m.

B. MEETING WITH EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS & MATT BLOCKER: Clerk Nelson explained to the Council that while Mr. Blocker had limited all negotiation to a change from Tier III to Tier II for insurance purposes at the past meeting, he indicated at the Clerk's Office since then that he would be willing to negotiate a monetary increase if the Council were admit about not changing him from Tier III. Mr. Blocker then indicated that he would accept a $3.00 per hour increase, being $29.80 per hour, in lieu of being changed from Tier III to Tier II. Mayor Burns retorted that the Council had offered an amount of $1.60 per hour, increasing his rate to $28.40 from the current $26.80 he was receiving. Mr. Blocker said he would discuss the offer with his wife and be prepared to give a response tomorrow. In acknowledgement of that statement, Mayor Burns said the Council would then hold a continued meeting at 6:00 p.m. tomorrow evening, Tuesday, June 2 to finalize the negotiation.

RECESS: There being no further business at this time, Mayor Burns recessed the meeting at 6:48 p.m. to continue tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m.

Robert H. Burns, Mayor

Robert L. Nelson
City Clerk – Administrator

CONTINUED MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CALEDONIA, MINNESOTA
Tuesday, June 2, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Following due call and notice thereof, Mayor Burns called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room, City Hall.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Mayor Robert H. Burns; Council Members: Randi Vick, Peggy Perry, Robert Lemke and Tom Murphy. Members absent: None. Consultants and City staff present: Matt Blocker, Dewayne Schroeder and Robert L. Nelson. Visitors present: None.

BUSINESS ITEM: Mr. Blocker offered to reduce his request from $3.00 per hour to $2.00 per hour in order to accept the City Electrician position. The last council offer was recognized as $1.60 per hour, leaving a difference of $.40 per hour. Member Vick asked about what arrangements Tri-County Electric Cooperative may make with the City of Caledonia in the event it needed assistance. Mayor Burns responded that a number of scenarios had been discussed with Brain Krambeer, CEO and General Manager of Tri-County Electric. The offer ranged from providing a third person to the City Electric Department. That person may act as the City Electrician, determining what work was necessary to be performed, scheduling, organizing, and the like. Tri-County was prepared to have two staff persons assist the City or would agree to perform any and all services for the electric department. Mayor Burns commented that he would prefer to have at least one person who was a City employee and hire Tri-County Electric Cooperative as necessary to supplement that position. Discussion considered whether or not that single position would then require the employee to be a Journey Lineman. The prevailing thought was that such certification would be unnecessary since Tri-County could be called in to perform any work with primary wires, transformers, and the like. On the other hand, it would be certainly be beneficial in that the employee would better understand the workings of the electrical system. Member Perry inquired of Mr. Blocker what he believed the difference was between being the City Electrician, supervisor, and being a Journey Lineman. Mr. Blocker replied that the City Electrician's position included tasks such as lining up jobs, planning, deciding the needs of the department, determining and explaining OSHA regulations, determining wire heights for overhead services, and the like. Lengthy discussion was then held on the separation of duties between an employee who was supervisor and one not supervisor. Mayor Burns then asked the Council if it wished to stay at the $1.60 offer over the $2.00 increase already given or consider increasing the offer to the $2.00 requested by Mr. Blocker. At that time, Mr. Blocker announced that he would accept the $1.60 or $3.60 offer, depending on the way it was considered, but resulting in a salary of $28.40 per hour. A motion was then made by Mayor Burns, seconded by Member Lemke, to increase Mr. Blocker's wage a total of $3.60 per hour from his past salary of $24.80 per hour as a Journey Lineman for his new responsibilities as City Electrician; the total rate per hour then being $28.40. All members voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made by Member Perry and seconded by Member Vick. All members voted in favor, the motion was declared carried and the meeting then adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Robert H. Burns, Mayor

Robert L. Nelson
City Clerk - Administrator