

MINUTES
OF THE FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL
June 2, 2009 7:00 P.M.
Municipal Building, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa

The Fort Madison City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, June 2, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. at the Municipal Building, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa. Presiding was Mayor Steven J. Ireland with Councilors Carrie Fraise, Chris Greenwald, Kevin Rink, Brad Randolph, Bob Chesnut, Neal Boeding and Mark Lair present.

VISITORS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Sandy Brown, Executive Director of the CVB, spoke on behalf of the fireworks being moved to Labor Day weekend. She urged Council to change them back to July 4th as it is an American tradition. Mayor Ireland commented that he had also received calls and hoped that these concerns were listened to. Ms. Fraise likewise received several calls. John Luna advised that he has been heading this project for 10 years and this will be his last year. Someone needs to come forward to take over the event. It was acknowledged that everyone appreciated Mr. Luna's efforts over the years. It was asked if he would try to get someone to make an exception to the 90-day rule for the permit. The Coast Guard permit is the obstacle. Randolph will contact a person he knows at the fireworks company and the Mayor will contact the Corps on this matter.

AGENDA

Lair MOVED and Rink SECONDED to approve the agenda, as written.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

CONSENT AGENDA

Boeding MOVED and Randolph MOVED to approve:

- Minutes of May 19, 2009;
- Renewal of a Class "A" Liquor License to the Columbus Club, 807 Avenue H, effective June 30, 2009;
- Renewal of a Class "A" Liquor License to the Elk's Lodge #374, 719 Avenue H, effective July 1, 2009;
- Renewal of a Class "A" Liquor License to the Eagles Club #1287, 4821 Avenue O, effective July 1, 2009;
- Renewal of a Class "B" Beer Permit to the Lost Duck Brewing Company, 723-725 Avenue H, effective July 15, 2009;
- Partial List of Cigarette Permits effective July 1, 2009
- Resolution No. 2009-43 granting application for an URTD to Dave and Sandy Holtkamp, dba Floors, Décor & More, 2315 Avenue L; and
- Payment of Claims.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

PUBLIC HEARING

Concerning Public Improvement Project 2009-#6, Fire Station Roof Replacement:

Mayor Ireland opened the public hearing at 7:15 P.M. concerning Public Improvement Project No. 2009-#6, Fire Station Roof Replacement. There being no oral or written comments, Fraise MOVED and Rink SECONDED to close the public hearing.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES
1 ABSTAIN (Greenwald)

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-44: ADOPTING PLANS: Randolph MOVED and Boeding SECONDED to approve a resolution adopting plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost for the project.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES
1 ABSTAIN (Greenwald)

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-45: AWARDING CONTRACT: Chesnut MOVED and Boeding SECONDED to approve a resolution awarding construction contract to for the project to Schickedanz Construction of Fort Madison, Iowa, in the amount of \$17,280.00.

Rink asked for assurance that this project will come in for the price bid upon. It will as it was sent to bidders and they all understood what they were bidding on.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES
1 ABSTAIN (Greenwald)

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-45: CONTRACT AND BONDS: Rink MOVED and Lair SECONDED to adopt a resolution approving contract and bonds of Schickedanz Construction pending receipt of the documents.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES
1 ABSTAIN (Greenwald)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

1ST READING, RAISING GARBAGE FEE: Chesnut MOVED and Fraise SECONDED to approve the 1st reading of an ordinance amending 6-3-15(B) so as to allow for a rate increase in garbage fees from \$10.00 to \$12.50 per month effective July 15, 2009.

Steve Hayes advised this increase had been discussed during budget work sessions and was included in the coming budget year as revenue.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

OTHER

Discussion and possible action on changes to the Hotel/Motel Grant process. City Manager Smith began discussions. Council talked about these changes approximately a month ago. He was suggesting four quarterly grant due dates; that it would be for groups not currently receiving quarterly hotel/motel funds; criteria was given; grant award amounts would be divided into two tiers; and there would be accountability issues.

Mayor Ireland was concerned over the fact the CVB director would sit on the committee as they receive hotel/motel funds and would it be a conflict of interest. Mr. Smith advised it was the CVB's job to attract events. It was asked if a group requested \$1,000 for advertising, would they have to spend it on advertising. Basically, yes, as that is what the resolution sets out.

Randolph wondered if they would have to apply for the quarter the event was in. It would be better to have them apply in the quarter after so they can show their advertising bills. He felt there should be specific dates set out for when to apply. After discussion it was decided that applying in the quarter before would be more advantageous. This change will be incorporated into the document. He did not want to see them all coming in at once. He also suggested placing questionnaires at hotels asking visitors about their stay. The CVB could then gather these for information.

Mr. Smith stated a letter would be sent out to all who have participated in the past with the changes. He would like to start the new process in September.

Chesnut MOVED and Fraise SECONDED to adopt the changes to the Hotel/Motel Grant process with the proposed changes.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

Discussion and possible action on the joint meeting held with the Airport Commission on Monday, June 1, 2009. Mr. Smith recapped the meeting of the previous evening. Out of that meeting came the ideas of improving communication and working with City staff on grants that affect the budget. Greenwald continued that the money invested in the airport makes it an asset and he would like to see Council put on the ballot how the airport would be governed. He would like to see public input and have the City control running the airport like a department. Mayor Ireland agreed it was an asset that doesn't cost the City a lot to run. In conjunction with the Port Authority, the airport has a bright future.

Randolph asked what had to be done to change how the airport is run. City Attorney Johnson answered it would have to be put to a vote of the people to abolish the commission and handle the airport as an agency of the City. Randolph continued that he had missed the meeting last night but had concerns over what happened there. He asked Vern Peck if he had stated to any members of the City Council to stay out of airport business. He was trying to understand the reasoning for making a statement like that. Mr. Peck denied making the comment. Randolph asked how he felt he was not under the auspices of the City and why he shouldn't be held

accountable when asked questions. From what he has seen, Mr. Peck was not the type of person he wanted running the airport. Peck responded that was Randolph's privilege.

There was an issue brought up last night concerning a hangar rental. Mr. Johnson advised in his research, a City officer was prohibited from having an interest in a City contract, either directly or indirectly. The chairman of the commission has rented a hangar and the prior tenant of that hangar was not allowed to renew his lease. Boeding stated last night Peck said he couldn't give names of the club members. The chairman should not have voted on or participated in this action.

Chesnut added the next 10 years will be an important time for the airport due to the bypass and will be a pivotal time in the viability of the airport. It is important that the commission be transparent and talk to this Council about issues.

Vern Peck then read a statement regarding Steve Hohl and how Bob Chesnut worked for Hohl. He felt this was a conflict of interest also as Chesnut clearly said last night in an open statement that he did not work for Hohl. Chesnut clarified that he does rent planes from Hohl from time to time but he is not an employee.

Greenwald felt Council needs full disclosure, but the chairman always tells us that it is the end of discussions. He had a two-fold request:

Greenwald MOVED and Rink SECONDED to have the Mayor remove Vern Peck from the Airport Commission.

Pat Helling, Airport Commission member, asked to speak. He was not here tonight to defend Vern's personality but the airport. This commission has done a good job with a small budget. In a time when the City is dealing with budget problems, the City Manager should not be running an airport with a budget of \$25,000. He felt the City Attorney and Council liaison have been involved all along. There is just a personality conflict going on. Vern does all that he does because of his genuine interest in Fort Madison. A lot of facts are not coming out. You are looking at getting rid of someone too quickly without looking deeper.

Rink then spoke about the lack of disclosure on the Tri-State Flying Club. We're here to ask questions because the City Council holds the purse strings. But tonight Vern tells us, end of discussions. We're not getting full disclosure here. A short conversation took place as to why Helling did not know who the hangars were rented to. Helling advised the manager always took care of that. The only criteria was that it has to be aviation-related.

Greenwald felt we had come to a cross-road and it was time to part ways and find someone who would move more in the direction of how Council wanted to do things. Helling again reiterated that Council needed to recognize all the volunteer hours given by Vern. We would be losing a good volunteer doing a good job. The airport is in better condition than it has been in years. Randolph then asked Helling if he had an employee who is good but doesn't respect authority, would you keep him on? Helling answered generally he would give him an opportunity to correct the problem, but if he continued, he would let him go. Chesnut then added in 2007 a

similar meeting was held wherein we had the same problems. That was the opportunity to change things around but it didn't happen.

Lair brought up the conflict with the balloon festival and the controversy over a commission member having a get-together in a hangar. He was concerned over liability. This was not what the hangars were intended for.

Greenwald concluded that he appreciated Helling's comments, but he called for a vote

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES
1 ABSTAIN (Lair)

The second part of his two-fold request was to go with a motion to put the governing of the airport to a public vote.

Greenwald MOVED and Boeding SECONDED to put the governing of the airport to a public vote by placing it on the November ballot and that it be under the jurisdiction of the City Manager.

Chesnut felt Council needed more information on how the airport structure would be set up with proper wording on the ballot.

Randolph continued that if a new chair was appointed who was willing to work with us, we may not have to go to that extent. Greenwald added that he did not want to see the airport get in this position again. Mr. Johnson advised if the Commission was abolished, the airport could be run as an agency of the City.

Chesnut suggested studying the issue for a couple of weeks before putting it on the ballot. He, too, did not want to run into this situation again.

Fraise MOVED and Lair SECONDED to TABLE the issue of placing the governing of the airport on the November ballot.

MOTION TO TABLE
PASSED 7 AYES

PRESENTATION BY COUNCIL LIAISONS TO BOARD AND COMMISSION

Greenwald commented on the job the groups are doing in Central and Old Settlers Park. It is remarkable. He also thanked Joey Herren and Doug Krogmeier for the job they have been doing in getting the town cleaned up.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:25 P.M., Chesnut MOVED and Randolph SECONDED to adjourn until Tuesday, June 16, 2009, at 7:00 P.M.

VOICE VOTE APPROVAL