

January 31, 2006

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Mayor Larry Fanta with Alderpersons David Tryggstad, John Bjerke, Vernie Smith, Weston Mack, Roger Hatlem, Gail Frie, Robert Suhr, and Terry Noble present. Alderperson Marc Polsean participated by telephone. Also present were City Consultant Jeff Gohlke, City Clerk John Severson, City Attorney David Jenkins, Police Chief Mark Rahr, Tom Henry, Daniel Stalsberg, Peg LaMartina, Doug Allen and Tim Hunt from the Broadcaster.

2. Approval of the January 10, 2006 Regular Council Minutes.

Motion by Alderperson Hatlem to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2006 regular meeting of the Council, seconded by Alderperson Frie. All aye, motion carries.

3. First period for public comment.

None

4. Parks and Recreation recommendation – demolition of old storage building at Eckhardt Park.

Alderperson Hatlem informed the Council of the committee's recommendation to demolish the structure due to its very poor condition. Motion by Alderperson Frie to accept the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Committee, seconded by Alderperson Mack. Alderperson Smith asked if the building should be offered to the public. On voice vote 7 voted aye. Alderperson Smith voted nay. Motion carries.

5. Parks and Recreation table purchase.

Alderperson Hatlem reported that the Committee had approved the purchase of six metal framed picnic tables at a cost of \$250.00 each. Motion by Alderperson Hatlem, seconded by Alderperson Mack to approve the purchase. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

6. Resolution approving certified survey map of property owned or developed by John Wheeler.

Jeff Gohlke explained that a four lot subdivision plan had previously been approved but that Mr. Wheeler had decided to develop only two lots and the matter should be referred to the Plan Board. Motion by Alderperson Hatlem, seconded by Alderperson Tryggstad to refer the matter to the Plan Board. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

7. Rezoning of Forest Hills addition from A-1 to R -1.

Mr. Gohlke reported that the Forest Hill addition was still zoned A-1 and should be sent to the Plan board to begin the rezoning process to R-1. Motion by Alderperson Mack, seconded by Alderperson Suhr to send the rezoning of the Forest Hill addition to the Plan Board. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

8. Operator licenses.

Alderperson Mack reported that the Public Safety Committee had met on January 19, 2006 and had approved for recommendation to the Council operator licenses for Ruth Tucker and Tammy Burke.

Motion by Alderperson Mack to approve operators licenses for Ruth Tucker and Tammy Burke. Seconded by Alderperson Tryggestad. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

9. Alcohol license applications.

Alderperson Mack informed the Council that Public Safety had reviewed Alcohol Beverage applications from Andrew Anderson, agent for The Common Ground Café, and Pam Green, owner of The Meating Place, both for Class ‘B’ Beer and Class ‘C’ Wine. The Committee was recommending approval. Motion by Alderperson Mack to approve Class “B” Beer and Class “C” Wine licenses for The Common Ground Café, Andrew Anderson agent, and for The Meating Place, Pam Green owner. Seconded by Alderperson Bjerke. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

10. Purchase of light bars and radar units.

Alderperson Mack reported light bars and radar units budgeted for in 2006 and approved by Public Safety had been purchased. Chief Rahr commented that the radar units had cost \$3,800.00 and the light bars were about \$4,800.00. Motion by Alderperson Mack to accept and approve the budget purchase. Seconded Alderperson Frie. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

11. Public Works recommendation – parking on East Decker Street.

Mayor Fanta said that he had received a letter from Vincent Hundt, President of the Board of Directors for Pleasant Ridge School, recommending parking on at least one side of East Decker Street. Alderperson Suhr said that Public Works was recommending that parking be between Center and Washington. Alderperson Frie expressed his opposition to providing parking along East Decker saying it was unnecessary as there is adequate side street parking. Discussion continued. Alderperson Smith asked if the Committee was recommending one side of the street over the other. Gohlke responded that the committee was recommending that parking be limited to two blocks but not which side. Additional discussion took place. Mayor Fanta asked the Council to make a decision or postpone till the next meeting. Motion by Alderperson Mack to allow parking on the north side of East Decker Street between Center Street and Washington Street. Alderperson Noble questioned north side vs. south side. Discussion ensued. Motion seconded by Alderperson Tryggestad. Alderperson Smith asked that the council be given maps and details on the proposed parking and take the matter up at the next meeting. Mayor Fanta called for a roll call vote. Seven voted yes. Alderperson Frie voted no. Motion carries.

12. Report of the Tree Ordinance Study Committee – proposed revisions to Code Chapters 8.36, Trees & Shrubs, and 2.20, Board of Park Commissioners.

Alderperson Smith reviewed the proposed revisions to the ordinances. The Council discussed at length the language and intent of various sections. City Consultant Jeff Gohlke suggested that he work with Attorney Jenkins to clarify differences between the proposed revisions and current code. Motion by Alderperson Frie to table the item until the next meeting. Seconded by Alderperson Tryggestad. All voted aye on voice. Motion carries.

13. Patrol Sergeant position.

Alderperson Mack informed the Council that Public Safety and Finance and Personnel had reviewed the new position and asked for questions. Motion by Alderperson Frie to approve the Patrol Sergeant position. Seconded by Alderperson Tryggestad. On voice vote all voted aye. Motion carries.

14. Resolution the vacate Ben Lawton Drive.

Jeff Gohlke reviewed the history of the School Boards request for the City to vacate Ben Lawton Drive and asked that the item be referred to the Plan Commission. Motion by Alderperson Hatlem, seconded by Alderperson Tryggestad to refer the matter to the Plan Commission. On voice vote 7 voted aye . Alderperson Smith voted nay. Motion carries.

15. Alderperson Smith – Request to reconsider January 10, 2006 Council agenda item #4 – taxidermy studio.

Alderperson Smith noted that under Council rules any Alderperson voting in the majority on an item may bring the item back for reconsideration at that meeting or the next. Motion by Alderperson Smith to reconsider the granting of a conditional use permit for the taxidermy studio. Seconded by Alderperson Frie. The Council discussed any additional information or comments from the public concerning the taxidermy studio. It was noted that the conditional use permit can be pulled at any time for good reason by the Council. It was determined that a yes vote on the motion would allow the permit. On voice vote six voted aye. Alderpersons Smith and Suhr voted nay. Motion carries.

16. Payment of bills.

Motion by Alderperson Frie, seconded by Alderperson Suhr to pay the bills. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

17. Second period for public comment.

Peg LaMartina addressed the council concerning pedestrian safety at crosswalks. The Council agreed that it is a concern. Alderperson Smith asked the item be placed on the next Public Safety meeting.

18. Adjournment

Motion by Alderperson Hatlem, seconded by Alderperson Frie to adjourn the Council meeting until 7:30 p.m. February 14, 2006. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

**John Severson
Clerk**