February 14, 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 Tryggestad, 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, Director of Public Works Tom Henry, Mike Bankes, Dick Wallin and Peg LaMartina.

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

Alderperson Smith noted that the minutes should be amended to include the presence of Doug Allen and Peg LaMartina. Motion by Alderperson Smith to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2006 regular Council meeting as amended. Seconded by Alderperson Mack. All aye, motion carries.

3. First period for public comment.

None

4. Public hearing on the conditional use of property by Vernon Memorial Healthcare – off street parking on Lot 15 and the east half of Part Lot 17 of the Lydia Cowans Addition.

Mayor Fanta informed the Council that the Plan Board held a public hearing on the request and was recommending approval. Jeff Gohlke explained that Mr. Bekkedal had thought the property was zoned commercial and did not require a conditional use permit. When it was later discovered that the area was zoned residential, application was made for a conditional use permit. Discussion continued about the future parking needs of Vernon Memorial. Attorney Jenkins commented that Mr. Steiner had indicated that the lots would be fenced and lights would be shielded. Mayor Fanta closed the public hearing. Jeff Gohlke reviewed resolution No. 06RS002 which would grant the conditional use permit. Motion by Alderperson Hatlem to approve Resolution No.06RS002 – A resolution granting conditional use of property for off street parking on E. Hickory St. Seconded by Alderperson Frie. Alderperson Smith stated that he did not support passage of this at this time. Alderperson Smith, while acknowledging the importance of the hospital expansion, expressed his concerns about protecting the integrity of residential neighborhoods. Alderperson Hatlem commented on the importance of the hospital to the community while understanding Alderperson Smith's concerns. Alderperson Frie agreed with Alderperson Smith's concern about future projects but said that unfortunately this is an after the fact request. On voice vote 7 voted aye. Alderperson Smith voted nay. Motion carries.

5. Resolution authorizing a contract with Vernon County Humane Society, Inc.

Motion by Alderperson Frie to approve Resolution No. 06RS003 – A resolution authorizing a contract with Vernon County Humane Society, Inc. Seconded by Alderperson Mack. Alderperson Tryggestad said that he had talked with people from his ward and they feel the City is spending to much money on the Humane Society and that he would have to vote against. Discussion continued. Alderperson Noble expressed his support of the Humane Society as did Alderperson Hatlem. On voice vote 7 voted aye. Alderperson Tryggestad voted nay. Motion carries.

6. Public Works Committee recommendation on bids for the Sidie Hollow lift station.

Alderperson Suhr reported that the Public Works Committee was recommending that the contract be awarded to Badger Environmental with a low bid of \$208,143.20. Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad,

seconded by Alderperson Suhr to accept the bid of Badger environmental in the amount of \$208,143.20. On roll call vote 7 voted aye. Alderperson Smith voted nay. Motion carries.

7. Public Works Committee recommendation on blacktop and curb & gutter bids.

Alderperson Suhr reported that Steiner Construction was low bidder for curb and gutter at \$8.95 per ft. and Mathy was low bidder for blacktop at \$53.92 per ton. Motion by Alderperson Hatlem to accept the bids. Seconded by Alderperson Tryggestad. On roll call vote 7 voted aye. Alderperson Smith voted nay. Motion carries.

Motion by Alderperson Noble to move to item 13. Seconded by Alderperson Suhr.

13. Proposed revisions to Code Chapters 8.36, Trees and Shrubs, and 2.20, Board of Park Commissioners.

The Council discussed the ordinance revisions. Motion made by Alderperson Frie to approve the revisions to Code Chapters 8.36, Trees and Shrubs, and 2.20, Board of Park Commissioners. Seconded by Alderperson Smith. On voice vote all voted aye. Motion carries.

8. Public Works Committee recommendation on repair to the floor drain at the City Garage.

Alderperson Suhr informed the council that the Committee was recommending an expenditure of \$6,507.32 for repairs to the floor drain at the City Garage. Motion by Suhr, seconded by Tryggestad to accept the recommendation of the Committee. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries..

9. Request for a Street light on Peterson Court.

Motion by Alderperson Frie, seconded by Alderperson Tryggestad to refer the item to Public Works.

10. Authorize \$2,000.00 expenditure for upgrade of business list on City Web Site.

Alderperson Noble requested the expenditure to upgrade the business directory. He explained that the business directory has the highest traffic but is the weakest part of the web site. Motion by Mack, seconded by Frie to allow the expenditure. Discussion took place. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

11. Meeting attendance via telephone.

Jeff Gohlke reviewed a resolution drafted by Attorney Jenkins that would add a Council rule to allow telephone participation by Alderpersons and citizens under certain conditions. Only one person can participate by phone at a time. Participation by phone will not count for determining a quorum. The individuals vote will not be counted. Participation will be allowed when recognized by the Chair or other presiding official. Additional discussion took place. Motion made by Alderperson Hatlem to approve Resolution No.06RS005 – A resolution regarding telephone participation in meetings. Seconded by Alderperson Suhr. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

12. Resolution authorizing a deed of former railroad land – Burckhardt

Attorney Jenkins stated that sale of the railroad land had been approved by the Council in 1996, but difficulty in getting a legal description in that area has held up completion of the sale. Motion by Alderperson Hatlem to approve Resolution No. 06RS004 – A resolution authorizing a deed of former railroad land. Seconded by Alderperson Tryggestad. Alderperson Smith commented that he thought it was a mistake for the City not to retain the railroad parcels for other use but agreed that if they are sold, it should be to the adjacent owner. On roll call vote seven voted aye. Alderperson Smith voted nay. Motion carries.

14. Payment of bills.

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

15. Second period for public comment.

None.

16. Adjournment.

Motion by Alderperson Hatlem, seconded by Alderperson Tryggestad to adjourn the Council meeting until 7:30 p.m. February 28, 2006. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

John Severson Clerk