

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES – November 3, 2009**

Mayor Ken Nelson called the Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Mayor Nelson led the pledge

ROLL CALL:

Present: Pitzafarro, Buske, Judd, Adams, Larsen

Absent: Lusk, D’Astice

Staff Members Present: City Manager Sarah Phillips, Finance Director Jim Egeberg, Public Works Director Fred Vogt, Community Development Director Valerie Dehner, Fire Chief Ron Stewart, Deputy Police Chief Dave Scanlan, City Attorney Jim Macholl, Assistant City Manager Barry Krumstok.

Mayor Ken Nelson read the following statement:

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE ARE REMINDED THAT THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE BEING VIDEO TAPED FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE BROADCAST OVER THE CITY’S CABLE TELEVISION CHANNEL.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES:

Alderman Buske moved to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2009 Council Meeting; seconded by Alderman Pitzafarro.

Yeas: Pitzafarro, Buske, Judd, Adams, Larsen

Nays:

Absent: Lusk, D’Astice

Minutes Approved

MOTION TO DEVIATE:

None

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Congratulations to Fire Chief Ron Stewart on being inducted into Harper College’s Distinguished Alumni Class of 2009. Ron will be honored with four other inductees, including two PhD’s, on Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00 pm.

City Hall will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th in recognition of Veteran’s Day. Please remember to thank a veteran.

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The City of Rolling Meadows invites you to join us for The Great American Smoke-Out on Thursday, November 19th from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm here at City Hall. Come together with others in making a commitment for a healthier future! You do not have to be a smoker to participate. During this event, you can join a support group, listen to speakers, and pick up information on “How to Quit Smoking”.

The Rolling Meadows Athletic Boosters invite you to “tackle” your holiday shopping early at their largest fundraiser of the year on Saturday, November 7th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The 31st Annual Holiday Craft Boutique will take place at the Rolling Meadows High School Gym & Commons. There is a \$3 admission fee for adults; individuals 18 & under are free! Concessions available so stay for lunch! Bring the kids – strollers are welcome!

Also on Saturday, November 7th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm the Rolling Meadows Park District will be conducting its “First Annual Craft Fair” at Park Central Banquet Hall and Teen Center. There will be plenty of vendors to shop from displaying many different types of crafts and goodies. Concessions will be sold. There is a \$2 general public admission fee.

The Halloween Candy Drop Box will be outside City Hall thru Friday, November 6th.

WARD REPORTS:

Ward 1 – Alderman Pitzferro:

None

Ward 2 – Alderman Lusk:

None

Ward 3 – Alderman Buske:

None

Ward 4 – Alderman Judd:

None

Ward 5 – Alderman Adams:

None

Ward 6 – Alderman D’Astice:

None

Ward 7 – Alderman Larsen:

None

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR 20 MINUTES:

No one came forward.

Mayor Ken Nelson closed the floor.

PENDING:

None

➤ **CONSENT: ORDINANCES FOR 1ST READING:**

- A. Ordinance / Approve Amendment to Verizon Special Use at 2455 Plum Grove Road - Insite, Inc. - Agent for Verizon Wireless**
- B. Ordinance / Approve Amendment to Verizon Lease at 2455 Plum Grove Road**
- C. Ordinance / Approve Text Amendment to Comprehensive Zoning Code - Outdoor Seating Areas**
- D. Ordinance / Approve Text Amendment to Comprehensive Zoning Code - Mechanical Amusement Devices**
- E. Ordinance / Amend Adjudication Code - Impoundment of Motor Vehicles**

Alderman Judd requested Item B be removed.

Alderman Pitzaferro made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as amended, seconded by Alderman Buske.

Unanimous

➤ **NEW BUSINESS:**

Item B from Consent Agenda: Ordinance / Approve Amendment to Verizon Lease at 2455 Plum Grove Road

Alderman Buske made a motion to approve on first reading, seconded by Alderman Judd.

Alderman Judd: Item A states that there is a 10'x20' access area that services their facility. Do they rent or own that area yet?

Ms. Dehner: That is currently part of their lease area now. It is an access area to their building on the south.

Alderman Judd: What do they pay for that now?

Ms. Dehner: It is incorporated into their current lease.

Alderman Judd: Item A states the company wishes to use a portion of the area that is 7'x14', but according to the lease they want to use additional space consisting of 7'x20'. Which is it?

Ms. Dehner: They are taking that access area and using a part of that on which to put the generator. They are not using the entire area. The larger space is part of their original lease but, it was just for access so they weren't really paying on it. Now, they are going to be placing this generator on a part of that access area so we are consequently increasing the lease for that.

Alderman Judd: What is their lease altogether?

Ms. Dehner: Currently they are paying \$3600. Apparently, when this arrangement was originally prepared they had paid the City hundreds of thousands of dollars up front and for the next 20 years or so they were to pay a nominal fee.

Yeas: Pitzafarro, Buske, Judd, Adams, Larsen

Nays:

Absent: Lusk, D'Astice

Approved on First Reading

NO WARRANT THIS MEETING

F. Resolution No. 09-R-106 / Award Contract for Street Sweeper

(Pulled from Agenda by Chair for further discussion at future meeting)

G. Resolution No. 09-R-107 / Award Contract for Refuse Truck

(Pulled from Agenda by Chair for further discussion at future meeting)

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1) 2010 Budget - Fire Department

Chief Stewart came forward and presented an overview of the department, the 2010 Proposed Budget, and the Staffing Plan.

Alderman Pitzafarro: Asked for further clarification on “company” inspections of multi-family occupancies.

Chief Stewart: The “company” is the fire company (shift personnel).

Alderman Buske: How many lieutenants are there?

Chief Stewart: A total of 7 with 2 on a shift.

Alderman Buske: Do they volunteer for specialty teams?

Chief Stewart: For the most part they do volunteer.

Alderman Buske: With regards to the grant; does that cover just the building? How about vehicles?

Chief Stewart: We have the equipment in our fleet already.

Alderman Buske: Can the command car be purchased out of that grant?

Chief Stewart: No. The grant is very specific.

Alderman Adams: Overtime is still pretty high. Other departments have a combination of full-time and part-time firefighters. Can we utilize part-time to cut some of the overtime?

Chief Stewart: That is a possibility. We still have to make sure they are properly trained.

Alderman Judd: There are 2 Deputy Chief’s that both have 30 – 35 people reporting to them. Is there a possibility of breaking down some of the duties to eliminate one of them?

Chief Stewart: No. There is plenty of work for both Deputy Chiefs. If we cut we would most likely run into some problems. When you start affecting the administrative staff which directly supports the people on the street eventually something is going to be missed. He did prepare a breakdown of the duties of both positions. They are both quite detailed.

Alderman Judd: With the financial situation that the City is in, we need to make cuts somewhere along the line. It seems that most of the equipment that is needed is justifiable as well as the firefighters and EMT’s. As a lot of entities across the country, they have started to reassess the upper management. Yes, it does make things more difficult, but it is part of the situation we are in right now. When we continue to have people losing their jobs and continue to not have revenues coming in we have to figure out where we can make these adjustments. From what he has seen there is room for efficiencies to occur. He feels that one Deputy Chief could function in both capacities.

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Chief Stewart: Understands the situation we are in. He pointed out that the concept of preserving the bottom of the organization only lasts so long. Inspections and training are both down. Please be aware of the consequences of going in that direction. Demands for service have not decreased.

Alderman Judd: If we don't have the money to pay for it we have to make cuts.

Chief Stewart: Everything we do is not for our gain, but for the community.

Alderman Buske: There were 3 part-time inspectors in 2007?

Chief Stewart: Correct. At the end of 2008 we laid off 2 part-time inspectors. In March 2009, the clerk position was laid off.

Alderman Buske: What does a part-time inspector cost?

Chief Stewart: About \$25/hour.

Alderman Buske: How many hours?

Chief Stewart: About 14 hours/week/person.

Alderman Pitzafarro: It was stated that 1/3 of all responses are auto-aid. Is that us going somewhere else or someone else coming to us?

Chief Stewart: A mixture of both. It is part of the reciprocal agreements that we have in place.

OTHER BUSINESS & REPORTS:

Mayor's Appointments:

Mayor's Proclamation:

City Clerk's Report:

City Staff Reports:

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Alderman Judd: Questioned the Liability Fund Balance on the Fund Updates for Budget Consensus that was passed out last week.

Ms. Phillips: There are explanations noted as to the changes. Because of the employees that we laid off this year the numbers are going to be higher in 2010.

Mr. Egeberg: We are paying about \$27,000/quarter for unemployment insurance. It is projected that will continue for some time in 2010.

Alderman Judd: Are there any other numbers that we don't know about?

Ms. Phillips: We don't know of any at this point.

Mayor Nelson: There probably will be and there are a lot of rumors going around.

CLOSED SESSION:

Alderman Pitzafarro made a motion to enter into Closed Session, seconded by Alderman Larsen.

1) Personnel

Yeas: Pitzafarro, Buske, Judd, Adams, Larsen

Nays: none

Absent: Lusk, D'Astice

Motion Passed

ENTERED INTO CLOSED SESSION: 8:35 pm

RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION: 9:35 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Alderman Pitzafarro moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Buske.

UNANIMOUS

City Council meeting of November 3, 2009 adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Lisa M. Hinman, City Clerk

November 3, 2009 Minutes Approved by Council on November 10, 2009



Lisa M. Hinman, City Clerk