



## Presque Isle City Council Meeting

Monday, July 16, 2013

7:30 AM

Presque Isle Council Chambers

Present: Chairperson Emily Smith, Vice-Chairperson Randy Smith, Councilors Richard Engels, Craig Green, Peter Hallowell

City Manager James A Bennett and Beverly A Labbe were also present.

Chairperson Emily Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### New Business

#### 13-172 **Appoint new City Councilor, term to expire December 31, 2013**

Chairperson Emily Smith asked those who were present (Michael Chasse, Jacqueline Goodine and Delores Kemper) and asked them to take a few minutes to introduce themselves and express why they would like to serve on the City Council.

Councilor Green thanked everyone who expressed interest and also mentioned there were openings on various boards and committees.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Councilor Engels, seconded by Councilor Randy Smith to appoint Mike Chasse to the City Council, term to expire December 31, 2013.

**Vote 5-0.**

The City Clerk administered the Oath to Mike Chasse, and he took his seat on the Council.

#### 13-173 **Approve Closing Out Sale License for Sears, Roebuck & Company Store #2143**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Councilor Randy Smith, seconded by Councilor Green to approve a closing Out Sale License for Sears, Roebuck & Company Store #2143.

**Vote 6-0.**

**13-174 Consider request for additional budget funds for Community Center fund raising project**

City Manager Bennett started by recapping what has transpired to date. A few months ago the City Council authorized \$25,000 for consulting services. Those funds have been utilized and the Fund Raising Committee is at a point where they need additional funds for the campaign. They are asking for an additional \$148,000 for the next 18 to 19 months.

Included in the council packet are two budgets: one from the consultant, and one that has been revised. The consultant is asking for \$172,000 to cover the same time frame. Staff has re-worked a few items and has brought that total down to \$148,000. There are three major differences in the two proposals. The first is to reduce the amount of hours for the consultant by replacing him with an intern. The plan would be to use the intern for 15 hours per week over a one year period, thus reducing the amount of hours needed for the consultant. The second change is to utilize grant writing services at the Library. In order for the staff to dedicate time to grant writing, sixty additional part time hours will be needed. The third change is the necessity for further funds for special events. Bennett feels the \$148,000 will be enough to cover these expenses, and noted that these funds will be replaced by bond proceeds or donations.

Questions were asked as to whether the City is “getting what they are paying for” in regards to the consultant. Bennett stated that there is a contract that has a 30 day notice to quit, if the City does not think the consultant is doing what he should, his services can be discontinued.

Other Councilors questioned whether a consultant was still needed. Taxes have just increased and people are not happy. Councilor Engels stated he was part of the fund raising committee when NMCC did their fundraising. He was very skeptical of having a consultant, but after being on the fund raising committee, he now believes in them. The consultant will advise the fundraising committee on how to approach certain sectors of the community to help raise funds. Engels also noted that 2/3 of the residents of Presque Isle were in favor of constructing a new community center.

Councilor Chasse stated the fund raising committee is a group of very dedicated individuals, but without funds, they cannot move forward. Bennett noted that he has checked around the State, and for a project this size, most consultant are asking for double than what is consultant is asking for.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Councilor Engels, seconded by Councilor Randy Smith to authorize \$148,850 to the Community Center fund raising project. **Vote 6-0.**

**13-175 Authorize any funds allocated in Agenda item #174 to be repayable by future bond proceeds**

**BE IT ORDERED** by Councilor Engels, seconded by Councilor Green that under and pursuant to the provisions of the Charter of the City of Presque Isle, Maine, the City Manager is authorized to engage the services of a fund raising consultant to aid the Fund Raising Committee of the new Community Center at an estimated cost of \$148,050.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that, notwithstanding any provision of the City's Policy on Unassigned General Fund Balance to the contrary, a sum not to exceed \$148,050 is hereby appropriated from the Unreserved, Undesignated General Fund Balance for the costs of the professional fees approved herein; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that it is the intent of the City that the funds appropriated by this order shall be restored to the Unassigned General Fund Balance from the proceeds of any bonds issued or grants received by the City for the construction of a new Community Center in the City. **Vote 6-0.**

**13-176 Authorize line item budget adjustments to align with July 1, 2013 budget amendments**

City Manager Bennett stated this action formalizes all the changes approved by the City Council at their July 1, 2013 meeting. There are two items still left to be determined. One is the \$50,000 from Unclassified Account which is the employee benefit piece. Bennett stated he is still in negotiations with the unions, and there is no agreement as of yet. The second item is the reduction of \$20,000 in the Capital Account. Where those amounts are coming from have not been determined yet.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Hallowell to approve the following adjusted balances for the 2013 City Budget: General Government \$226,391, decrease of \$13,000; Police Department \$1,214,600, decrease of \$5,000; Public Works \$2,652,243, decrease of \$10,000; Rec & Parks \$881,387, decrease of \$21,000; Unclassified \$114,467, decrease of \$50,366; City Clerk/General Assistance \$150,722, decrease of \$5,000 and Capital Reserves \$650,300, decrease of \$20,000. **Vote 6-0.**

**13-177 Receive interim report on outdoor pool placement**

City Manager Bennett stated there will be definitive information in the Council packet for the August 5, 2013 meeting. Bennett stated there are four options available at this time. (1) To continue to operate as we are now, no outdoor pool and utilize the indoor pool for summer lessons. There is still \$500,000 needed to repair the indoor pool, and Bennett feels this is the public's least favorite option. (2) Construct a new outdoor pool at the new community center site. This option will cost approximately \$1,500,000 for the pool, \$250,000 for water features and \$250,000 for site development. (3) Construct a new indoor pool with water features. This option would cost \$3,500,000. (4) Construct a new outside pool with water features, close the indoor pool and try to get an agreement with UMPI.

Bennett stated that he has met with UMPI and they have agreed to allow the City four to six hours per day of pool time. Two thirds of the cost of registration would go to UMPI, and the rest would stay with the City. UMPI would provide the life guards, and Sloan would continue in her capacity as aquatics director.

Bennett stated in option 4, the current staff that work at the pool would remain, but they would be reassigned to the new community center. Bennett stated that the City could run the same programs they offer now for less cost in option 4. There are two groups who would be impacted, the early morning swimmers and other communities who rent our pool for their residents.

Councilor Engels asked why the cost to build a pool is so high. Hotels and motels have pools and it is doubtful they spent \$1,500,000 for a pool. Bennett stated that some of that cost is site development and landscaping to incorporate the pool into the design of the community center project. Also included in that total, is the water splash piece (\$250,000). Bennett also noted that pools at hotels are smaller than the one that would be designed for this project. Bennett stated if the Council wished to make a smaller pool, they could, which would reduce the cost of the project.

Councilor Green stated he visited Canada and toured an interactive water park where 1,000 individuals use the pool per week, and believes construction of a water park would take pressure off the outdoor pool. Green stated there have been at least 100 people who have moved away from this area and have contacted him expressing interest in donating to this project.

Bennett stated before staffing changed, the City was losing approximately \$100,000 at the indoor pool and \$100,000 at The Forum. He will look into what those numbers are again, but thinks \$50,000 is being lost on both, plus the outdoor pool costs \$40,000.

**13-178 Authorize the City Manager to submit and sign a pre-application to the Northern Border Regional Commission**

Kenneth Arndt, Planning & Development Director, addressed the Council regarding a grant to the Northern Boarder Regional Commission. Arndt stated in 2008, the City pursued grants for the new community center and farmer's market, which would be located in the downtown area. This particular grant assists distressed counties in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont areas. If the Council approves, an application will be submitted which requires a 28% match, approximately \$64,000.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Councilor Engels, seconded by Councilor Randy Smith to authorize the City Manager to submit and sign a pre-application to the Northern Boarder Regional Commission for the 2013 funding cycle and the authority to sign any NBRC grant documents to bind the City and NBRC. **Vote 6-0.**

**Adjournment**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Councilor Randy Smith, seconded by Councilor Green to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 AM. **Vote 6-0.**

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beverly A. Labbe, City Clerk