



Presque Isle City Council Meeting

Monday, March 4, 2013

6:00 PM

Presque Isle Council Chambers

Present: Chairperson Emily Smith, Vice-Chairperson Randy Smith, Councilors Micah Desmond, Richard Engels, Craig Green, Peter Hallowell and Bruce Sargent

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

Chairperson Emily Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamation

13-44 Founder's Day

Councilor Green read into record a proclamation declaring the Saturday closest to April 16th as Founder's Day.

Public Hearings

13-45 Approve Special Permit for Music, Dancing and Entertainment for Presque Isle Country Club, with a location of 35 Parkhurst Siding Road, Presque Isle (Single Hearing)

The public hearing portion of the meeting was opened at 6:01 PM. Hearing no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed at 6:01 PM.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor Engels, seconded by Councilor Randy Smith to approve a Special Permit for Music, Dancing and Entertainment for Presque Isle Country Club, with a location of 35 Parkhurst Siding Road, Presque Isle. **Vote 7-0.**

13-46 Approve a Special Permit for Music, Dancing and Entertainment for Star City Coffee, with a location of 483 Main Street, Presque Isle (Single Hearing)

The public hearing portion of the meeting was opened at 6:02 PM. Hearing no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed at 6:02 PM.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Engels to approve a Special Permit for Music, Dancing and Entertainment for Star City Coffee, with a location of 483 Main Street, Presque Isle. **Vote 7-0.**

13-47 Amend Chapter 52 - Ordinance of Commercial Displays of Nudity (First Hearing)

The public hearing portion of the meeting was opened at 6:03 PM.

City Manager Bennett drew the Councilors attention to Section 4 - Conduct (8), which deals specifically with signage. At the previous council meeting Councilors wanted the ordinance to state that there would be no signage allowed with pictorial or graphic displays. The ordinance has been modified to reflect that.

Councilors agreed these amendments protect the general public, but still allows nude entertainment to occur.

The public hearing was closed at 6:05 PM.

The second public hearing is scheduled for April 1, 2013.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Consent Agenda

- 13-48 Approve City Council minutes for the regular meeting held on February 4, 2013**
- 13-49 Approve 2013 Warrants #4 - #7, totaling \$1,129,688.31**
- 13-50 Annual Report on Investments**

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor Hallowell, seconded by Councilor Randy Smith to approve Consent Agenda Items 48 - 50. **Vote 7-0.**

New Business

13-51 Application and utility Location permit for Maine Public Service

City Manager Bennett stated that a requirement is being placed on this application which states the poles must be relocated to the back side of the sidewalk away from the curb, in order for the City to maintain the sidewalks without obstructions and to be in compliance with ADA standards.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor Engels, seconded by Councilor Sargent that the application by Maine Public Service for the replacement of utility poles on Mechanic Street be approved with the condition that the poles on Mechanic Street from the 5-way intersection to the Industrial Street intersection be relocated to the back side of the sidewalk away from the curb. **Vote 7-0.**

13-52 Discussion in regards to the Community Center Fundraising Committee's request to present naming opportunities

Steve Richard, who resides at 22 Lombard Street and a co-member of the Community Center Fundraising Committee, asked the Council to consider allowing the fundraising committee to institute naming rights as part of the fundraising campaign. Richard noted when TAMC was fundraising, the ability to incorporate naming opportunities helped bring in a lot of revenue.

City Manager Bennett stated that the committee did not want to invest time developing a plan if the Council did not support it. If there is support, the committee would come to the Council later with a plan.

Councilor Green stated that the name of William V Haskell has a long history in Presque Isle. He was the first Recreation & Parks Director in the State and asked if his name could somehow be incorporated into the project so he would not be forgotten.

It was the consensus of the Councilors to allow the committee to utilize naming opportunities during their fundraising campaign.

13-53 Authorize Consultant Services for Community Center Fund Raising Committee

City Manager Bennett stated "Request For Proposals" for a consultant were sent out, three were received. All of the proposals were higher than expected. The Committee reviewed the proposals, and asked Gary Freidmann if they would be willing to lower their bid for the first phase of the project, and they agreed.

The Fundraising Committee is endorsing Gary Friedmann & Associates, and funds for consulting services have already been set aside.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor Engels, seconded by Councilor Green to authorize an Agreement for Services for Gary Freidmann & Associates of Bar Harbor, ME as the fundraising consultant for the Community Center. **Vote 7-0.**

13-54 Appoint a registrar

City Manager Bennett stated Virginia Packard retired last year after 50 years of service to the City as the registrar, and feels that it would be a lasting tribute and honor if Mrs. Packard would be the last person outside of the City to serve as the registrar.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor Hallowell, seconded by Councilor Sargent to appoint Beverly A. Labbe as the registrar. **Vote 7-0.**

13-55 Tax abatement for Jason Jackson Enterprises, Inc.

City Manager Bennett stated that Mr. Jackson operated a business at the Aroostook Centre Mall that closed in December of 2008. At that time, Jackson verbally informed the City that the business had closed, but personal property continued to be assessed. Jackson was taken to small claims court and a settlement was reached. Jackson agreed to pay the 2008 and 2009 tax balances including interest. Bennett stated that because these tax balances go beyond one year, Council approval is needed.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor Randy Smith, seconded by Councilor Green that the City Council authorize an abatement of 2010 personal property taxes in the amount of \$65.80 and 2011 personal property taxes in the amount of \$56.40 against Jason Jackson Enterprises, Inc. in accordance with the City's settlement agreement with the taxpayer. **Vote 7-0.**

13-56 Appoint member to Presque Isle Water District

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Sargent to appoint Mark Jones as a Trustee of the Presque Isle Water District. **Vote 7-0.**

13-57 Authorize a letter of support to combine the Water and Sewer Boards

Councilor Green stated that a little while ago, the Water & Sewer trustees had met with the City Council to discuss combining both boards. As a result of that discussion, the trustees decided that it might be easier if both boards were combined. In order for that to occur, a change at the legislature needed to happen. A bill has been introduced and the Council is being asked tonight to support the bill.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Sargent that the City Council support the bill to combine the Presque Isle Sewer District and the Presque Isle Water District into a single utilities district. **Vote 7-0.**

13-58 Contract for Dispatch Services

City Manager Bennett noted that the contract for dispatching services has not changed in the last three years and the real costs are close to what the contract is for. If the Council wanted to make any changes to the contract, they should give the Towns of Mapleton, Chapman and Castle Hill notice.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor Sargent, seconded by Councilor Randy Smith to approve the contract for Services - Dispatching as presented. **Vote 7-0.**

13-59 Resolve to present ways to streamline project approvals

City Manager Bennett stated that as a result of the retreat held last week, the Council wanted to streamline approval of projects, which might involve amending ordinances. One of the ideas talked about was that since the Planning Board has several opportunities for public comments, that once the Planning Board approves a project, only Council approval at one meeting would be needed instead of holding two public hearings of their own.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor Engels, seconded by Councilor Randy Smith to hereby direct the City manager and staff to present back to the City Council suggested steps to change processes, procedures and related ordinances in order to streamline project approvals, particularly commercial projects. Further, the recommendations shall not compromise any of the original goals that supported the initial adoption of the policies. **Vote 7-0.**

Manager's Report

City Manager Bennett wanted to recognize what an incredibly tough and difficult year the employees at public works have had this year and what a great job they have done. We received 17 inches snow that started at 3 or 4 in the afternoon and still had school the next morning. Bennett wanted to publicly recognize not only the leadership, but also the folks at public works as well as their families who have sacrificed and given up their loved ones while they have been working incredibly long hours.

The 2013 Work Plan is pretty aggressive, so Bennett suggested adding a second Council meeting, possibly the third Monday of the month.

There will be public hearings on the State Budget starting next week. Bennett stated that he would let the Councilors know when they are.

Announcements

Councilor Emily Smith read several announcements.

Adjournment

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Sargent to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM. **Vote 7-0.**

Attested by: _____
Beverly A. Labbe, City Clerk