

City of Stevens Point Meeting Minutes

Finance Committee

Monday, August 10, 2009, 7:25 p.m.

Lincoln Center, 1519 Water St.

Present: Alderpersons Molski, Walther, Stroik and Mallison

Excused: Alderperson Moore

Also Present: C/T Schlice; Mayor Halverson; City Attorney Molepske; Directors Gardner, Schrader, Morris; Assessor Siebers; Ald. Wiza, Slowinski, Trzebiatowski, Brooks, O'Meara; Deputy C/T Freeberg; Gene Kemmeter; Meredith Thorn; Bob Woehr; Stuart Morris; John Smith; Elizabeth Wells; Mary Zinda; Kathy Kruthoff; Matthew Kovalaski; Connie McElrone; Holly Kukuczka; Tonya Kowalski; Krista Thoe; Katy Matthais; Sharon Mras

Index of these Minutes:

1. Authorization for outside Legal Counsel - OWI Case.
2. Recommendation from Long Term Hotel Room Tax Committee.
3. Amendment to Airport Contract with Sentry Insurance.
4. Offer to Purchase Property - Corner of First Street North and Red Arrow Drive.
5. Approval of Payment of Claims.
6. Adjourn into closed session (approximately 6:50 P.M.) pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(g) for purposes of conferring with legal counsel with respect to litigation the City is likely to become involved in - Centerpoint Mall.
7. Adjournment.

1. AUTHORIZATION FOR OUTSIDE LEGAL COUNSEL - OWI CASE. C/T Notes | Memo

C/T Schlice stated staff recommends approval with money to come from contingency.

Ald. Stroik questioned what the conflict was.

C/T Schlice replied it was a former client.

Motion made by Ald. Stroik, seconded by Ald. Mallison to authorize payment for outside legal counsel for the OWI case.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

2. RECOMMENDATION FROM LONG TERM HOTEL ROOM TAX COMMITTEE. C/T Notes | Memo | Sculpture Park Proposal

Ald. Wiza questioned how this was going to affect the already approved projects.

C/T Schlice stated there are items that are showing on the report that have not happened yet even though they have been approved. He also stated we could extend it out farther if we run short. At the end of the second quarter we have an actual fund balance of \$146,000. If you take everything that has been put into previous plans and has not been expended we are probably looking at a -\$91,000, but that depends on the collection of taxes, etc.

Ald. Wiza questioned what will happen if all the projects come through and we are obligated to give that money.

C/T Schlice stated what we have done in the past is advance the funds and then replace it as the funds come in. These projects will come to the Committee for prior approval so they can be discussed further at that time.

Ald. Wiza stated he thinks both of these are very worthy projects, he is just concerned that the next project that comes along may be equally as worthy and now we are borrowing money from 2015. He also questioned the Children's Museum will be affected by the current happenings at the Mall.

Connie McElrone, 1101 Ridge Road, President of the Board of the Central Wisconsin Children's Museum, stated they have always had an alternate location plan so this will move forward regardless of what happens with the Mall.

John Jury, 935 Old Wausau Road, chair of the Room Tax Committee, stated that when the Committee made their recommendations in July of 2007, these groups had both come in and they had good ideas but they felt that they needed to be looked at a little bit more so they made a recommendation and the City provided some feasibility study money for both of these projects. They (Room Tax Committee) set aside a little over \$200,000 in the past few years if these projects came back and they looked positive. In the interim, the Council did not go through the Room Tax Committee and made allocations to Goerke, the bleachers and some other things, so it wiped out the reserve. They have found in both cases, the projects are really viable and well thought out. They recommend funding the programs and they will extend it out till 2014.

Ald. Wiza stated he agreed and suggested that we add a stipulation that the project happens within the downtown district.

Ald. Slowinski questioned with room tax money being allocated anywhere in the City, it would not have to be downtown.

Ald. Molski replied yes.

Motion made by Ald. Stroik, seconded by Ald. Molski to approve the recommendation from the Long Term Hotel Room Tax Committee.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

3. AMENDMENT TO AIRPORT CONTRACT WITH SENTRY INSURANCE. C/T Notes | Amendment to Lease

C/T Schlice stated he talked with Sentry Insurance and they would like to change the agreement with the City to pay their fuel flowage fee annually rather than quarterly.

Motion made by Ald. Walther, seconded by Ald. Mallison to approve the amendment to the airport contract with Sentry Insurance.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

4. OFFER TO PURCHASE PROPERTY - CORNER OF FIRST STREET NORTH AND RED ARROW DRIVE. C/T Notes | Offer to Purchase

C/T Schlice stated we have looked at this in the past and the property owner adjacent to it would like to purchase it. He is offering an amount very close to what the Assessor had valued it. Part of the conditions of the sale would be that although he would not be able to purchase the ditch area, that he would be required to maintain it, which is the same for any property owner in Stevens Point.

Ald. Stroik questioned how we end up with it in the first place.

C/T Schlice explained that when Red Arrow Drive was put in, there was some rearranging of property. There are a number other properties in the City that we are going to be looking at to possibly sell that we are currently maintaining.

Ald. Stroik asked if \$900 seemed fair.

C/T Schlice stated yes.

Motion made by Ald. Stroik, seconded by Ald. Mallison to approve the sale of the property on the corner of First Street North and Red Arrow Drive for \$900.

Ald. Mallison questioned what the value is on the land.

Assessor Siebers stated the land is tax exempt right now, but said he would value it at about \$1000.

Ald. Wiza asked if the proceeds from this sale would be going into the general fund.

C/T Schlice stated yes.

Ald. Wiza stated he has talked to the property owner and stated he supports this.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF CLAIMS. See the Claims

Motion made by Ald. Molski, seconded by Ald. Mallison to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$1,345,773.93.

The claims were discussed.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

6. ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION (APPROXIMATELY 6:50 P.M.) PURSUANT TO WISCONSIN STATE STATUTES 19.85 (G) FOR PURPOSES OF CONFERRING WITH LEGAL COUNSEL WITH RESPECT TO LITIGATION THE CITY IS LIKELY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN - CENTERPOINT MALL.

Motion made by Ald. Stroik, seconded by Ald. Walther to adjourn into closed session at 7:40 P.M. pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85(g).

Ayes: Ald. Molski, Walther, Stroik and Mallison Nays: None Motion carried.

Adjourned in closed session at 8:22 P.M.

The meeting minutes reproduced on this website are derived from the computer files used to produce the official minutes for the City of Stevens Point, but are unofficial. The minutes on this web site cannot be certified under s. 889.08, Wis. Stats., and cannot be considered prima facie evidence under s. 889.04, Wis. Stats. Certain tables, maps, and other documents that are a part of the official minutes are not included in the files reproduced on this website. Please consult the printed minutes, available in the City Clerk's Office, for the official text. The decisions made by City of Stevens Point boards, committees, and commissions (other than the Police & Fire Commission) are advisory only and are not binding on the City until affirmed at a meeting of the Common Council. Some of the minutes on this web site might not be approved by the Common Council as of today.