Minutes for Regular City Council Meeting Held on February 14, 2012

Present: Mayor: Brian Mielke

Council Members: Josh Lee, Adam Strain, Alan Ralston, Joan Perron

Also Present: Police Chief Mike Aschenbrenner, Building Official David Neameyer, City Attorney Tom Lehmann, City Clerk Jennifer Bruestle

Mayor Brian Mielke opened the City Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: It was moved (Strain/Perron) to approve the January 10, 2012 minutes as presented. Passed

5-0.

Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Treasurer’s Report: Motioned by Ralston, seconded by Perron to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Passed 5-0.

**General Fund:**

Met Council—monthly wastewater charge for February $ 1,189.41

Lehmann & Lutter—Attorney fees for January $ 2,000.00

Kim Perron—snow removal $ 832.50

City of Mendota Heights—Police and Fire $ 8,357.11

State of MN—Rent for Benson Metals $140.00

Xcel Energy—Jail lights 12/20-1/23/12 $ 10.10

Xcel Energy—Street lights—1/03-2/02/12 $ 351.89

PERA January $ 135.00

Jennifer Bruestle—Phone service, postage, office supplies $ 228.35

Jennifer Bruestle—Clerk Salary $ 1,000.00

**Enterprise Fund:**

Xcel Energy—park lights $ 12.47

It was moved (Strain/ Perron) to approve the transfer of $1,995.93 from the Sewer Fund to the General Fund for the monthly wastewater fee to Metropolitan Council, as well as the sanitary sewer cleaning fee collected by Axel’s and Lucky’s 13 Pub. Passed 5-0.

Approval of 2012 Mendota Liquor Licenses: Motioned by Lee, seconded by Perron to approve the following 2012 Mendota Liquor Licenses

Lucky’s 13 Pub On-Sale Liquor License

Axel’s Bonfire On-Sale Liquor License

VFW Post 6690 Club License

Passed 4-0-1, Lee abstained

Approve Conditional Use Permit for 1348 Sibley Memorial Highway: Council reviewed the Conditional Use Permit for 1348 Sibley Memorial Highway for the purpose of outdoor storage on the property. Council became aware of the property owners attempting to mitigate the areas of concern; however, Council also determined the Conditional Use Permit Application is incomplete because of the lack of information given for the reason for the application request. Council requested Clerk Bruestle contact the property owners to determine if they intend on removing the outdoor storage, and if so they will not need to complete a Conditional Use Application. However, if the outdoor storage remains on the property, then a fence will need to be erected in order to shield the storage items from the view of the street.

Approve Contract for Water Service between the St. Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) Board of Water Commissioners and the City of Mendota: Motioned by Perron, seconded by Ralston to approve the Water Service Contract between SPRWS Board of Water Commissioners and the City of Mendota. Passed 5-0.

Resolution 12-02: Motioned by Lee, Seconded by Strain to approve Resolution 12-02, Resolution to adopt the Dakota County All Hazard Mitigation Plan. Passed 5-0.

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 7:51 p.m.

Carl Robinette requested the City contact Mr. Nielson, property owner of land located across from Benson Metals, to remove the dead trees in the area. Mr. Robinette also informed council the “museum” sign located on the front of the Mendota Jail needs to be repaired or replaced. Council Member Ralston stated he would attempt to fix the museum sign. Mr. Robinette also requested upper D Street be opened during the resurfacing of Highway 13 during the summer of 2012. Council stated they would take Mr. Robinette’s comments under advisement.

Danielle Cabot of Patch.com wished council a Happy Valentine’s Day.

Public comment closed at 8:00 p.m.

Council Comment:

**Council Member Josh Lee:** Council Member Josh Lee wished council a Happy Valentine’s Day.

**Council Member Adam Strain:** Council Member Adam Strain informed council he was sorry to miss the January Council Meeting due to illness.

**Council Member Alan Ralston:** Council Member Ralston stated he would discuss the manhole cover bid received from McDonough’s during Clerk Bruestle’s comments.

**Mayor Brian Mielke:** Mayor Brian Mielke stated the City mail is available for review. Mayor Mielke informed Council he spoke with Senator Kloboshar to provide a brief overview of the City of Mendota, as well as budgetary issues, infrastructure improvements, and the Mendota Post Office. Senator Kloboshar informed Mayor Mielke of information regarding legislation supporting infrastructure improvements for Minnesota Cities. Mayor Mielke also spoke with Katie from Senator Franken’s staff regarding the potential closure of Mendota’s Post Office. Katie stated their office continues to investigate the Humphrey Memo, which could provide immunity for the Mendota Post Office against possible closure. Katie also informed Mayor Mielke Senator Franken is attempting to introduce legislation to provide Minnesota Cities the opportunity to appeal the closure of their City post office, as well as change the criteria for post office closures. Mayor Mielke reminded council May 1, 2012 will be the expiration for the moratorium for the consideration of the Mendota Post Office closure. Mayor Mielke also informed Council February 25, from 3:00 to 8:00p.m. at the Mendota VFW will be a benefit for Haley of the Mendota Heidelberg to cover the costs of her eye-related illness.

**Council Member Joan Perron:** Council Member Joan Perron requested Clerk Bruestle contact Xcel Energy to have the trees trimmed over the electrical wire near the Mendota Jail. Council Member Perron also informed Council the roof on the Mendota Jail will need to be replaced. Council Member Perron informed Council the VFW will have their annual garage sale beginning March 8, 2012, and residents can begin dropping off their donations on February 27, 2012.

Staff Comment:

**Building Official David Neameyer:** Building Official David Neameyer informed Council during the month of January their was light permit activity. Building Official Neameyer also informed Council he has received positive feedback regarding the on-line building permit application process.

**Police Chief Mike Aschenbrenner:** Police Chief Aschenbrenner stated Dakota County is offering a two hour emergency management training session to Council Members, which will provide information regarding Council’s responsibility during emergency management situations as well as introductions to Dakota County emergency management staff. Police Chief Aschenbrenner is offering this opportunity to the City of Lilydale as well; therefore, the Mendota City Council agreed they would participate in the emergency management training along with the Lilydale City Council prior to the Lilydale City Council Meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 12, 2012 at the Lilydale City Hall. Police Chief Aschenbrenner will contact all parties involved to coordinate this meeting.

**City Attorney Tom Lehmann:** City Attorney Tom Lehmann requested Mayor Mielke and Clerk Bruestle sign the renewal of the MN/Dot contract for the lease of land for Benson Metals.

**City Clerk Jennifer Bruestle:** Clerk Bruestle provided Council with a previous invoice from Ess Brothers for the manhole cover Council Member Ralston obtained on a prior occasion, as well as the bid from McDonough’s for the replacement of five manhole covers within Mendota along 4th Street. The cost difference between the City obtaining 5 manhole covers as well as the transportation costs associated with picking them up and the bid from McDonough’s is roughly $500.00; with the City obtaining the manhole covers being he lower amount. Council requested Clerk Bruestle contact a contractor to determine the costs associated with milling the asphalt around the manhole covers during the replacement of the manhole covers. Clerk Bruestle will contact a contractor to inspect the manhole covers within Mendota to determine costs associated with repairing the asphalt around the manholes, as well as contacting McDonough’s to determine the cost for inserting the manhole covers if the City obtains the manhole covers from Ess Brothers at a lower cost.

There being no further business, it was moved (Strain/Lee) to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Passed 5-0.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Jennifer Bruestle, City Clerk