**February 12th, 2013**

**Regular Council Meeting**

**Pledge:**

Mayor Juanita Mitchell and Council Members: Alex Weego, Donald Fitzgerald, Jim Opelia and Alice Melzer were all present. Guests included: Craig Pomerenke, Karin Nauber, Katrina Nauber & Gloriann Bartels.

**Minutes:** January 8th, 2013 Regular Council Meeting:

Alex asked that the current IRS reimbursement rate of 56.5 cents per mile be listed in the resolution #13-001 assigning the Official 2013 designations. Alex made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Fitz, all in favor, motion carried.

**Financial Reports:**

Alex asked about the deposit from Centennial Reality for $1150. Clerk Michael Dagen stated that this was payment to cover a fire call for a property that was owned by Fannie Mae. Jim asked what the Fergusson Water Works bill was for and head Maintenance Aaron Fore stated that it was for water meter frost plates. There was a discussion about the water and sewer bills. Alex made a motion to refer to audit and to pay check #’s 13255 to 13306, Fitz seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Juanita stated that she asked Michael to include the Fire Department minutes to keep the Council updated. Gloriann asked if the Council would like to have the Fire Department relief minutes included as well and Juanita said yes.

**Maintenance Report:** Aaron stated that he replaced 5 frost plates on water meters this past month due to the cold weather.Fore said that there was a low water pressure concern from the Aelings, but he hasn’t been able locate a cause. Aaron said that he plans to change out their water meter this summer. Fore said that the past few weeks there has been roughly 50% more water pumped than normal, but he hasn’t been able to locate a cause. Aaron Fore said that he installed a new meter and turned on the water at 308 East Third Ave today. Juanita asked how many water tower painting estimates Aaron would be getting and Mr. Fore said that he planned on three. Juanita said that she told someone to send in a letter to be added to the list and Aaron stated the more the better. Councilman Fitzgerald thanked the Maintenance department for getting started at 11pm on Sunday night; clearing the roads of snow after the recent storm. Aaron said that the tractor will need a new battery.

**Clerks Report:** Clerk Michael Dagen stated that the audit is pretty much complete and that the firm Clifton Larson Allen will be presenting the 2012 audit to the Council at the March meeting. Dagen reviewed his notes to the Council. Michael asked the Council if the Hewitt Historical Society could use the City office meeting room for their monthly meetings starting the first Tuesday of March and there was no objection. Mr. Dagen stated that he had picked up his notary stamp today and that he is registered with the State and County. Alex asked if the Fire Department heat comes out of their budget and Dagen answered yes. Michael pointed out that the heating bill for the Senior Center is as high as the City Office while being used far less. Alex stated that we may have to deal with the heating in the Senior Center this year.

**Unfinished Business**:

**Initiative Foundation yearly donation**: There was a discussion about if the City could make a donation to the Initiative Foundation from their general fund or if it has to come out of the gambling fund. Michael was asked to research the City’s options. Alex made a motion that the City makes a donation of $200 to the Initiative Foundation; with the first choice being from the general fund and the second the Gambling fund, Fitz seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

**Hiring a part time Maintenance Worker:** Fitz made a motion that the City hire Luke Mitchell for a permanent part-time Maintenance position and Duane Ziemkowski as a seasonal part-time Maintenance position, Jim seconded, all in favor, Mayor Mitchell abstained, motion carried.

Mayor Juanita asked if she should be the supervisor for the new Maintenance worker Luke Mitchell; since she is his mother. Fitz stated that he didn’t think that there was any problem with Juanita being Luke’s supervisor and Jim agreed. Alex suggested that it be left to the Mayor’s discretion and if she wasn’t comfortable that she could delegate the responsibility; the Council agreed.

**Removal of the Mill was discussed**: Alex said that there needs to be a signed agreement between the City and Doug & Karen Carter; giving permission to pursue assistance with burning down the Mill. Councilman Weego spoke about acquiring a grant through the Fire Department to use the Mill burning for communications training involving the regional Fire Departments. Alex said that if all goes well; the burn could be performed by June of this year, with possibly up to 200 emergency workers participating in the training. Michael asked when the first motion was made by the City to remove the Mill. There was a short discussion on the matter and Fitz stated that it was in 2009.

**Resolution #13-003 Adopting the Firefighter Retirement Plan:** Fitz made a motion to approve #13-003 Adopting the PERA Firefighter Retirement Plan, Alice seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

**Fee Schedule Addition of Lift & Tripod Rental**: Aaron asked to include the rental of the hoist in the fee schedule. There was a discussion of how much this equipment had cost the City. Fitz made a motion to table this subject so that Maintenance can research the pricing, Juanita seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

**Browerville Post Prom Donation Request:** Fitz made a motion that the City does not make a donation to the Browerville Post Prom, Jim seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

**Scrap Central Request for a Weekend Scrap Pickup:** There was a short discussion in regards to the letter from the company “Scrap Central”. It was pointed out that members of the community already pick up the metal scrap that is brought in on clean up day.

**2013 Pipeline Safety and Awareness Meeting:** There was a short discussion in regard to the Pipeline Safety Training. Aaron said that he has attended one of these meetings before and isn’t interested in attending this one.

**Initiative Foundation “Minnesota Beautiful” Project:** Jim stated that it would be nice if this free paint project could help our local businesses and private households, but that they aren’t covered under this project. Juanita stated that historical buildings are eligible. Michael stated that there are no painting projects scheduled for the Museum this year; but now we know about this program for future projects.

**Region Five “Resilient Region Plan”:** Michael explained that this planning meeting would take maybe two hours and that they are looking for 6 or 7 people from the community to participate. Dagen said that this Region Five project is taking inventory of Community’s’ assets in the region; including things like the river and Museum. Clerk Dagen asked if anyone in attendance knows of someone who might like to participate; please let him know. Alex stated that he would attend the meeting and that he thought Michael should as well.

Fitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alice, all in favor motion carried.