

City of Ada
Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting
February 7, 2012 - 5:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor Ellefson, Members Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault.

Members absent: Member Austinson.

Others present: Kristi Henderson, Wade Krohmer, Lee Ann Hall, Brian Rasmusson, Nick Gwin, Jack Brainard, Tyson – Moore Engineering, Anne Rasmusson, Joe Kroshus, Eric Robb, Chuck Kroshus, and others.

III. Citizens forum. None.

IV. Consent Agenda. Listed on the consent agenda was: January 3, 2012 council meeting minutes, City pre – paid checks, City accounts payable in the amount of \$74,578.91, approve hiring Dillon Wilkens, Jess Kappes, Samantha Kappes, Brandon Kaste, Carrie Mathsen and Jordan Burley as part – time life guards.

Motion by Member Hansen, second by Member Edwards to approve the consent agenda. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.

V. Approve agenda. Added to the agenda was: Statement by Member Pinsonneault about the dike, Resolution 2012-02-01.

Motion by Member Hansen, second by Member Edwards to approve the agenda with additions. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.

VI. A. Mayor's report. Attorney updates. Anne stated she didn't have anything that wasn't elsewhere on the agenda.

B. 1. Public Works. Accept resignation of dedicated Public Works employee Gene Kappes. Brian stated that he will be retiring on March 23rd after serving the City of Ada for over 36 years.

Motion by Member Hansen, second by Member Robertson to accept the resignation of Gene Kappes with gracious thanks for his years of service. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.

2. County salt shed project – Memorandum of Understanding. Anne went over the details of the agreement.

Motion by Member Pinsonneault, second by Member Erickson to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the County. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.

3. Approve Resolution 2012-02-02 – authorizing the sale of property.

Motion by Member Pinsonneault, second by Member Hansen to approve Resolution 2012-02-02. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.

4. a. Member Pinsonneault gave a brief statement on the importance of the dike project. Moore Engineering. Partial payment request – lift station project. Tyson stated the request is in the amount of \$36,463.33 for Sellin Bros.

Motion by Member Pinsonneault, second by Member Edwards to approve the partial payment request in the amount of \$36,463.33 for Sellin Bros for the lift station project. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.

b. Flood protection project – set date for public informational meeting.

Motion by Member Pinsonneault, second by Member Erickson to set the date for March 1st at 7 p.m. pending a location being secured. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.

c. Highway 9 project update. Tyson stated that he has the cost participation from the State. The City's cost would be \$46,844.67 for the project.

Motion by Member Pinsonneault, second by Member Edwards to approve the cost participation of \$46,844.67 for the Highway 9 project. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.

d. Pay request - \$54,439.14 – Moore Engineering. This would come from a disbursement of DNR funds.

Motion by Member Erickson, second by Member Edwards to approve the invoice for \$54,439.14 from Moore Engineering. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.

C. 1. Dekko Center. Chair lift. Eric stated that he received a low quote from Horizon in the amount of \$7,117.00 plus tax.

Motion by Member Pinsonneault, second by Member Hansen to approve the quote for the chair lift from Horizon in the amount of \$7,117.00 plus tax. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.

D. 1. Public Safety. Purchase of base radio. Wade explained that he received a low quote from Spielman Radio in the amount of \$1,968.64.

Motion by Member Pinsonneault, second by Member Robertson to approve the purchase of a base radio from Spielman Radio in the amount of \$1,968.64. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.

2. Wade gave the following statement: Approximately 10 years ago I brought my family to the City of Ada to make this our home. When I accepted the position as the Ada Police Chief, I made the citizens of Ada a promise. That promise was to provide the best police department possible and to protect them to the best of my ability. I feel that I have achieved this task in the 10 years that I have been here. I have achieved this goal with the support of most of the citizens of Ada. Unfortunately there has been a lot of opposition from the city fathers during the past 10 years. There has also been support in some areas but it has gotten real frustrating when I cannot better the protection for the citizens of Ada because of personal feelings.

As a council and citizens, there's no way you can know all the police department does for our community. I expect the criticism from the public, because of this, but I also expect support and respect from the city fathers. In the 10 years that I have been here, I have seen so many employees (including myself) be disrespected and not able to do their job effectively. The micro-managing of the mayor and the council is terrible. You hire people to do a job but yet you will not let them do their job because you feel you are more knowledgeable than the employees. You ask for our advice but when given the information, you choose not to listen because it is not what you wanted to hear. I have always said, if you do not want to hear my answer then do not ask.

Its real sad when the morale of the employees is so low that there is not anyone employed by the city that wants to stay with the city. This could be a great place to work but the choices that are made, by the council and mayor, make it a stressful place to work.

Once of the most disheartening topics I cannot believe is constantly brought up is the talk about getting rid of the police department and contracting with the Sheriff's Department. It is surprising the subject has never come up at a council meeting but yet when the last election was held, an ex-councilman made it a point to be a topic of discussion with the candidates. I can tell you right now, the city would save a minimal amount of money, if this was to happen and it would be to the cost of the service to the citizens of Ada. All you have to do is talk to cities that have gone this way and majority of these cities know they made a mistake. I hope this city never makes that mistake.

A few months ago you as a council decided to hire an attorney to negotiate for the contract with the employees. It is surprising when department heads come to the council to ask for purchases, you ask what fund we are going to take it out of. But when the council decides to hire an attorney for this type of expenses, it is not given where this is going to be taken out of. I understand there has been \$ 4500.00 already spent with this attorney and there has not even been a meeting yet with any employees. The first contract offered by the negotiating committee to the employees is totally a slap in the employees faces. To me this says this negotiating committee thinks the employees are not worth the respect the employees deserve. I understand this is just a draft and not the contract that will be settled on as the union and other employees have to agree on. I should not be surprised as the disrespect to employees has been constant since I have been here.

I have met a lot of great people in this community and have some very good friends. I would like to thank some of the council that has shown me respect and support. But after very careful consideration and with a sad heart I have chosen to resign as the Police Chief of Ada. I know of one person on this board that is probably happy about this but I am worn out from the fighting and disrespect I have been given. My resignation will take effect on MARCH 8, 2012 and my last day of work will be MARCH 7, 2012.

E. Planning and Zoning. Nothing for action.

F. Economic Development Authority. Nothing for action.

G. 1. a. Finance / Labor Committee. Fire contracts.

Motion by Member Hansen, second by Member Pinsonneault to approve the fire contract amounts as provided. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.

VII. A. Old business. Department head attendance at council meetings.

Motion by Member Erickson to allow the department heads to provide a summary in the council packet and they can choose if they need to attend the meeting. Motion died for lack of a second.

**Motion by Member Edwards, second by Member Erickson to postpone this item.
Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault.
Against: None. Motion passed.**

**Motion by Member Pinsonneault, second by Member Erickson to send this item to the
Finance / Labor Committee. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson,
Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.**

B. Approve Resolution 2012-02-01 – detachment of property.

**Motion by Member Hansen, second by Member Pinsonneault to approve Resolution 2012 –
02-01. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen,
Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.**

VIII. A. New business. Choose Kaleidoscope reps. Members Hansen and Pinsonneault
volunteered.

B. Accept committee appointments.

**Motion by Member Hansen, second by Member Peterson to accept the committee
appointments as presented.** Member Robertson was concerned about still being on the EDA
committee.

**Motion by Member Pinsonneault, second by Member Peterson to amend the motion to
exclude the EDA committee. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson,
Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.**

**Members voting for the original motion as amended: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson,
Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.**

C. Appoint council member to Job Classification Committee. Mayor Ellefson stated he
would like to appoint Member Hansen to this committee.

**Motion by Member Robertson, second by Member Pinsonneault to accept the appointment
of Member Hansen to the Job Classification Committee. Members voting for: Robertson,
Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Abstain: Hansen. Motion
passed.**

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IX. Motion by Member Peterson, second by Member Edwards to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. Members voting for: Robertson, Peterson, Erickson, Edwards, Hansen, Pinsonneault. Against: None. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Kappes
City Clerk / Treasurer

Jim Ellefson
Mayor