

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**January 22, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Joe Dominick at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Norm Crume, Joe Dominick, Charlotte Fugate, Dan Jones, Larry Tuttle, and Ron Verini. Jackson Fox was excused.

Members of staff present were Jay Henry, Tori Barnett, Bob Walker, Alan Daniels, Dan Shepard, and Mike Long. The meeting was recorded on tape, and the tapes are available at City Hall.

Ronald Verini led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA**

Mayor Dominick added Item 8A: Golf Course.

Ron Verini moved, seconded by Charlotte Fugate, to adopt the Agenda as amended. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Fox-out; Fugate-yes; Jones-no; Tuttle-no; Verini-yes; Dominick-yes. Motion carried 4/2/1.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilor Crume and Mayor Dominick recused themselves from voting due to a conflict; each had an invoice for payment on the bills.

Dan Jones moved, seconded by Ron Verini, to approve Consent Agenda Item A: Approval of the Regular Minutes of 01/07/2013; and Item B: Approval of the Bills. Roll call vote: Crume-recuse; Fox-out; Fugate-yes; Jones-yes; Tuttle-yes; Verini-yes; Dominick-recuse. Motion carried 4/0/1/2.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

*[Typed from written hand-out]*

*Ruth Rolland, Ontario, stated: Everybody lives somewhere. And wherever we live – most of us naturally want the city or region we call home to be a place where everybody is treated fairly and respected, and valued for what we each do within our community. This one for the reliable, good quality work they do as a teacher, another for being a great waitress or cook, or whatever. We respect and appreciate every neighbor and coworker when he or she steps up and works hard, and takes care of their families. And we appreciate others when we see they deal fairly with their neighbors and fellow citizens. We look to one another to make our city better all the time, every opportunity we can. And that calls for us, as a city, to treat the city's employees with respect and fair treatment too. Nobody should be treated unfairly simply because the city leaders devise a plan take away from these employees' wages and benefits. It's the employees' families who are the ones who live with the consequences. Is it a good thing to treat employees this way, simply because you can do it? Ontario Public Works employees are continue to work every day, being reliable and honorable employees - - serving the citizens of the City of Ontario. But he City Council refused to reach a fair working agreement with them. It isn't right and it isn't fair, so that's why they were outside City Hall again this evening carrying signs, because they want the residents of Ontario and the surrounding areas to understand this. – That Ontario City Council does not respect the City's workers. There needs to be some fairness here.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution #2013-101: Accept Easement for Public Water Main Crossing for Northwest Farm Credit Services at 308 SE 10<sup>th</sup> Street**

Dan Shepard, Engineering Technician III, stated Northwest Farm Credit Services completed construction of their new facility at 308 SE 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Water mains were constructed on the development site to provide potable water and fire service to the development. Water mains, fire hydrants and meters were to remain under control and jurisdiction of the city. Utility easements were very common for larger businesses. Having these easements in place also provided the business with adequate utility and fire service. The easement gave the city the authority to maintain and repair this water main and meters as necessary.

The city was requesting a 20-foot wide utility easement for the water main and North West Farm Credit Services accepted conveyance of the described easement for a water main and agreed to the terms of the city.

Charlotte Fugate moved, seconded by Norm Crume, to adopt Resolution #2013-101, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AN EASEMENT FOR A PUBLIC WATER MAIN CROSSING THE PROPERTY OF NORTHWEST FARM CREDIT SERVICES, 308 SE 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Fox-out; Fugate-yes; Jones-yes; Tuttle-yes; Verini-yes; Dominick-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

**Resolution #2013-102: Appoint City Manager as Budget Officer**

Michael Long, Interim Finance Director, stated the purpose of this agenda item was to obtain the approval of the City Council to appoint the City Manager as the Budget Officer for Ontario. Each local government had to have a Budget Officer, either appointed by the governing body or designated by the local government's charter. The Budget Officer was under the supervision of either the executive officer or the governing body. The Budget Officer prepared the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. As ORS 294.331 stated: *"The governing body of each municipal corporation shall, unless otherwise provided by county or city charter, designate one person to serve as budget officer. The budget officer, or the person or department designated by charter and acting as budget officer, shall prepare or supervise the preparation of the budget document. The budget officer shall act under the direction of the executive officer of the municipal corporation, or where no executive officer exists, under the direction of the governing body."*

Ron Verini moved, seconded by Larry Tuttle, to adopt Resolution #2013-102, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE CITY MANAGER AS THE BUDGET OFFICER FOR THE CITY OF ONTARIO. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Fox-out; Fugate-yes; Jones-yes; Tuttle-yes; Verini-yes; Dominick-no. Motion carried 5/1/1.

**Winterbrook Invoice**

Mayor Dominick asked if there were any updates regarding this invoice.

Mr. Henry stated no; the bill was outstanding by a few months, and needed to be paid.

Mayor Dominick asked if it included the outstanding \$5K from last July.

Mr. Henry stated it did.

Councilor Verini stated in reading the report, Winterbrook had done a good job, and deserved to be paid.

Councilor Fugate asked if this bill had been held since mid-summer.

Mr. Henry stated the invoice was dated received on December 12, 2012, but it wasn't the first invoice.

Councilor Fugate asked if it was the first time it had been submitted to the Council.

Mr. Henry stated no, it had been presented when first received. The initial bill was of a lesser amount, but had now been rolled over into the one presently before them. Previously, the Council had not received the written report at the time the invoice was received, so staff had been instructed to withhold payment pending receipt of the report. That had now been received.

Norm Crume moved, seconded by Ron Verini, that the City Council approve payment to Winterbrook Planning in the amount of \$39,100.43. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Fox-out; Fugate-yes; Jones-yes; Tuttle-yes; Verini-yes; Dominick-no. Motion carried 5/1/1.

#### DISCUSSION ITEM

##### Golf Course issues

Councilor Jones stated this issue was what the Budget Committee was for – why was it before the Council for discussion? He understood the Mayor had questions, but those could be presented to the Budget Committee.

Councilor Fugate stated they had just received all the information to review at the work session [01/17/2013], so this gave them a chance to ask questions *before* the Budget Committee meeting.

Mayor Dominick stated the Budget Committee expected the numbers given to them by the Council to be correct before getting to them. Since the Council hadn't received the budget information until the last work session, there hadn't been time to review. He had major problems with what he had received. If others were fine with it, that was okay, but he wasn't.

Councilor Jones reiterated that was what the Budget Committee was for. They all – all 14 of them – could work it through together at the budget meeting.

Mayor Dominick stated he had some questions regarding the figures provided for the golf course.

Mr. Henry read from a statement he had distributed with regard to the questions he had received from the Mayor:

- 1) Why is the course manager requesting far more than the 25%?  
*He is not. If you do the math, he is requesting 15.40% (93,247/605,535). Your basic premise is incorrect, as 25% left means 25% of the total Golf Budget (\$605,535), not 25% of the General Fund transfers. It needs to be measured against the budget or you are comparing apples and oranges and providing incorrect numbers. 25% left has never meant 25% of the transfers only.*
- 2) Rather than ask questions about each line item, please justify all the increases. For example \$600 a month for a phone line? \$600 per month for garbage?  
*Again, your basic premise is wrong. For example; the phone line was budgeted based on historical costs through December, 2012 (2<sup>nd</sup> page of budget handout, 2<sup>nd</sup> column). \$4,869 was expended in 17 months, so the budget reflected \$283 per month. Then \$283 x 6 months (January-June) gives us \$1,698 (reflected in column 4). If you look at column 5, that shows a total expenditure of \$6,790, which is more than double the budgeted amount of \$3,000. This overage happened prior to the departure of the previous manager and skewed the figures that you selected. You are not accounting for our actual forecast figures. The same logic applied to the rest of your spreadsheet as well.*
- 3) Why is there a "utility" line added in, when there is already an electricity budget?  
*It is labeled "Course Utility" in the handout and the budget to account for and to track the sprinkler control board repairs from Silver Creek Supply.*
- 4) Payroll suggests maintaining staffing levels at budgeted levels. Course is out of money, best place to cut is too many employees. Another easy area is to cut the "small increase" given for golf management of \$1165 per month.  
*Only one part-time FTE (equipment and course maintenance) and one Part-Time Course Manager are projected for. In a memo dated August 8, 2012 that was shared with the Council, staff showed that by giving the current golf manager an increase of \$1165 per month to assume the additional duties of the previous manager, the budget savings are still \$23,020 per year over the amount paid to the previous manager. We could save the "small increase", but we would have to recruit and pay for a golf manager.*

*The other area projected is \$59,849 to pay for temporary staff from American Staffing. This may be reduced if we decide that it is more upkeep than desired.*

- 5) The golf course is asking for a 67.5% increase in funding for the remainder of the year. With the city budget still in question, how can one department justify/request such a huge increase?  
*As explained earlier in this report, it is not a 67.5% increase. It is a request for 15.40% to get through the remaining 25% of the budget.*

Alan Daniels, Golf Course Manager, stated the 25% was of the remaining \$150K, but they were looking for \$93K. It was still high, but too much money had been spent over the preceding 18 months. They were looking at a Plan B, which could make it more palatable, in that the Men's Golf Association was looking at an agreement with the City to possibly take over some of the course management. The city needed to maintain control of the assets, but there might be a way to do a joint partnership. He hoped to have some numbers for the Budget Committee meeting. They had cut from the \$150K down to the \$93K, and that was going bare bones, but he agreed it was still a lot of money. He did, however, anticipate hitting target on all projected incomes.

Councilor Fugate stated she had received some calls telling her that many of Ontario's golfers were already leaving to play the Payette course.

Mr. Daniels stated he had heard that too, but he also believed some were sitting on the fence to see what would happen.

Councilor Fugate asked if any type of letter had been sent, giving an update on this.

Mr. Daniels stated no, not to individuals, but there had been notices out through the Men's Association and through the Argus Observer.

Mayor Dominick stated in the numbers being compared with Jay Henry and Alan Daniels, they had mentioned the \$650K – was that the total golf course budget, including revenue and transfers from the General Fund?

Mike Long, Finance Director, stated yes, the \$650,535 included the revenue, with the \$248K and \$15K (for equipment repairs) were offsets to balance the budget.

Mayor Dominick verified the current transfer request was an additional \$93K. Knowing that, he now had some answers, and would bring his issues back before the Budget Committee.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS**

- Bob Walker stated the Council had previously asked that CH2M Hill provide a budget on the underpass project, and he now had that. (He distributed copies to the Council).
- Bob Walker stated the weather was killing Public Works. His crews had to replace or warm up over 100 frozen meters. The guys were busting it in the cold, and were getting tired. The river was freezing, and the water level was rising, so they were getting a bit prepared for a possible flooding at the Water Treatment Plant. The water had to rise about six feet at the Plant, but the ice built up and the water rose about that much. They would do a lot of sand-bagging. He really appreciated the Public Works employees.

Councilor Verini asked, with regard to the frozen meters, was there any type of maintenance that would prevent the problems they were experiencing?

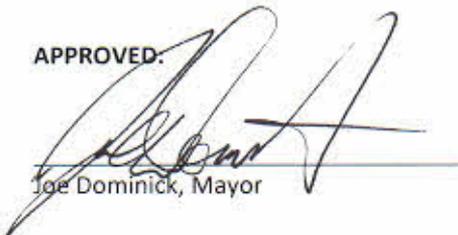
Mr. Walker stated there really wasn't. The meters were already about 24" down. The key was for people to keep the water moving in their pipes. Stopped water would freeze. He recommended that everyone turn their taps on a little – about the size of a pencil lead. If that caused a problem for usage costs, that could be averaged using last winter numbers. He also suggested opening up the cupboards under the sink to warm that area up. And any room that had a water main in the ceiling or floor, be sure those had heat. Closed doors could get a room too cold, causing freezing. But, the main thing was to run a little bit of water.

- Bob Walker stated out at the Water Treatment Plant, during December, there had been so many illnesses, one employee, Andy King, had basically been on duty for 24-hours a day for a good portion of the entire month. Mr. King was given a plaque of appreciation and a gift certificate in thanks, to show how much they appreciated what he had done for them. Also, Bob would be coming up with something to show appreciation to all his staff.
- Aland Daniels stated he and Bob Walker would be heading to Burns to attend – and push for the Ontario projects - a Hearing Committee on state funding for road projects.
- Mike Long stated the Council had asked what the PERS rate would be come July 2013, and it looked like it would be 23.10% for Tier One and Two employees, 18.44% for General Services, and 21.17% for Police and Fire. Those numbers would be in next year's budget.
- Mike Long stated he hoped to have the auditor's draft within the week.
- Jay Henry seconded his appreciation for what the Public Works crews had been doing.

**ADJOURN**

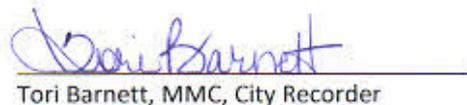
Ron Verini moved, seconded by Charlotte Fugate, that the meeting be adjourned. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Fox-out; Fugate-yes; Jones-yes; Tuttle-yes; Verini-yes; Dominick-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

**APPROVED:**



Joe Dominick, Mayor

**ATTEST:**



Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder