

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 12, 2006**

The Regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Muschell in the Council Chambers in the City Hall at 7:00 p.m. The proceedings were as follows:

Present: Council Members Boardman, Tebo, Lepp, Riddle, McCauslin, Charboneau and Muschell

Councilman Boardman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Agenda and Receive and File all Communications

Councilman McCauslin moved to approve the agenda as presented and receive and file all communications. Seconded by Councilman Charboneau. Motion carried unanimously.

Correction and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- **Regular City Council Meeting – November 28, 2006**

Councilman Boardman moved to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2006 Regular City Council Meeting as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Riddle. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Public comment portion of the meeting opened by Mayor Muschell.

- **Hospitality Night Snow and Ice**

Mrs. Trudy Lofgren introduced herself and commented on the snow and ice on Main Street curbs and street during Hospitality Night. She noted that the streets were in bad shape and the curbs were knee high with frozen ice making parking and walking very difficult, and it was discouraging to be downtown as a shopper and have these kinds of circumstances for a special night that was not only for shoppers but for merchants.

- **Glens' Market Driveway**

Mrs. Lofgren also commented on the continuous flow of water from the Glen's Market exit lane, noting that the residue splashes clean vehicles and is dangerous in freezing weather. City Manager McNeil explained that the Glen's Market property is a private parking lot and driveway. He added that the water flow is likely due to runoff from the grade of the parking lot. Mrs. Lofgren asked if that situation is something the City should investigate. City Manager McNeil replied that concerns should be directed to Glen's Market.

- **Island Ferry Docked at Cheboygan River**

Mrs. Lofgren mentioned that the Island Ferry "Polaris" is docked at the Cheboygan River and questioned if a parking fee is paid for use of that space during the winter months and if so, what is the cost. City Manager McNeil stated that he believes there is a dockage fee which is under the administration of the County Harbor Commission who manages the City and County facilities. Chief Jones confirmed there is a charge for dockage.

- **Best Western Motel**

Mrs. Lofgren commented on the Best Western Motel having a sinking problem on one end of the building and asked if that situation has been looked into and corrected. City Manager McNeil replied

that we do not know for certain what the problem is and that a storm drain in the area was looked at and the recorded by camera along that stretch of property. A failure or compromising condition within that particular structure has been ruled out from what could be seen from that investigation and the property owners have been notified of the situation.

- **Request from Mr. Ray Lofgren**

Mr. Ray Lofgren requested to be recognized under 9.A. Bills and Disbursements for the Month of November 2006 and 11.D. Consideration of a Professional Services Agreement with Wade Trim, Inc. for design and bid administration of water main project pursuant to the Community Development Block Grant.

- **Water Quality**

Mr. Gary Mero introduced himself and commented on the poor water quality on South B Street. He explained that since purchasing his home in 1989, the plumbing and other improvements have been made and a water softener installed. Mr. Mero added that he changes the filter monthly rather than quarterly, the toilet and tub require very frequent cleaning and the laundry is yellowed. Mr. Mero commented that he purchases bottled water for drinking and uses City water with extra additives only for bathroom facilities and laundry. He mentioned that the water bills are still extremely high for two people even with less water being used, and that the water quality is getting worse with a lot of black water being experienced much more frequently. Mr. Mero requested the water situation be looked into and his bills checked or meter read for accuracy. City Manager McNeil replied that the City can certainly follow up on the readings and data available with regard to Mr. Mero's water usage and get back with him. He explained that the water main replacement project that will be discussed later in the meeting does involve Mr. Mero's area and we are hoping that will address some of the problems he is experiencing. Mr. Mero commented that it seems that the water problem is worse the past couple years and especially this year and that even on a daily basis he experiences black water with a lot of sediment in the filter. He added that his water system no longer functions and requires replacement. City Manager McNeil commented that the ratio of polyphosphate treatment has been changed in an effort to find the right ratio and that this treatment is designed to sequester some of those materials Mr. Mero mentioned to the inside of the main and not allow them to release. He added that although while that treatment system is changing, it may actually allow the materials to loosen up and that may be what Mr. Mero is experiencing when referring to the extra poor water quality at his residence. Mr. Bill Burnett introduced himself and commented that he used to change his water filter once every three months; however, now the filter is changed once every three weeks and concluded that whatever is being done to improve the water quality is not working. He noted that replacing the water mains on the side streets will help but the main on State Street would also need replacement in order for the problem to be resolved.

- **Request from Mr. Richard Winters**

Mr. Richard Winters requested to be recognized under 12. B. Update: Retiree Health Benefit Research.

There being no further comments from the public, the Public Comment portion of the meeting was closed by Mayor Muschell.

Communications and Petitions

- **Presentation of Ice Rink/Pavilion Operation Budget – Charley Watson, Ice Rink Manager**

Mr. Charley Watson referred to the Ice Rink/Pavilion Operation Budget, asking if there were any questions regarding income or expenditures for last year. He stated that the new budget for the year shows some expenses that are a little higher than last year but it is hoped that the new lighting system will create some savings in utility expenses. Mr. Watson explained that the Zamboni equipment is getting older and costs more to maintain although we are relatively sure the cost can be kept slightly under the anticipated expenditure for this year. City Manager McNeil questioned if program activities will be much the same as in the past. Mr. Watson replied that public ice skating time will be increased to include more day time hours and possibly offered more frequently during the week. With regard to the rink usage, the Hockey Association, number of groups and High School ice time will be much the same as in the past. He added that figure skating is down somewhat but they will be starting a new program this year and next year will hopefully increase their rink usage. Mr. Watson commented that more weekend activities are planned for this summer and a report will be provided within a couple months. Councilwoman Riddle asked how the additional space at the arena has worked out. Mr. Watson stated the extra space has worked out very well and one of the most significant changes was the addition of the girls' locker room as most facilities do not provide that feature. He added that visitors have expressed amazement that the Cheboygan Ice Rink/Pavilion has seven locker rooms with only one rink where most facilities routinely provide only two locker rooms and the various teams share locker room space or use the bathroom facilities to change. Mayor Muschell asked if the comments regarding public skate time have been favorable. Mr. Watson replied that comments have been very good especially the afternoon skating time and has worked out very well. City Manager McNeil asked if any major expenses under maintenance and repair are anticipated for this coming year. Mr. Watson explained that the Zamboni repair expense has been significant and almost \$8,000 has already been spent compared to last year's expense of \$2,195. He added that \$10,000 is the anticipated cost for repairs this year. Mr. Watson commented that one of his duties as Rink Manager is to try and generate more revenue and that plans are underway for a raffle event this winter that should recoup most of the extra expenditures for the Zamboni repairs.

Reading of Ordinances

- **First Reading – Sewers: Collection – Repeal of Sections 51.62(D) and 51.63 and Enacting New Sections 51.62(D) and 51.63**

City Manager McNeil explained that these sections of the Sewer Ordinance discuss minimum charges for sewer usage, surcharges for amounts of suspended solids and also biological oxidation demand surcharges. He noted that the current Ordinance has a fixed rate relative to these charges and as a result any time those charges require updating, a complete amendment to the Zoning Ordinance is needed. What is being proposed is that language be interjected that would allow Council to make changes from time to time as recommended. City Manager McNeil commented that this is merely a housekeeping matter that he and staff are recommending for Council's approval.

Councilman Tebo moved to schedule a Public Hearing for January 9, 2007 for consideration of repealing Sections 51.62(D) and 51.63 and enacting new sections 51.62(D) and 51.63 of the Sewer: Collections Ordinance. Seconded by Councilwoman Lepp.

Yes votes: Council Members Riddle, Boardman, Lepp, Tebo, McCauslin and Muschell

No votes: Councilman Charboneau

Motion carried.

Bills and Disbursements

- **Bills and Disbursements for the Month of November 2006**

Mayor Muschell noted an additional charge of \$664.07 from North Central Laboratories for Wastewater Treatment Plant laboratory supplies, bringing the total bills for the month to \$692,798.26. Mr. Lofgren referred to Page 3, Item 38 – Ginop Construction sewer replacement on North E Street in the amount of \$14,000 and Page 5, Item 70 – Robiadek & Sons Excavating, Inc. catch basin at US-23 and Duncan Avenue in the amount of \$4,500. He noted the use of private contractors, commenting that as a stakeholder within the community along with all other tax payers, the City has a large fleet of equipment available and asked if these were emergency jobs or urgent in nature. Mr. Lofgren stated that taxpayers have spent \$18,500 on these two jobs. Additionally, the City has a lot of nice equipment and he feels this equipment should be put to better use and he would like Council to look at these two items in the future and direct the City Manager to what Council feels is in the best interest of using City equipment. Mr. Lofgren also referred to Page 4, Item 64 – Nantz, Litowich, Smith, Girard & Hamilton legal fees – City Manager in the amount of \$4,071.86 and asked what that expense pertains to. City Manager McNeil replied that the expense pertains most likely to union contract assistance as well as other personnel matters. Mr. Lofgren stated that as a matter of record, he does not want any guessing and would like to know exactly what the expense is. City Manager McNeil noted that Mr. Phil Nantz of Nantz, Litowich, Smith, Girard & Hamilton is the City's Labor Attorney. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski accessed the appropriate documentation and confirmed that the bulk of the expense is collective bargaining negotiations and there is one item under personnel and employment administration matters.

Councilman McCauslin moved to approve the bills and disbursements for the month of November 2006 in the amount of \$692,798.26. Seconded by Councilman Tebo. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski referred to Item 70 – Robiadek & Sons Excavating, Inc. for \$4,500 pertaining to work done on the catch basin at the corner of Duncan Avenue and State Street. He explained that the expense will be billed to MDOT for trunkline work and will be paid by MDOT rather than the City. Mr. Lofgren thanked Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski for the information and indicated that Mrs. Lofgren was referring to a similar situation with regard to Main Street being affected by the water runoff from the Glen's Market parking lot and perhaps that is something the City could take a look at. City Manager McNeil indicated he would inform Superintendent LaCross of the situation. Mayor Muschell commented on his need to abstain from voting on the motion because United Design prepared the permit applications for Rowe Engineering and may therefore be considered a conflict of interest.

Boards and Commission Reports

- **Regular Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – December 6, 2006**

City Manager McNeil reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals discussed two different issues with regard to a proposed reconstruction of the Speedway Station which lies adjacent to City Hall. The Appeals Board granted set back variances for the proposed new building and also approved a modified signage variance. Additionally, the Board finalized for consideration, draft form changes to the administration section of the Zoning Ordinance which is designed to bring the Ordinance in line with the new Zoning Enabling Act. City Manager McNeil explained that there are changes with regard to different considerations made for use variances versus dimensional variances, notice requirements and other different terminology such as aggrieved parties versus what our Ordinance refers to as affected parties and other terms of that nature. He added that the Zoning Board of

Appeals is also recommending as allowed by Statute, that the Board be reduced from seven members to five members, which would actually allow the current number appointed to the Board to be in conformance with that minimum number. City Manager McNeil commented that the information has been sent to the City Attorney to be put in legal form and will be under review again by the Zoning Board of Appeals before being presented to the City Council for consideration.

General Business

- **Consideration of Bids – 2007 4-Door Full-sized 2/WD Sport Utility Vehicle for Department of Public Safety**

Chief Jones referred Council to the patrol vehicle bids received on Tuesday, December 5, 2006. The bids are listed as follows: Shaheen Chevrolet – Lansing, Michigan \$32,041.28 (some items requested are not included – bid did not meet specifications); Berger Chevrolet – Grand Rapids, Michigan \$32,613.28; Wheeler Motors Chevrolet – Cheboygan, Michigan \$33,417.00; Wernig/Jones – Cheboygan, Michigan \$34,173.81; and Fernelius Chevrolet – Rose City, Michigan \$34,927.44. Chief Jones recommended the purchase of a 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe vehicle from the Cheboygan area dealer Wheeler Motors Chevrolet in the amount of \$33,417.00.

Councilman Boardman moved to award the bid for a 2007 4-door full-sized 2/WD sport utility vehicle for the Department of Public Safety to Wheeler Motors Chevrolet in the amount of \$33,417.00. Seconded by Councilman McCauslin.

Yes votes: Council Members Lepp, Tebo, McCauslin, Muschell, Riddle and Boardman

No votes: Councilman Charboneau

Motion carried.

- **Consideration to Reappoint Daniel Nieland to the Hospital Finance Authority – Term to Expire December 31, 2009**

Councilman Tebo moved to reappoint Daniel Nieland to the Hospital Finance Authority with a term to expire December 31, 2009. Seconded by Councilwoman Riddle. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Consideration of a Grant Agreement for Community Development Block Grant Program for Water System Improvements Project in the amount of \$750,000**

City Manager McNeil stated that by virtue of the agreement before Council, the City was successful with the application recently submitted to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. He commented that the grant agreement is typical of those in the past and Council will note that the language in the agreement provides for grant funding in the amount of 60% of the total project cost as listed in the budget of the agreement or \$750,000 whichever is less. City Manager McNeil explained that a minimum of 40% of this will come from City funds which we plan on gaining through issuing a water system revenue bond. Additionally, this grant agreement basically sets forth the rules by which the funds will be granted, the record keeping that is required, and monitoring by the State. He commented that the City Attorney has reviewed and approved the agreement. City Manager McNeil recommended that Council approve the agreement. Councilman McCauslin asked when the project would begin. City Manager McNeil replied that the project is expected to begin in the spring, adding that the engineers are waiting to hear from him in the morning in the event Council approves the Engineering Services Agreement.

Councilman Charboneau moved to approve the Grant Agreement for the Community Development Block Grant Program for water system improvements project in the amount of \$750,000 and

authorize the City Manager to execute the same on behalf of the City. Seconded by Councilman McCauslin. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Consideration of a Professional Services Agreement with Wade Trim, Inc. for Design and Bid Administration of Water Main Project Pursuant to the Community Development Block Grant**

City Manager McNeil referred Council to the Professional Services Agreement with Wade Trim, adding that this is consistent with the grant application and meets with the approval of Water & Wastewater Superintendent Good and the City Attorney. City Manager McNeil recommended approval which would allow the City to proceed with this project. He added that it appears the City will have the ability to save some monies in this regard and combine the MDOT survey requirements for the Main Street section of the project.

Councilman Charboneau moved to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Wade Trim, Inc. for design and bid administration of the water main project pursuant to the Community Development Block Grant and authorize the City Manager to execute the same on behalf of the City. Seconded by Councilman Tebo.

Mr. Ray Lofgren noted that he requested during Public Comment to be recognized before motion and support. He stated that with the consideration of Wade Trim, he presumes that the proposal is an amount of money that is past the \$5,000 bid amount. He questioned if those services were put out for bid. City Manager McNeil stated the services were not put out for bid and that the City rarely bids out professional services although proposals were not sought in this case either. Mr. Lofgren asked if Council is aware of that. Councilwoman Riddle noted that Council is aware that that the City did not go out for bid. Mr. Lofgren stated he would like to go on record that there is a local firm that the City has hired before that he is sure has the capability of this service and he would have thought that company would have been recognized on this much needed project. He commented on the City's large fleet of equipment and that he feels it is Council's duty to make sure that the equipment is put to the best use and that whether there is a grant or not, it is remiss that there has not been water line installed. He related experience with installing water main at Duncan Shores. Councilwoman Riddle noted that discussion has veered from what Mr. Lofgren requested to address and she asked to call the motion. Mr. Lofgren reiterated that he would like to see the City equipment put to use. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Consideration of Revised Fee for Appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals**

City Manager McNeil stated that this is a reaction to the requirements of the Zoning Enabling Act which requires publication in the newspaper now as well as additional notice requirements have increased the cost to the City in that regard and as a result we are recommending that the Zoning Board of Appeals fee be increased from \$75 to \$125. Council will also note that we have evaluated cost relative to our other fees and find they are still acceptable, so at this point, because of our requirement to publish, we are recommending the Zoning Appeals fee be increased accordingly.

Councilwoman Riddle moved to approve the revised fee for appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals from \$75 to \$125. Seconded by Councilwoman Lepp.

Yes votes: Council Members Muschell, Riddle, Boardman, Lepp, Tebo and McCauslin

No votes: Councilman Charboneau

Motion carried.

- **Consideration of Snowmobile Route Revision**

Chief Jones commented that the recent snowmobile route expansion has created some solutions as well as problems and that in an effort to accommodate some of the problems, he is requesting that Council approve three additional street access routes to those approved on October 17 and November 8, 2006 with the elimination of a groomed trail on the west side of Huron Street. Chief Jones stated that the three additional route expansion requests are as follows: North Huron Street from West State Street to West First Street; West First Street from North Huron Street to Dresser Street; and Dresser Street from the intersection of West First Street to West State Street. Chief Jones added that the proposed route expansion is on a trial basis for the 2006-07 snowmobile season and that snowmobiles would be required to operate at 15 miles per hour or the minimum speed necessary to maintain a forward motion, and to travel on the right-hand side of the street in the same direction with traffic flow. He requested that Council authorize a proposed one-way groomed snowmobile street route along the east side of Huron Street from Division Street to West State Street. The remainder of the approved streets would be accessible to snowmobiles along both sides of the street moving in the same direction as traffic flow along the extreme right hand shoulder of the road. Chief Jones stated that a trail was established on the west side of Huron Street but many complaints were received after written notice was sent to property owners along that stretch as well as problems with access to some of the churches along Huron Street. He added that snowmobiles would still be able to travel on either shoulder of the road but nothing will be maintained and they will have to drive on the edge of the bank and move around parked cars. Councilwoman Riddle stated that there have been concerns expressed by property owners with their ability to park in front of their residences. Chief Jones stated he polled the business owners along a two block stretch and everyone with the exception of one was agreeable.

Councilman Boardman moved to approve the revision to the snowmobile route as presented. Seconded by Councilman McCauslin. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Consideration to Observe Paid Christmas Eve Holiday on Tuesday, December 26, 2006 and Approve Deviation to AFSCME Union Collective Bargaining Agreement**

City Manager McNeil stated that every four or five years a situation arises where the Christmas Eve and Christmas day paid holidays fall on Sunday and Monday. The AFSCME collective bargaining agreement calls for any holidays which fall on a Sunday to be observed on Monday. In this case, Christmas Eve is on Sunday, which based on his interpretation of the contract would be observed on Monday, which is Christmas Day this year. Also based on his interpretation of the contract would require at a minimum an extra eight hours pay during the week and any work done on Sunday would include double time pay plus the holiday pay. In this particular case he is recommending that Council approve a deviation in the contract to observe Christmas Eve holiday on Tuesday, the day after Christmas. He noted that this is a win/win situation for management in that the City saves the extra payroll cost and employees receive the day off they desire. For those reasons he is recommending that Council approve the deviation in the AFSCME contract.

Councilman Charboneau moved to approve the observance of the paid Christmas Eve Holiday on Tuesday, December 26, 2006 and approve the deviation to AFSCME Union Collective Bargaining Agreement. Seconded by Councilman Tebo. Councilman Boardman questioned the plan for the Council meeting scheduled for December 26, 2006. City Manager McNeil stated the Council meeting would still be held that day. Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk's and Treasurer's Comments

- **Annual Continuing Disclosure Undertaking**

Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski referred Council to the Annual Continuing Disclosure Undertaking for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2006. He explained that this information is primarily used for anyone bidding on City bonds and has to do with what type of rate the City would pay as far as interest depending on how the bonds are doing in certain areas and the debt margin. He referred Council to the five year tax rate history for the City, homestead and non-homestead millage rates, State equalized and taxable valuations for the last five years, a five year history of property tax collection, legal debt margin and the debt statement which is a breakdown of the City's direct and overlapping debt, and information regarding revenue sharing payments over the last five years. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated that this information is sent to a national repository and any time the City goes out into the bond market this is one of the first items the bidders will look at. City Manager McNeil commented on the Special City Council meeting that will be held in January where he will present the Operation Funds Projections and his concerns with regard to the affects of the loss in operating rate and revenue sharing on the revenue side of the equation.

- **Update: Retiree Health Benefit Research**

Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated that he met with Ms. Sherri Komperda, a representative of Grace & Porta Associates as well as Mr. Kelly Cooper of Barnich Kavanaugh & Cooper Insurance regarding retiree health care. He commented that there are a couple options being explored with regard to how the City can restructure its policy as far as retiree health care, such as allowing the retiree to remain on the City health care providers which are Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Priority Health or allowing the retiree to explore what options are available and tailor their own health care coverage based on their specific needs. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski added that another objective is to also provide the retiree with the City's portion of the premium that is part of the Council policy on a tax exempt basis through participation in a Healthcare Reimbursement Account (HRA). He explained that there is an initial set up fee of approximately \$500 for an HRA, the cost of legal counsel to review the program, and a very minimum fee for a Third Party Administrator (TPA) to oversee the program. The City would contribute to the HRA and would set aside the money for premiums and the retiree would present evidence of coverage to the TPA. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski commented that Anderson-Tackman, the City's auditing firm, agrees that this program is worthwhile and would allow the City to disburse those funds tax free. With regard to retirees obtaining their own health insurance coverage, the coverage would be medically underwritten by the independent insurance company which takes into consideration age, pre-existing conditions and health history. As a result, the retiree may end up paying more in premiums to the independent insurer than they would through the City's health care providers. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski noted that he has no recommendation for Council at this time but will be exploring these issues further and should have something definite for the next City Council meeting. Councilman McCauslin asked if utilizing a third party administrator would aid Mr. Winters and the City in this case. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski replied that the third party administrator would tie into the City's policy quite nicely; however, Mr. Winters is asking for something different, and he is unsure if a TPA would be needed for that. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski added that another issue with a retiree remaining on the City's health plan after retirement involves collecting part of the premium from the retiree on a monthly basis which may become cumbersome. Utilizing a third party administrator would eliminate that factor and would also provide the City with some liability protection.

Mr. Rick Winters commented that he agrees somewhat with the information provided by Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski but one issue not clarified is that Blue Cross Blue Shield is a non profit organization and therefore must accept all participants. A benefit for a retiree obtaining their own coverage is that the retiree could go back to a traditional plan where coverage is available nation wide. Currently the City is in a network program that does not cover expenses out of network, and by selecting a private health care provider rather than a non profit organization, the cost is about one third. Mr. Winters noted that is the only part so far that they disagree on. He commented that Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski is correct in that if the retiree remains with a non-profit organization independently the cost could exceed what the retiree is currently expected to pay in premiums. However, if the retiree selected a for profit organization, that provider may or may not accept the retiree but if accepted, the premium would be about one third the current rate. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated that one issue in talking with Ms. Komperda is that the premium could be much less if coverage is tailored to the retiree's individual needs, such as eliminating the prescription drug component from the coverage, which in some cases represents about one third of the premium. Mr. Winters stated that he has not altered his position in that he still wants fully paid health care coverage for himself and his spouse, just as the previous retirees are receiving under the same collective bargaining contract. He added that he feels he is entitled to the benefit that he was promised.

City Manager's Report

- **Northern Cheboygan County Intermunicipality Planning Committee Update**

City Manager McNeil stated that the first tangible results of the recently formed Northern Cheboygan County Intermunicipality Planning Committee is the adoption of their priorities, problem statements and goals statements. He explained that the number one priority adopted by the Committee is the protection of natural resources and that Committee Members are to return to their respective groups and report back to the February Committee meeting with what they believe to be the definition of natural resources and what needs to be protected. He added that this issue will go to the City of Cheboygan Planning Commission at their next meeting for discussion. Committee members are also to meet with their respective groups regarding public utilities for water and sewer and report back to the Committee in February on where we envision in a ten to fifteen year period, the dense development is going to be, or where it should be, and where that dense development should be served by water and sewer utilities. City Manager McNeil commented that the Committee also resolved to resume a schedule of more informal meetings to basically update each other on what is going on in each jurisdiction, and that practice will begin on a quarterly basis in March 2007.

Mrs. Trudy Lofgren questioned the outcome of the Lincoln Avenue Bridge if the funds set aside by the State are not provided as planned and if that is the case, how long that would delay construction of the Bridge. City Manager McNeil stated that the State has money set aside and he does not believe that will be a problem. The City has recent estimated costs based on the latest data and we are confident that it has been budgeted within the State. Mayor Muschell commented that the total cost is approximately \$4.1 million and that was originally estimated that to be higher than that. He stated that the Lincoln Avenue Bridge will be let on February 2, 2007 and construction will start on April 2, 2007.

Councilwoman Lepp asked if Downtown Development Administrator Kirsten Guenther was going to provide a report with regard to her activities. City Manager McNeil stated that Ms. Guenther provides those reports to the Downtown Development Authority Board and that Councilwoman Lepp

may be referring to the review of the priorities and the results of activities over the last year, which the DDA plans on doing in February.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members

There were none.

Adjournment

Councilman Charboneau moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. Seconded by Councilman McCauslin. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor James Muschell

City Clerk Kenneth J. Kwiatkowski

Councilman Scott McCauslin

Councilman Gerald R. Boardman

Councilwoman Winifred L. Riddle

Councilman Charles Charboneau

Councilman Leslie A. Tebo

Councilwoman Theo Lepp