

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL-AS-A-WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING  
CITY OF SANDWICH, ILLINOIS - COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
128 E. Railroad Street  
October 19, 2009**

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Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll call was taken:

**Present:** Mayor Thomas, Aldermen Beverley, Dannewitz, Hyatt, Keene, Killey, McMahon, Moran and Robinson

**Lions Club Ramp Project:** Building Inspector Jim Smith provided Council members with a memo outlining specific concerns regarding the ramp project being proposed by the Lions Club. Mr. Smith was present for the meeting, and expressed concerns regarding zoning ordinance, building code, ADA compliance, and the Illinois Accessibility Code. Council voiced concern about liability issues but added they felt it was a great idea, and equally important to help the community. The Council requested Building Inspector Smith to work with the Lions Club for an amicable solution.

**Water Rates Increase:** Mayor Thomas advised the Council that an increase in water rates could not go into effect by December 1<sup>st</sup> as originally anticipated. He reported that the water bills are preprinted, and based on current stock, March 2010 should be the new target date for the increase. Ordinance 2009-15 provides for an increase in water rates, and can be amended because it has not yet passed. The Mayor said that 4% increase every 15 months should meet the intended goal.

**Bi-Monthly Bill Payments:** Mayor Thomas reported that the City is being charged a large number of late charges monthly, and consequently much time is spent talking to vendors to have the charges waived. The Mayor said Verizon is the most notorious, and that the office staff is trying to get the problems resolved. It was felt that if bills were paid twice a month, the late charges would not incur. Alderman Dannewitz said he will discuss this further with the finance committee members at their meeting on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Opera House Door Replacement:** A request has been made to have the back door to the Opera House replaced with a keycard access door. There have been numerous repairs to the door in the past years. Rich Bryan, representing the Opera House, will bring his findings to the Council about the door replacement.

**Progressive Energy:** The Mayor reported that he signed a 7-month agreement with Progressive Energy, but noted that the contract did not guarantee an annual savings of \$4,700.00 as previously reported by their representatives.

**Mayor Thomas** reported that all paperwork was provided to the appraiser this date and the appraisal should be completed within two (2) weeks.

**Fairwind Boulevard - North Project:** City Engineer Horak reported that the work is completed but that \$121,000 was held back in payment to Fischer Excavating for drainage and dirt distribution. He indicated that a \$60,000 payment may be brought up at the next meeting.

**Wind Energy Systems:** Building Inspector Jim Smith reported that the Plan Commission held a public hearing last week on wind energy systems, and subsequently recommended the approval of an ordinance by a unanimous vote. Smith said the proposed wind energy ordinance is similar in character to the cell tower ordinance already in place, and that each case would be a special use with variances. The majority of the Council noted that a resident could not have a tower wind energy system within city boundaries if the new ordinance passed. Alderman McMahon requested the matter be tabled for two (2) weeks for further discussion.

**Superintendent Hake** reported the completion of hydrant flushing. He noted that the hospital experienced low water pressure during the flushing, and the cause is investigated.

**Alderman Beverley** inquired about the punch list for Fieldcrest Subdivision. He added that he received a compliment from a resident regarding the handicapped sidewalk ramps.

**Alderman Dannewitz** reminded the Council about the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.

**Alderman Hyatt** congratulated Superintendent Larry Hake and his staff on the City's nomination for "Best Operated Wastewater Treatment Works".

**Alderwoman Killey** advised that she will be attending the school board meeting on Tuesday, and will report back to the Council regarding the parking problems at Prairie View School.

**Alderman Robinson** requested the Council review the packet he provided at a previous meeting regarding the contract and billings from Attorney Paul. He feels that the retainer fee should also included Attorney Paul's presence at court hearings. When Attorney Paul noted the contract had been in place since 1998, Alderman Keene suggested that perhaps the contract should be reviewed and updated. Alderman Robinson requested this be tabled for two (2) weeks.

**Executive Session:** Motion made by Alderman Moran and seconded by Alderman Beverley to go into executive session 8:06 PM, pursuant to Section 2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent; Section(c)(1), The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity. Aye: Aldermen Beverley, Dannewitz, Hyatt, Keene, Killey, McMahon, Moran and Robinson. Motion carried 8:0

**Motion to return from Executive Session:** Motion made by Alderman Dannewitz and seconded by Alderman Beverley to return to regular session of the Committee-As-A-Whole meeting at 8:30 PM. Aye: Alderman Beverley, Dannewitz, Hyatt, Keene, Killey, McMahon, Moran & Robinson. Motion carried 8:0

There being no further business to come before the Committee, motion made by Alderman Keene and seconded by Alderman Robinson to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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Denise li, City Clerk