

JANUARY 28, 2003

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Fanta with Alderpersons Hatlem, Molland, Long, Bjerke, Mack, Suhr, Zastrow and Smith present. Alderperson Macasaet was absent. Motion made by Suhr, seconded by Zastrow to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2003 Council meeting. All aye, motion carried.

Alderperson Long reported that the Public Works Committee recommends the acceptance of a bid of \$240,450.00 from Sam's Rotary Drilling to drill the new well. If the bid is accepted, work is to begin on February 15 and finish around April 1st. The bid does not include the well house or pumps. Alderperson Zastrow indicated this bid was considerably less than the other bid received. Motion made by Long, seconded by Mack to accept the bid of \$240,450.00 from Sam's Rotary Drilling for the new well. Roll call vote. 7 ayes and 1 nay with Alderperson Smith voting no. Motion carried.

Motion made by Hatlem, seconded by Long to approve Ordinance 544, an ordinance pertaining to dumpsters. A no voice vote required a roll call vote to be taken. Roll call vote. 7 ayes and 1 nay with Alderperson Smith voting no. Motion carried.

Motion made by Molland, seconded by Zastrow to approve 2003 compensation for the City Attorney at \$24,000 to be paid as a "flat fee" not through payroll. Roll call vote. All aye, motion carried.

Motion made by Molland, seconded by Mack to accept the Police & Fire Commission's and Personnel/Finance Committee's recommendation of Mark Rahr as Police Chief at \$48,000 per year and Ted Harris as Fire Chief at \$12,000 per year. Roll call vote. All aye, motion carried.

City Clerk Sime administered the oath of office to Police Chief Mark Rahr and Fire Chief Ted Harris.

Alderperson Molland reported that the Public Safety Committee had met with the Townships of Franklin, Jefferson and Viroqua regarding fire protection contracts with the City. Molland said a one year agreement was reached that included a 3% increase in fees with the stipulation that the contract will be reviewed in September or October of this year. Motion made by Molland, seconded by Suhr to approve the 2003 fire protection contract with the Townships of Franklin, Jefferson and Viroqua. Alderperson Mack noted that the townships are very appreciative of how the fire department is handling services. All aye on the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Fanta said he had spoken with Assessor Bekkedal regarding the claim of refund for personal property taxes for Jenkins & Stittleburg. Bekkedal told Mayor Fanta that the value of the personal property had been misinterpreted so that it read \$70,065 and not the correct amount of \$7,615.09. As a result, the computed taxes were \$1,767.82 and not the correct amount of \$190.63; therefore, Jenkins & Stittleburg are asking for a refund of \$1,577.19. Attorney Jenkins said that Mr. Bekkedal had visited with him about the situation and was very apologetic. Attorney Jenkins said that Jenkins & Stittleburg must pay the full amount of the tax first, and then the difference can be refunded. Motion made by Hatlem, seconded by Long to approve the refund of \$1,577.19 to Jenkins & Stittleburg for the overcharge of 2002 Personal Property taxes. Roll call vote. All aye, motion carried.

Motion made by Molland, seconded by Bjerke to approve provisional bartenders licenses for Phoebe Berg and a regular bartenders license for Amanda White. All aye, motion carried.

Motion made by Molland, seconded by Long to approve a Class "B" picnic license for Associates of the Restored Temple Theatre for February 14, 2003. All aye, motion carried.

Motion made by Suhr, seconded by Zastrow to pay the bills as audited by the Finance Committee. Roll call vote. All aye, motion carried.

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At 7:45 p.m. a motion was made by Long, seconded by Bjerke to adjourn until 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 11,2003. All aye, motion carried.

Kathleen A. Sime, Clerk