

City of McCallsburg

The City Council of McCallsburg met on Monday November 3rd, 2008 at 7 pm, in the McCallsburg City Hall for the regular monthly meeting. Mayor Loney called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Councilpersons Scott Anderson, Bill Lytle and David Muth were present. Councilmen Ken Tiarks and Jeff Wells were absent. A representative of the Sheriff's Department, City Attorney Robert Huffer, a representative from the Department of Transportation and four residents were in attendance.

Lytle motioned and Muth seconded to approve the agenda, minutes of the October 6th meeting, and financial reports. All ayes with Tiarks and Wells absent.

Revenue for October 2008

General Income - \$10,970.06
Water Utility Income - \$3,631.49
Sewer Utility Income - \$2,522.80
Solid Waste Revenue - \$2,254.54
Sales Tax and Late Fees - \$226.10
TIF Revenue - \$40,130.07
Road Use Fund - \$1,238.04
Community Betterment - \$55.00
Fees - \$100.00
TOTAL INCOME: \$61,128.10

Claims Paid for October 2008

Garbage - \$2,050.45
Mowing - \$1,171.00
Electric - \$697.74
Payroll - \$1,236.94
Water & Sewer - \$1,727.25
Repairs & Maintenance - \$637.67
Phone & Internet - \$217.22
Office Supplies - \$167.74
Publishing - \$86.64
Rent - \$250.00
Debt Payments - \$61,313.01
Accounting - \$50.00
Taxes & IPERS - \$1,585.55
Bank Charges - \$2.00
Legal Fees - \$3,164.75
IA One Call - \$22.00
Road Use Fund - \$2,800.00
Culture & Rec. - \$450.00
TOTAL EXPENSES: \$77,629.96

Mayor Loney informed the council that there were three outstanding building permits.

The mayor also informed the council that the law enforcement fee had increased seventy five cents per capita for the next fiscal year.

The mayor also mentioned that the one hundred extra wind farm generators would not be put in this year.

The curb stop at parcels #78 & 132 were broken and the mayor will try to repair them.

There was much discussion over the tractor trailing parking at Parcel #52. Mrs. Gjerde asked the council why they could not park their trailer in their own driveway. The council informed Mrs. Gjerde that the city code states no tractors were to be parked overnight within the city. In a letter to Parcel #52 it was stated that the tractor trailer could be parked on the frontage road to the lagoon.

Mrs. Gjerde stated that they have parked other vehicles there in the past and that they had been vandalized and also there was no plug-in for the tractor during the winter months. City Attorney Huffer suggested possible alternatives such as: making exceptions when the temperature is below a certain degree, setting an alternative site and a drop electric site with a lock and key. The council said they would need more time to think about this issue and tabled it until the next meeting.

Mr. Gibson from the Iowa DOT spoke to the council about the Federal Grade Crossing Safety Improvement Funds. Mr. Gibson stated that volume on the city's rail line was expected to increase over time. He believed that the north crossing was the most likely to receive funding within the next two years because of the high volume of traffic that crosses there. Mr. Gibson mentioned that Union Pacific would be willing to pay 20% of the upgrade improvement costs to the north crossing if the city agreed to close the south crossing. Mr. Gibson estimated that the upgrade of the north crossing would cost approximately \$200,000 and that Union Pacific would donate \$10,000 to the costs of closing the south crossing. The DOT could also give \$7,500 to the costs of closing the south crossing. Councilman Anderson asked Mr. Gibson if Union Pacific would be willing to remove the trees and bushes that ran along the south crossing to increase visibility. Mr. Gibson said that he would speak to the Union Pacific about a vegetation removal project; however, the railroad prefers to leave vegetation alone if there is a question about property lines. City Attorney Huffer suggested that Mr. Gibson provide a statement about the railroad crossing options to be published in the city's newsletter, this way the council would be able to get some feedback from the public before any decision was made. Mr. Gibson also mentioned that crossing illumination funding could also be an option. The council decided to table the matter until after publication in the newsletter and feedback from the public could be obtained.

City Attorney Huffer presented the council with a draft of a proposed golf cart ordinance. The council agreed to look it over and vote on the ordinance at the next meeting.

The mayor informed the council that Keith Anderson has put in a request for wheel weights on the city's tractor to improve Mr. Anderson's ability to remove snow. Mayor Loney stated that the weights were \$133 per 100 pounds. Mr. Anderson made a motion that the city should buy two sets of 400 pound weights for the rear wheels of the tractor. Muth seconded the motion. All eyes with Tiarks and Wells absent.

City Attorney Huffer presented the council with an ordinance to assess utility bills against a property. Mr. Huffer stated that this ordinance was to keep the city compliant with state law. Councilman Lytle made a motion to waive the seconded and third reading of the proposed ordinance. Muth seconded the motion. On roll call voting aye: Anderson, Lytle and Muth with Tiarks and Wells absent. Councilman Anderson made a motion to adopt Ordinance #158. Lytle seconded the motion. On roll call voting aye: Anderson, Lytle, Muth with Tiarks and Wells absent.

The city has not received a recent application for a business permit from Parcel #65. City Attorney Huffer stated that he would send a letter to the owner stating that the owner should cease and assist all business operations until a permit was granted.

The council set November 14th as the date to approve the Annual Financial Report and to have a TIF work session. The clerk was instructed to remind all council members of the meeting as the date neared.

The mayor informed the council that a pipe had been placed in the ditch at Parcel #46. The mayor stated that he was concerned this would cause drainage problems in that area. The clerk was instructed to research if a nuisance abatement had been issued to that residence.

The owner of Parcel #1 has been placing his downspout across the road so that it drains into another property not owned by Mr. Arnold. Mr. Arnold has made many complaints about debris from tractors being left on the roadway with Mr. Arnold assuming the roadway is his driveway. The clerk was instructed to send a letter to Mr. Arnold stating where his property lines are located and to include a map showing the city's road.

The mayor has received complaints that livestock trailers were being washed out on Parcel #4 and draining onto the city's streets. City Attorney Huffer suggested Mayor Loney call the county sanitarian about the issue.

Councilman Lytle made a motion to go into a closed session to discuss litigation. Muth seconded the motion. All ayes with Tiarks and Wells absent.

At 8:30 pm Councilman Lytle made a motion to come out of closed session and return to regular session. Muth seconded the motion. All ayes with Tiarks and Wells absent.

The next regular council meeting will be held Monday December 1st, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Muth made a motion to adjourn. Lytle seconded. All ayes with Tiarks and Wells absent.

Wallace W. Loney, Mayor

ATTEST: Sonia Dodd, City Clerk

Disclaimer: City Minutes are not official until approved by council.