

BABBITT CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 19, 2011

The Regular meeting of the Babbitt City Council was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Mayor Anderson.

Present for roll call were Councilors Fitzpatrick, Hoheisel, Marinaro, Lassi, and Mayor Anderson. None were absent.

Also present were Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Debbera Marinaro and City Attorney Brunfelt.

It was moved by Anderson, supported by Marinaro, to authorize the following additions to the agenda:

- a) Police Chief vacancy
- b) Police/Ambulance training
- c) Request by Police Chief Switajewski to send Officer Loewen to Minnesota Officer Juvenile's Conference Training in Duluth on January 25th, 26th and 27th at a cost of \$165.00

Motion declared carried.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick, supported by Anderson, to approve the consent agenda:

- a) Approve minutes of the Regular meeting of December 5, 2011
- b) Approve all bills and payrolls as audited by the Audit Committee with the exception of the Vermilion Sanitation bill and payment to Reference No. 14 (for further information)
- c) Overtime report
- d) Correspondence: Lake County Fiber project to do business as "Lake Connections"

Ayes: Councilors Fitzpatrick, Hoheisel, Marinaro, Lassi, and Mayor Anderson.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion declared carried.

It was moved by Lassi, supported by Fitzpatrick, to approve payment to Vermilion Sanitation.

Ayes: Councilors Fitzpatrick, Hoheisel, Lassi, and Mayor Anderson

Nays: None

Abstain: Councilor Marinaro

Motion declared carried.

Mr. Renner was not present to speak to the Council.

After discussion, it was moved by Marinaro, supported by Lassi, to promote Officer Chad Loewen to the position of Police Chief for the City of Babbitt upon the retirement of Police Chief Terry Switajewski February 3, 2012.

Ayes: Councilors Marinaro, Lassi, Mayor Anderson, and Councilor Hoheisel

Nays: Councilor Fitzpatrick

Absent: None

Motion declared carried.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick, supported by Marinaro, to authorize Police Officer Chad Loewen to attend the Minnesota Juvenile Officer's Association training in Duluth on January 25, 26, and 27, at a cost of \$165.00, with expenses paid from the 2012 Police training account.

Ayes: Councilors Fitzpatrick, Hoheisel, Marinaro, Lassi, and Mayor Anderson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion declared carried.

The stop sign issue at the intersection of Central and Alder was reviewed once again. Chief Switajewski felt another problem is at the yield sign by the Catholic Church.

It was moved by Marinaro, supported by Fitzpatrick, to rescind his motion of November 7, 2011 requiring police officers to take Ambulance training once a month.

Motion declared carried.

Ambulance Supervisor Mike Rhein submitted a letter to Northshore Mining Company requesting assistance with the purchase of an automated cot for the ambulance.

It was moved by Lassi, supported by Fitzpatrick, to approve the four Union contracts for the City Union employees.

Ayes: Councilors Fitzpatrick, Hoheisel, Marinaro, Lassi, and Mayor Anderson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion declared carried.

Don Negley requested a joint Council/Library Board meeting to discuss 2012 budget modifications.

It was moved by Lassi, supported by Fitzpatrick, to approve the partial pay Estimate No. 1 for 2012 Fire protection and Water Main Improvement Project.

Ayes: Councilors Fitzpatrick, Hoheisel, Marinaro, Lassi, and Mayor Anderson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion declared carried.

The newly received 2011 Comprehensive Plans for the City of Babbitt will be distributed to the Planning Commissioners and Council for their review.

It was moved by Anderson, supported by Marinaro, to authorize signatures on the FY12 Snowmobile Grant-in-Aid Agreements for \$35,509.50.

Ayes: Councilors Fitzpatrick, Hoheisel, Marinaro, Lassi, and Mayor Anderson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion declared carried.

It was moved by Marinaro, supported by Anderson, to approve the new compressor for the Municipal Center Geo-thermal heating system which may cost in excess of \$2,000.00 being paid from the City Facilities Fund.

Motion declared carried.

The Fire Protection Agreement between the City of Babbitt and Stoney River Township was tabled for more information from the Fire Chief.

RESOLUTION 2011-21

RESOLUTION FROM CITY OF BABBITT IN SUPPORT OF NON-FERROUS MINING IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY

WHEREAS, non-ferrous ores contain metals used in daily life – copper, nickel, cobalt, platinum, palladium and gold – and found in countless products, including cell phones, computers, joint replacements, electrical wiring, hybrid cars and catalytic converters, and

WHEREAS, the United States does not meet its domestic demand for these valuable metals, importing from 40% to 95% of the metals it uses, often from countries with little or no environmental regulations; and

WHEREAS, pollution from unregulated mines joins a global pool that deposits contaminants around the world; and

WHEREAS, current non-ferrous mining operations planned for St. Louis County must meet strict state and federal laws to protect human health and the environment, including the preparation and regular updating of detailed closure plans along financial resources designated to pay for such closure; and

WHEREAS, the first non-ferrous mining operation planned for St. Louis County anticipates construction of a \$600 million project providing more than 1.5 million man hours of labor for skilled trades over two years, and is expected to provide 400 stable jobs at completion with an annual payroll of \$40 million, with an anticipated 500 more spin-off jobs in St. Louis County alone generating more than \$242 million in economic benefits in the county.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Babbitt declares its support for the various non-ferrous mining initiatives currently planned for development in St. Louis County, Minnesota, and will consider all opportunities to assist the success of these projects, whenever appropriate, contingent upon the approval of all federal and state environmental permits necessary for these projects to move forward.

It was moved by Lassi, supported by Fitzpatrick, to adopt the above Resolution by the City Council of the City of Babbitt, Minnesota, St. Louis County on this date of December 19, 2011.

Ayes: Councilors Fitzpatrick, Hoheisel, Marinaro, Lassi, and Mayor Anderson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion declared carried unanimously.

Recreation Coordinator Joe Scherer provided an Arena update; advertise in the Ely Shopper open skating hours, Ely School and Blue Line may use the Babbitt Arena as a backup for an upcoming hockey tournament. Ice Edge Hockey inquired about summer ice but it will be determined on the feasibility of the expense and how hard it would be on Babbitt's equipment.

It was moved by Marinaro, supported by Fitzpatrick, to require the Recreation-sponsored artwork for murals in the Municipal Center to be a part of the school curriculum to encourage more participants.

Motion declared carried.

Brad Reifsteck, Project Manager at S.E.H., submitted drawings for Evergreen Lane for Street Supervisor Posey's review.

During the public input session, Chad Loewen thanked the Council for their vote of confidence.

It was moved by Anderson, supported by Lassi, to close the meeting at 7:27 p.m. for attorney/client privilege to discuss pending litigation.

Motion declared carried.

It was moved by Anderson, supported by Hoheisel, to open the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Motion declared carried.

It was moved by Hoheisel, supported by Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Motion declared carried.

Attest:

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn A. Anderson, Mayor

Debbera J. Marinaro, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Wendy F. Schlueter, Minute Recorder