

**CITY OF CUSTER CITY
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS- REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 17th, 2009**

Mayor Harold D. Stickney called to order the second regular meeting of the Common Council for the month of August, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. Present at roll call were Councilpersons Schleining, Murphey, Pischke, Starr, Reetz, Rex Harris, Community Development Director, Chris Beesley, City Attorney, and Christine Redden, Finance Officer. The Pledge of Allegiance was stated.

AGENDA

Councilperson Schleining moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilperson Murphey, the motion unanimously carried.

MINUTES

Councilperson Murphey moved, with a second by Councilperson Pischke, to approve the minutes from the August 3rd, 2009 regular meeting and August 10th, 2009 Budget Meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT – OATH OF OFFICE

The Mayor, with concurrence of the Council, appointed Patty Ressler as Ward I Councilperson. Christine administered the Oath of Office.

THANKS

Robert Pacey said Hats off to the City and their crews during Rally and thanks so much for all that was done; it was a great job. The Mayor stated that he had written a letter to the crew stating what a great job they did.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts were stated.

CHAMBER ANNUAL REPORT

Dave Ressler, Chamber Director, thanked the Council for having his presentation and for funding the Visitor Center; it promotes the Community and the events for all to enjoy. The visitor totals for July 2006 were 4183 and July 2009 they were 8150; so in three years we were able to almost double the visits. The annual counts are 2006 = 14,178, 2008 = 26,436, and 2009 will be well over 30,000. The largest day was Gold Discovery Day with 2,318 people; these numbers are visitors and not just people stopping to use the restrooms. The Governor's Conference just announced that the Custer Chamber, in 2008, was the #1 City for inquiries and #4 in the State; we'll probably not ever beat Souix Falls, Rapid City, or Deadwood. The website hits are 1.4 million in 2008 and we had 1.4 million through June of this year; the tracking system shows that 34 countries were part of that total. The Chamber combines their resources with the BID Board and five other communities to use various advertising methods; these have all increased the visitors to Custer. General Custer goes on the road to take part in 13 different travel shows; people do stop by to see if he is in the Office when they get here. Dave also mentioned that all of the Staff has received the Governor's Award for Customer Service. They are also working on a Spring Turkey Extravaganza with Matt Brown. They have received grants for computers, copiers, and a new phone system. Councilperson Murphey wondered about adequate space which Dave stated we ran out of that last year. The building is busting at seams, they use portable desks, and there isn't any more room for displays. They love being in that building but more space would really be nice. The Mayor thanked Dave for his update and the great job he has done, and for putting Custer on the map. The Council received the Annual Report showing the financial information for 2007 and 2008.

WYSS & ASSOICATES – TIF #4 PRESENTATION

Matt Fridell, Wyss & Associates, thanked the Council for passing TIF #4 and he gave a presentation of the options for TIF #4 project plan phase 1. Option 1 – Spread Out from Downtown – the historical lighting would run from Centennial Drive to the Mickelson Trail, developing several nodes, the Westside Trail and other minor work. Option 2 – Downtown Focus – this would center on the area between 3rd and 8th Street with historical lighting, nodes, midblock planters, side street lighting that would be ½ block north and south of Mt. Rushmore Rd and prepare 5th Street for the removal of the Sheriff's building. Option 3 – Lighting only through town. The lighting projects include the poles, electrical, foundations, lights, and the burying of the overhead lines. Matt reminded everyone that each option has its own pluses and minuses but this is also a great time to be bidding lighting project. The lighting will be set to DOT standards which those standards regulate the minimum and maximum amount. Rex mentioned that depending on the bids prices, there could be a little extra for small items; the completion is roughly 1 to 1 ½ years out but that leaves the last summer available for finishing up. He also stated that we will need a decision in a couple of months so we can get the engineering done and proceed ahead with the bids. Councilperson Reetz discussed having to look further than just downtown. Rex mentioned that he has contacted DOT for a potential lighting project since their poles and lights are so old; new lights with attractive decorative poles would help and maybe we could coop with them so the money could go further. Councilperson Reetz then stated that the Council needs to make the decision and we have our own ideas; once the Council makes a decision then we go to the public but that won't take long. Dave stated that this needs to move ahead with all parties having input. Robert stated that he likes Option 1 and Cherish Baker stated that the downtown businesses also agree with having lighting further out so it draws people downtown. Councilperson Schleining stated that if a priority had to be set, she would say the lighting rather than the nodes; nodes are nice but the lighting is more important. Rex

mentioned that the nodes are a safety item also. Councilperson Murphey stated that there is a pedestrian crossing problem and we need to address it; someone's going to get hurt. The Mayor thanked Matt for coming and doing a great job.

WAY PARK PROJECT – OPTIONS

Rex discussed the Way Park Project and that the Fire Wise Grant money needs to be spent and submitted for reimbursement by the end of September. We have received one quote for the irrigation, then the plants, and fees, we are at \$9700; the remaining \$300 could be used for incidentals. Tonya Olson, Olson Design, discussed the irrigation, soil prep, fabric, volunteer planting, the drip system, and then volunteers to place the mulch. With the proposed options to complete this project, it would be a total of \$60,135 which includes the \$10,000. Rex stated that if the City could fund an additional \$15,000 to prepare for concrete and soil, the Park would be ready for next summer. Also, if the City could add \$50,000 to the Grant, the entire project could be completed. Councilperson Reetz moved, with a second by Councilperson Schleining, to approve the expenditure of \$10,000 for the Fire Wise Grant. Councilperson Murphey stated that he wanted to see the rest of prep work completed. Councilperson Starr wondered if we could find the additional \$15,000 in budget. Then he wondered what if we wanted the Park to stay the same. Tonya stated the Park is not being efficiently or productively used and sidewalks are bad and need repaired. This is an opportunity to bring the design together with the needed upgrades for the benefit of the Community; we could actually see year around usage of the Park. Councilperson Schleining stated we want the Park to be presentable for any new building. Matt also mentioned that the Community Assessment also requested changes to the Park. The Mayor called for the vote with all voting yes, the motion carried. Councilperson Murphey moved to supplement the project with an additional \$15,000, \$5,000 from Parks and the other from the Mayor/Council Contingency. Seconded by Councilperson Pischke, the motion unanimously carried.

WEST GORDON STREET EXTENSION

Rex discussed the layout of the West Gordon Street Extension Project which would connect to Hwy 385 at Church Drive. Rex discussed opportunities coming up with property owners and being able to attain easements at a low cost, savings of about \$38,000. This project could be completed for well under \$100,000 with a 500 foot blotter but it does not include paving. This would provide a second access to that southern portion of town which is greatly needed for the repairs to the 4th Street Bridge which Council has indicated a need to move forward. Rex stated that he needs permission to proceed with the right-of-way issues being resolved, ordering the survey, obtaining engineering data, and there is money left in his Mitigation budget line item. Councilperson Murphey stated the Planning Commission recommended this for approval by the Council. Councilperson Schleining moved, with a second by Councilperson Murphey, to authorize Rex to proceed with this project. Councilperson Reetz wondered if the street repairs could be completed now. Rex stated that portions of the backfill are dropping out and the road bed is tearing up; we can't really do enough to make it passable. The City Crew is watching it daily to stay on top of it. The motion unanimously carried.

CHAMBER BROWN BAG REQUESTS

The Chamber submitted a request for a Brown Bag License Request for September 18th at Harbach Park for the Mickelson Trail Trek and for the October 29th Mixer at the Real Estate Center. Councilperson Ressler moved to approve these requests. Seconded by Councilperson Pischke, the motion unanimously carried.

NORTHLAND SECURITIES – FINANCIAL ADVISORY AGREEMENT

Rex presented the Financial Advisory Agreement with Toby Morris, Northland Securities. This agreement states what duties will be performed which Toby has already been complying for a reduced fee of \$5,000; this just formalizes the process. Councilperson Murphey moved to authorize the Mayor's signature on this agreement. Seconded by Councilperson Schleining, the motion unanimously carried.

RAFFLE REQUEST - WEAVE

Donna Talley, Executive Director, submitted a request for WEAVE to hold a Quilt Raffle ending at Christmas time 2009. Councilperson Starr moved to approve this request. Seconded by Councilperson Reetz, the motion unanimously carried.

LIQUOR STORE – SURVEY QUESTIONS

Christine reported that The Personal Company Inc. has received the draft Liquor Store survey questions and we are waiting for their input. Dave Coppess apologized to the Mayor for his reference to his age. Then Dave, once again, brought up having an Election on the Liquor Store issue but the Council stated that they would be following their plan of receiving survey information first.

GRACE COOLIDGE BLDG – STAINING QUOTES

The Council received a quote from Personal Touch Painting to do the Grace Coolidge Bldg staining for \$7338.40; the other quote received was \$10,000. Councilperson Starr moved, with a second by Councilperson Ressler, to approve this quote. All voting yes, the motion unanimously carried.

WAY PARK – IRRIGATION SYSTEM QUOTES

The Council received a quote from Moss Rock Landscaping for the Irrigation System at Way Park. The quote came in at \$7,447.24 which will be paid with the Fire Wise RAC Grant. The Council approved this item with the previous motion for the RAC Grant.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTANCE

The Mayor, with the concurrence of the Council, stated that he would like to hold off on acceptance of the resignation of Public Works Director, Bob Morrison, until he has a chance to talk with him.

NEW HIRE – LIQUOR STORE CLERK

Christine requested the hiring of Cordelia Hickstein as part-time Liquor Store Clerk at Step 1 \$9 per hour effective August 7th, 2009. Councilperson Murphey moved to approve this new hire. Seconded by Councilperson Pischke, the motion unanimously carried.

DISC GOLF COURSE – CONCRETE PADS

Councilperson Pischke stated that there are two Disc Golf pads needing re-poured and Rex stated that there is still money budgeted to cover the additional costs of \$1,500 to \$1,600. Councilperson Starr moved to approve. Seconded by Councilperson Schleining, the motion unanimously carried.

CLAIMS

Councilperson Murphey moved, with a seconded by Councilperson Starr, to approve the claims. The motion unanimously carried.

A&B Electric, Cruisin Professional Fees, \$326.40
A&B Welding, Supplies, \$73.60
Advanced Drug Testing, Fees, \$36
BH Phones, Utilities, \$50
Cask & Cork, Supplies, \$527.05
Chadron Wholesale, Supplies, \$1730.24
Coca-cola Bottling, Supplies, \$922.25
Culligan Water, Repair & Maint., \$17.50
Custer Chamber, Sales Tax Subsidy, \$39073.15
Custer Community Health, Sales Tax Subsidy, \$70639.12
Custer Do It Best, Supplies, \$77.64
DD Couch, Cruisin, \$182.27
Eagle Sales of BH, Supplies, \$13432.20
Enviromaster, Supplies, \$22
First Western Insurance, Insurance Premiums, \$12252
Fisher beverage, Supplies, 18382.71
French Creek, Supplies, Repair & Maint., \$106
Frontier Photo, Cruisin, \$957.50
Golden West Companies, Utilities, \$886.86
Golden West Technologies, Professional Fees, \$140
Hills Material, Supplies, \$1535.38
L&A Welding, Supplies, \$16.85
Laboratory Corp, Professional Fees, \$212
McGas, Utilities, \$1785.87
Nelson's Oil & Gas, Supplies, \$812
Okoboji Wines, Supplies, \$381.50
One Call Systems, Supplies, \$32.55
Prairie Berry, Supplies, \$1683
Quill Corporation, Supplies, \$55.60
Ralph Roeck, Cruisin, \$214.55
Rapid Delivery, Professional Fees, \$61.60
Republic National, Supplies, \$14793.27
S&B Motor Parts, Supplies, \$444.96
Sander Sanitation Service, Repair & Maint., Utilities, \$11327.61
SD State Exec. Mgmt., Utilities, \$20.83
Tatiana's Import Beverage, Supplies, \$259.90
The Ice House, Supplies, \$508
WEAVE, Subsidy, \$1000
West River International, Repair & Maint., \$239.07
Western Wholesale, Supplies, \$13404.70
SD Division of Criminal Invest, Professional Fees, \$24
Candace Keierleber, Deposit Refund, \$62.65
Cheryl Hadlock, Professional Fees, \$3690.83
Total Claims \$212,401.21

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilperson Schleining moved to go into and out of an executive session due to personnel, contract negotiations, and potential litigation at 7:25 pm with Attorney Beesley, Rex, and Christine in attendance. Seconded by Councilperson Reetz, the motion unanimously carried. The session adjourned at 8:09 pm with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mayor Stickney adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CUSTER CITY

Christine Redden
Finance Officer

Harold D. Stickney
Mayor