

City of Crescent Springs
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2009 - 7:20 P.M.
Immediately following the MRA Public Hearing

Those in attendance included the following:

Council Members:

Christie Arlinghaus- present
Mike Daugherty- present
Dale Ramsey- present
Scott Santangelo- present
Tom Vergamini- present
Matt Zeck- present

Jim Collett, Mayor - present
Joe Baker, City Attorney - present
George Ripberger, Pub Serv Dir- present
Sue Hill, City Clerk – present
Others in attendance: Sgt. Vines

Mr. Collett called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Arlinghaus made a motion to adopt the minutes of the **July 13, 2009 Regular Council Meeting**. Mr. Zeck seconded and upon vote, the motion carried unanimously, with Mr. Vergamini present but not voting.

PUBLIC SERVICES/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Mr. Ripberger reported that work is still being done in the Park, both to the playground areas as well as general maintenance.
- The longstanding problem at the intersection of Ferncliff and Estelle has been resolved by making it a 3-way stop. The sign was installed today.
- Public Works crews are working on tree limbs that obstruct stop signs and hang into the roadways.
- Mr. Ripberger has met with the management of the Spille Apartments to get the screening requirements taken care of. They will replant the pines that have died and plant a second row to increase the effectiveness, in accordance with our code.
- Part-time worker Joe Workman has left to take a full-time job elsewhere. We are now looking for another part-time worker.
- Park shelter rental is going well. We should review the fee schedule. Mr. Ripberger will survey other parks to see what is appropriate.
- The Department is pleased to announce that they have had over 4,151 workdays (over 11 years!) without a major work-related injury.
- The NKAPC Code Enforcement Board, at the request of Mr. Ripberger, will begin stepping up efforts to control blight within the City. There were 30 warning citations issued in April. There is a website that we can now check on the status of these called-in complaints. Mike Schwartz of the NKAPC will begin sending us a monthly report, and will come to our next Caucus to discuss how to improve the system.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Zeck reported the PILOT payment from Bear Creek is coming in regularly and the August payment came in today. The committee will meet next Thursday. The auditor is to be here this week and next. The process is ahead of last year and should be completed within a month.

FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Daugherty reported that the Fire Authority's federal grant for a new firehouse is still pending. They expect to hear by mid September.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Ms. Arlinghaus reported that the newsletter went out last Thursday with an insert from the police and the parks. Thanks to those who prepared articles. The website is still under construction and the committee will meet soon to review the website and approve the roll out.

SMALL AREA STUDY REPORT

Mr. Vergamini reported that the committee met July 22 and set their goals and objectives. The area has some challenging factors. There will be a public meeting in September or October. The next committee meeting will be August 26th.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Collett invited Council to the NKADD Annual Dinner to be held August 24th featuring Geoff Davis as keynote speaker. Please let the City Clerk know if you can attend.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Baker conducted the second reading of **Ordinance 2009-4** Repealing the ban on the display of "For Sale" signs in cars parked on streets. Mr. Daugherty moved to accept Ordinance 2009-4, Ms. Arlinghaus seconded and upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Baker conducted the second reading of **Ordinance 2009-5** Abolishing the Tree Commission. Mr. Vergamini questioned the reasoning behind abolishing it. Mr. Ripberger recounted how it was originally used and noted that it has been inactive for many years but that Mr. Rachal of the Public Services Department is the Urban Forestry representative and will continue to represent the City in all tree-related matters. Mr. Santangelo, Ms. Arlinghaus and Mr. Vergamini requested further research into this issue. Mr. Santangelo moved to table the ordinance and Ms. Arlinghaus seconded, and upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Zeck distributed a spreadsheet showing approximate numbers for the Compensating Rate and the Plus 4% Allowable Rate total income to the City and impact on homeowners across various house values. Discussion followed with Mr. Santangelo and Ms. Arlinghaus voicing their opinions to keep the lowest rate possible given that the City is in good financial shape. The Mayor reiterated that other budgeted income numbers are holding up well. Mr. Daugherty and Mr. Zeck voiced their concurrence.
- Mr. Baker conducted the first reading of **Ordinance 2009-6** Setting Real Estate tax rate at .230 per \$100 value, and Tangible tax rate at .187 per \$100 value. This is the compensating rate (zero % increase) and would yield approximately \$671,504 and \$44,439 respectively for 2009-2010. (*see note below)

OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Baker confirmed that the City’s current sign ordinance has held up well in the courts. The law suit challenging Crescent Springs and other cities has now dropped Crescent Springs. Mr. Baker does not recommend considering the Model Sign Ordinance proposed by the NKAPC since our sign ordinance is working well. Our recent change to the ordinance merely amended it to allow for LED signs in certain zones.

The called **Special Council Meeting of August 17, 2009** will address the following matters:

- 1) NKAPC representative to discuss Code Enforcement Board issues
- 2) Second Reading of Ordinance 2009-6 setting tax rates for 2009-2010
- 3) SD1 stormwater transfer issues

The City Clerk will provide media notice of the above, as well as the cancellation of the Caucus meeting regularly scheduled for August 24th.

Mr. Ripberger questioned the status of Mr. Baker’s review of the Stormwater Transfer “Model Contract” proposed by SD1. Mr. Baker reiterated that the list of specific properties has been thoroughly reviewed by Mr. Ripberger and SD1 together, and that even if the City should opt-out of the contract, the District may still have the right to bill residents. Additionally, the City has no out-clause at this point whereas the District does. It should be noted that the City really does not have an option other than joining, since the costs are really too much for us to bear alone. Other 4th class cities are joining. Last year, we received approximately \$45,000 from the District to fix Dry Creek.

Mayor Collett asked Sgt. Vines for an update on police matters. Sgt. Vines reported that the festival at St. Joseph’s last weekend went well. There were no major incidents and the bike patrol was able to get around well. There was positive feedback from the patrons, and the police found the crowd well behaved.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Vergamini made a motion to adjourn the Meeting. Mr. Santangelo seconded and all agreed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:26 pm.

ATTESTED BY:

Sue Hill
City Clerk

Jim Collett
Mayor

Approved: ____Sept. 14, 2009_____

* the NKAPC has since sent out corrected estimates of revenue. The 2009 Estimated Revenue from Real Estate is \$670,588 and for Tangible is \$44,483.