

**City of Crescent Springs
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2011 - 7:00 P.M.**

Those in attendance included the following:

Council Members:

Christie Arlinghaus- present
John Goering- present
Lou Hartfiel- absent
Dale Ramsey - present
Tom Vergamini- present
Matt Zeck- present

Jim Collett, Mayor - present

Debbie Pleatman, for Joe Baker, City Attorney
George Ripberger, Public Serv Dir- present
Sue Hill, City Clerk - present

Others in attendance: Seissiger Family members, Ben Kraft

Mayor Collett called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Collett read a Proclamation for Emeile Seissiger Weil as the oldest living person with ties to Crescent Springs. She is 111 years old, and August 9, 2011 is designated as "Emeile Weil Day" in the City of Crescent Springs. The Proclamation was presented to Jane Maher, her daughter, who noted that her mother was born above the family store near the railroad tracks and that she loves Crescent Springs and still talks of it fondly.

Mayor Collett then stated that the City is dedicating the Small Shelter at the Crescent Springs Community Park in the name of Alice Seissiger Garcia, who was a long time citizen of the city and the Park Reservationist for many years. He presented the plaque to Claire Moriconi, her good friend, who accepted for the family and noted that Alice was dedicated to the Park and helped with anything that needed to be done there, had lived here all her life, and even died in her home here.

Mayor Collett presented John Goering a plaque to be placed in a peony bed at the Park in honor of Gloria Goering, who had lived here many years and was a dedicated volunteer at the City Building and an avid gardener.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Zeck made a motion to approve the minutes of the **July 11, 2011 Regular Council Meeting**. Ms. Arlinghaus seconded, and upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Zeck distributed tax rate analysis he prepared and reviewed with the Mayor and the chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, showing how an increase of 4% to the tax rate on real and tangible property would affect both the property owners and the City's budget. Another topic the group discussed was a possible reduction in the insurance premium (IPT) rates from 8% to 7%. Raising taxes would generate approximately \$27,600 additionally while decreasing the IPT rates

would decrease the income to the City by approximately \$44,000 for a net savings to the overall taxpayers of approximately \$16,400. From an historical perspective, the City has not taken an increase from the compensating rate for the last 3 years with a 'loss' to the City of approximately \$150,000. Mr. Goering noted he is in favor of this proposed shift, since the IPT rate reduction would be a savings to all residents who have any kind of insurance: renters, businesses, etc. not just property owners, and has been a goal for some time now. Mr. Ripberger noted that real estate taxes are tax deductible whereas the IPT taxes are not. It was noted that Ft. Mitchell imposes a 7% rate *and Villa Hills collects 5%*. (this is a correction from the original minutes)

PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT

- Mr. Ripberger is dealing with SD1 on the barrels at the bottom of Crescent Pointe on Amsterdam Rd. There has been some washout and SD1 is back logged but working on it.
- The Safe Routes To School (SRTS) grant is still hung up in Frankfort. Mayor Collett has contacted Geoff Davis's office to look into it.
- The Generator Grant is in process. A blanket bid was put out by the State to cover all the possible purchases across the state.
- The 9/11 Memorial Committee has been meeting. Last week several government officials attended the meeting and offered their support: Jack Westwood, Sal Santoro, Jon Schickle, Mark Kreimborg, Matt Stevens for Geoff Davis, and supporting but not able to attend was Alicia Webb-Edgington. The 3 counties are on-board to support the project and many ideas to raise the funds are being pursued.
- The Small Area Study Re-Zoning Group has met to address the zoning changes needed to proceed with the intent of the Study. They are re-defining permitted uses within the various zones. Also, the Public Works crew will be clearing brush and debris along the expressway and encouraging residents to clean up the blighted areas.
- Outdoor dining is again a question with KJ's requesting permission. Mr. Ripberger will check again with the NKAPC on this process, and whether they will need to reapply. Mr. Vergamini noted that their ABC license would need to be modified to allow outside service.
- The FEMA grant for the Croley St. repairs: Mr. Baker is reviewing and will proceed.

FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT

- Mr. Vergamini reported that new fire truck will go into production on August 18th for completion in mid-October.
- There were two recent structure fires, one of which was on Eubank where there are no fire hydrants, so the line had to be run to the back of Enid Ave. Mr. Ripberger noted that they had looked into this problem several years ago, and the cost of \$165,000 was too high for the city and/or the 3 residents on Eubank to bear.
- Fire and ambulance runs were up lately.
- The LED sign will be ordered later this week.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Collett made several announcements of upcoming events: August 17th the Business Assn. Meeting, August 18th the Finance Meeting, August 22nd the Public Hearing and Special Meeting to set tax rates, August 25th the Business THANK YOU Picnic, August 26th the CS Community Night at Florence Freedom.

- The group collecting signatures to put the NKAPC’s dissolution on the November ballot collected the necessary signatures so the City should start preparing for the possibility of the costly ramifications.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Pleatman gave second reading to **Ordinance 2011-8 Changing Park Rental Rates** for the Small Shelter at the Crescent Springs Community Park from \$35 to \$40 for residents and \$60 or \$75 to \$80 for all other users. There was no discussion. Mr. Goering made a motion to approve the ordinance. Mr. Ramsey seconded and upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Pleatman gave first reading to **Ordinance 2011-9 Setting the Ad Valorem tax rates** for real property at \$.239 per \$100 assessed value and for personal property at \$.198 per \$100 of assessed value. Mayor Collett noted that by taking this “Compensating +4% (Allowable) Rate” we could then consider lowering the Insurance Premium Tax rate. He noted that the status of the Buttermilk Towne Center bankruptcy indicates there may be a resolution in the next 60 days, if the NKAPC goes away there may be additional financial obligation, and the increased rate has not been taken for the past 3 years.
- Ms. Pleatman gave first reading to **Ordinance 2011-10 Changes to the Insurance Premium Tax Rates** within the City of Crescent Springs. This would decrease the rate on all (other than life insurance which stays at 10% and is on the first year only) types of premiums from the current 8% to 7%. This would need to be filed with the State Insurance Commissioner by April 1st and would not start affecting the budget until next fiscal year. Mayor Collett noted his goal when elected was to gradually lower the rate back to the 1990s rate of 5%.
- Ms. Arlinghaus commented on the Rumpke trash collection policy of tagging the cans of delinquent accounts with a note saying the resident needed to call and make restitution before they would pick up again. The process of reminding residents of the direct-bill process are both on the website and in the ‘Welcome Flyer’ we send out when we know a new resident has moved in (property transfer list only, not renters).

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Goering made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ramsey seconded and all agreed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 pm.

ATTESTED BY:

Susan Hill

James Collett

City Clerk

Mayor

September 12, 2011

Approved: _____