

**Niagara City Council Meeting
Monday, March 17, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Stern. Present: Mayor Stern, Aldermen Kuchinski, Lantagne, Steeno and Brown. Absent: Aldermen Moreau and Towns. Also present: Administrator Novak, Director of Public Works Payette, Police Chief Lamoreaux, David Rock, Ron Lawrence and the press.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alderman Steeno and seconded by Alderman Lantagne to approve the Minutes of the 02-18-2008 Regular Council Meeting, the 03-03-08 Public Safety Committee Meeting and the 03-03-08 Special Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Alderman Lantagne questioned whether or not the auto parts equipment for the Public Works Department could be purchased locally. Director of Public Works Payette indicated that some of the parts and accessories for the large trucks are not available locally and they have to purchase from Northern Supply. This issue has been discussed in the past. It is Director of Public Works Payette's opinion that the mechanic should determine which vendor to utilize for maintenance and repair parts.

After discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Kuchinski to approve the bills in the amount of \$75,756.88. There being no other discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF STAFF REPORTS

A motion was made by Alderman Steeno and seconded by Alderman Lantagne to approve the staff reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Administrator Novak provided the Council with an update of the Highway 141 reconstruction scheduled for 2011. He indicated that the roadway would be constructed with asphalt pavement and concrete curb and gutter. The cost of a concrete road surface compared to asphalt has been provided by the state. Asphalt appears to be the more cost efficient. It was also noted that City Staff had met with Department of Transportation Personnel and had discussed possible improvements at the intersection of Vine and Main Street and 4th Street and Main Street. Alternatives will be provided by the Department of Transportation for future discussion. Property owners will be notified prior to any decision being made.
2. Administrator Novak informed the Council that he has talked with several different business owners who are interested in investing in the Industrial Park. He expects to hear back from these parties prior to May 1.

MAYOR'S REPORT

1. Mayor Stern indicated that at a recent UMRAA Meeting (Upper Menominee River Area Alliance) it was noted that one way to market the community for investment is to contact high school alumni for possible investors. This idea was provided by Norway City Administrator Ray Anderson. Mayor Stern indicated that he would contact the Niagara School for an alumni list so letters can be sent out to inform of the investment opportunities in the City's Business Park. It was also noted that there would be a job fair held on April 11 at Bay de Noc College in Iron Mountain. This will be effective for people who will be losing their jobs at the Niagara Mill. It was also noted that the City had submitted a request for appropriations from Congressman Kagen's office. Mayor Stern indicated that Congressman Kagen would submit a request that would allocate financial assistance for the public works project and economic initiatives in light of the recent announcement at the paper mill. It will not be known whether these appropriations will be approved for the next seven to nine months.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Payment Request #1 for the construction of the new Municipal #4 Well was submitted by the contractor, Municipal Well and Pump. Administrator Novak indicated that the city engineer has reviewed the request and has recommended payment. A motion was made by Alderman Steeno and seconded by Alderman Kuchinski to approve the payment in the amount of \$16,594.13. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Discussion was held regarding the proposed compensation for 2008 Non-union and Part-time employees. Administrator Novak indicated that the wage increases are 3% however there is additional employee contribution for health insurance in accordance with the Union Contract which was recently approved. He also indicated that there is a 3% increase proposed for the part-time employees. He noted that the part-time employees did not receive an increase in 2007. A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Steeno to approve the 2008 compensation for non-union and part-time employees. Motion carried 3 – 1 with Alderman Lantagne voting no.
3. Administrator Novak informed the council of the need to make repairs to pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and at the sewer lift stations. He indicated that there is a current proposal from Vacuum Pump and Construction for repair to the pumps. A total of six pumps will be repaired in 2008. The repairs are expected to cost approximately \$20,000 - \$25,000. The equipment replacement fund will pay for these projects. A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Steeno to authorize the repair of the pumps in accordance with the proposal from Vacuum Pump and Compressor. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Steeno and seconded by Alderman Brown to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.