

# CITY OF POLSON

City Manager Comments

June 1, 2009, Regular City Council Meeting

## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding

We received a letter today from the Department of Commerce, apprising us that the \$94,000 in infrastructure spending we fought for in House Bill 645 has been approved for expenditure. That's the project we submitted to replace a number of water main lines in the Riverside Addition. There's some hoops, of course, between here and there, but we intend to put as many contractors to work as soon as we can.

## Liquor License

We received word Friday last of a new twist in the Revenue laws passed during the last Legislature. It seems that our liquor license will be void if, at any time during the twenty-year executory period of our contract for sale and purchase with Papa Don's defaults or goes upside down in some way. Only Polson and Great Falls own All Beverage Licenses; and we've known for years that Revenue didn't like cities owning these kinds of assets. Evidently Revenue got that issue resolved in the Legislature. So the transfer package went up for approval, and Revenue called to let us know about the change. Seems to me that if we allow this package to be disapproved, then we're in a position to bargain for a straight cash payoff, which seems to me to be in the taxpayers best interest.

## City Staff

I believe this will be my last appearance in this agenda item, and would like to take this opportunity to say, that the citizens of Polson are blessed with a uniformly high quality of City employees. I mean it. They are good people, and they do very good work, and I cannot say enough about how much they have helped me stumble along in this role. We achieved some useful things these past seven months, and these achievements had little to do with me, and everything to do with a staff that is bright, innovative, hardworking, and ahead of the curve. We recently went through the evaluations, and I am pleased to say that I was able to mark everybody for whom I wrote an evaluation "all the way to the right," as we said in the Marines. We're lucky to have them.