

**POLSON CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
CITY HALL – CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
MONDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2012, 7:00 PM**

**ATTENDANCE:** City Commissioners: Todd Erickson, John Campbell, Mike Lies, Dan Morrison, Fred Funke and Mayor Pat DeVries presiding. City Manager Todd Crossett, City Attorney James Raymond, City Treasurer Bonnie Manicke, City Clerk Cindy Dooley, Assistant Police Chief John Stevens and Water & Sewer Superintendent Tony Porrazzo present. Others present (that signed in): Rory Horning, Robin Wallace, Tami Sanderson, Lois Hart, Gordon Zimmerman, Paul London, Andrew Speer, Elsa Duford, Gerry Browning and Penny Jarecki. Commissioner Stephen Turner was absent.

Mayor Pat DeVries called the meeting to order. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Mayor DeVries said she had thought she would be absent tonight and that Commissioner Lies would run the meeting but she was able to return from her trip sooner than expected.

**APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA:** Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the proposed agenda, seconded by Commissioner Erickson. Commission discussion: None. Public discussion: None. Commissioners Erickson, Campbell, Lies, Morrison and Funke voted aye. Commissioner Turner absent. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**A. OCTOBER 11 – 30 CLAIMS**

**B. APPROVE CITY LIQUOR LICENSE FOR TRACEY FRYE – DRIFTWOOD FAMILY RESTAURANT**

Commissioner Lies moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Funke. Commission discussion: None. Public discussion: None. Commissioners Erickson, Campbell, Lies, Morrison and Funke voted aye. Commissioner Turner absent. Motion carried.

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 15, 2012:** Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the City Commission meeting minutes of October 15, 2012, seconded by Commissioner Erickson. Commission discussion: None. Public discussion: Elsa Duford commented that on page 4 of the minutes, the motion made by Commissioner Morrison and seconded by Commissioner Turner which states: "...moved to authorize the City Manager to use PRA TIF funds to hire a bond attorney..." does not match the #8 agenda item. Mayor DeVries and City Clerk Dooley responded that the purpose of the agenda item was to authorize the hiring of a bond attorney and using TIF (Tax Increment Financing) funds to pay for the services. Elsa Duford said the agenda item did not authorize the City Manager to do the hiring. Commissioner Erickson said that it is a matter of protocol that the City Manager would be the person to enter into the contract for services. Elsa Duford said that at a training session put on by Local Government Services they said if an item is not on the agenda, the council cannot vote on it. She said the agenda is a legal notice and legal document and adding things to the agenda raises the question of whether a legal decision was made. She said the public does not have the ability to comment on issues if the agenda is changed at the meeting. City Clerk Dooley said the comments surrounding item #8 showed there was a general consensus that the public knew that the agenda item was to hire a bond attorney. Commissioner Morrison said he added the City Manager wording just to clarify who would hire the bond attorney. Commissioners Erickson, Campbell, Lies, Morrison and Funke voted aye. Commissioner Turner absent. Motion carried.

## **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

City Manager Crossett announced that Bill Smith received the City Employee of the Year award at the Chamber of Commerce banquet on November 2nd. This was the first year for this award. This award honors the contribution that our City employees make. He said that it is not always the jobs that the public sees; it is the late nights spent watching the sidewalks on Main Street during construction to make sure no one tramped through the cement, or putting cones out for an event, or volunteering time that contributes to the award. The nominees included Mike Johnson from the Parks department, Ash Walker from the Water/Sewer department and Bill Smith from the Street department. City Manager Crossett said that all three nominees are winners and the nominees said that it is a team effort that gets the work done. City Manager Crossett thanked the Chamber for giving the award and thanked the nominees and the rest of the employees for their hard work.

The golf restaurant has closed for the season. City Manager Crossett reported that for the season from March through September the restaurant had a net loss of approximately \$1,700 so it was almost a break-even venture for the season. This includes a net loss for September of \$4,500. There are tournaments in September and some golf business, so there is a demand for the restaurant, but it is very difficult not to lose money providing services in September. Some of the problems that plague the restaurant generally include the overhead costs such as utilities in the winter months and payroll costs which have been trimmed but are still too high. Some solutions are being looked into including creating an opening in the kitchen that looks out over the front eating area so that one person can run both the front and the back. The restaurant's primary function is to support the City's golf business, which has been a problem for some subcontractors in the past since some of these services are not highly profitable, making it more difficult to stay in business. After some consideration and discussion, Director of Golf Roger Wallace has expressed a willingness in taking the restaurant under his contract. City Manager Crossett said that Mr. Wallace would be in a better position to know what is needed at the restaurant and he could handle the payroll costs more efficiently as he would not be obligated to pay the benefits that the City must pay. The payroll needs to be trimmed by about \$20,000 annually. Also, the all beverage liquor license currently requires the City to have a subcontractor or manager that is paid a fee or wage and the City retains the liquor sales. A beer and wine license does not have this restriction. City Manager Crossett said his recollection was that when the City considered the option to sell the liquor license about three years ago, that the Council considered a selling price of about \$35,000. He thought that the City had purchased it some years prior for something in the same range. City Manager Crossett said he will discuss these ideas at the next Golf Board meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>. If there are questions or ideas he would like the Commission to please contact him.

The TIGER-Skyline Drive project will finish for the season on or about November 15<sup>th</sup>. The crews are busy trying to get the road prepped for two-way traffic for the winter months. City Manager Crossett said a significant amount of retaining wall and utility work had been completed.

The bark will be spread this week for the Boettcher Park playground upgrade. This project was financed through a donation from the McCann family. The project required a more extensive drain system because of groundwater issues, but it will be much better for the playground area in the long-run.

City Manager Crossett said the Heart and Soul project had its first neighborhood gathering last week for the citizens in the Finley Point area. There will be a total of 24 gatherings. It was held at the McCrumb's barn. One comment was made that people thought it should have gone longer because they weren't

done talking. The next neighborhood gathering will be November 15<sup>th</sup> at Valley View and City Manager Crossett will be facilitating that gathering.

The Mission Valley Aquatics (MVA) auction will be Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup>. City Manager Crossett said the paving of the road to the aquatics center was done just under the wire. He understands that the committee still needs to raise about \$500,000 to get the pool up and running. City Manager Crossett said there are many incredible things on the auction block including a day with Howie Long, former NFL player and national sportscaster.

The Polson Business Community (PBC) has a lot of activities planned for the downtown businesses this holiday season. There will be something going on each weekend through Christmas.

Mayor DeVries said that for the MVA auction you can go online and get your bid number in advance. She said there is a City lot on Skyline that is up for bids along with many less expensive things.

Rory Horning said that he thought the City paid quite a bit more than \$35,000 for the liquor license and that it should not be sold this cheap. Commissioner Lies said the City paid \$55,000 for the license.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON SIGNIFICANT MATTERS TO THE PUBLIC NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

Robin Wallace congratulated City Manager Crossett on being nominated and receiving the Randy Ingram Leadership Award at the Chamber of Commerce banquet on Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. A round of applause followed.

Lois Hart said that she has lived in the Polson community since 2005 and lives on Claffey Drive near where all the construction is taking place. She commented that she and her husband would be leaving shortly to go south for the winter and wanted to speak to the Commission about the upcoming meeting where City Manager Crossett's contract would be discussed. She asked when the contract would expire and Mayor DeVries said that the contract goes through June 30, 2013. Lois Hart commented that she served on the search committee both times for hiring the City Manager and was very involved in setting up the welcoming committee and open house event when City Manager Crossett was selected. She feels that the search committee selected an excellent person to fit this role. She said hopefully this has helped ease the burden on the Commission by having someone in a full-time capacity to run the affairs of the City. Her perception is that City Manager Crossett has been a large part of the positive change that she sees in the City. She said this includes the infrastructure improvements that have taken place and are ongoing. She said that working with the County and the Commission to get the \$12 million dollars to improve the dangerous Skyline road was quite a coup. She said that City Manager Crossett has contributed to the spirit of the community as-well-as the physical appearance. Mrs. Hart said she admired many of City Manager Crossett's abilities that she sees, particularly his collaboration skills. She said he believes in collaboration and is a coalition builder. She does not want to see the City go through another lengthy search that is costly and hard on the Commission and staff. She commented that to her, Mr. Crossett is a hard worker with vision, experience and leadership. She asked the Commission to consider retaining City Manager Crossett.

Mayor DeVries said she forgot to start the timer, but was reminded part way through Lois Hart's comments. She apologized and said that all remaining comments would be held to the three minute time limit.

Former Mayor Lou Marchello said he was proud that City Manager Crossett won the leadership award. He commented that it speaks highly of City Manager Crossett for members of the community to honor him. He said that he was Mayor when City Manager Crossett was hired. He said it was a lengthy process with two other candidates that were selected and then backed out prior to City Manager Crossett coming on board. He said in his opinion, City Manager Crossett has been exemplary. Mr. Marchello said that City Manager Crossett makes a point of meeting with the business association and helping them with their functions. He said that it is a hard process to get a City Manager and that City Manager Crossett has done a good job in his opinion.

**The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.**

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**Mayor Pat DeVries**

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**Attest: Cindy Dooley, City Clerk**