

FINANCE & LEGAL COMMITTEE
BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE
CIVIC CENTER & PROMOTION COMMITTEE
AUGUST 21, 2007

Present: Mayor Liechty, Council Members Schulz, Heinrich, Grabinger and Parisien, City Attorney Dalsted, Horgan, Wollan, Klundt, Sveum and Fuchs.

Discussion was held relative to the application from IRET for Property Tax Exemption for Improvements to Commercial Buildings on the Jamestown Business Center at 300 2nd Avenue NE. Liechty requested additional clarification on the current property assessment value on the property in relation to the information contained in IRET's most recent shareholder's reports. City Assessor Wollan responded to this and other questions dealing with previous abatements approved on the property and that future valuations would be dependent on the market.

Schulz moved to place on the City Council agenda, without recommendation, the request from IRET Property Tax Exemption for Improvements to Commercial Buildings on the Jamestown Business Center at 300 2nd Avenue NE. Seconded by Liechty. Unanimous aye vote. Carried.

Lengthy discussion was held relative to information presented by Mayor Liechty regarding the Ice House Dam and her research with the State Water Commission. Based on the information presented, the State Water Commission has indicated that some government entity would need to assume ownership of the Ice House Dam and provide additional documentation on a number of additional items prior to State Water Commission involvement in any project for repair of the dam. Various thoughts were expressed by the committee members relative to potential liability to the City if ownership of the dam is accepted.

Schulz requested that the City Attorney contact the Attorney General's Office to research the possibility of an Attorney General's opinion on ownership of the Ice House Dam.

Liechty moved to recommend the City Council accept ownership of the Ice House Dam. The motion died for the lack of a second.

City Attorney Dalsted reported that to date he has only been able to do some very preliminary research on the ownership of buildings at the Frontier Village in preparation of drafting a new lease agreement for use of City owned land for the Frontier Village operation. He indicated that he would continue to proceed on this matter as time allowed. Heinrich requested that this item be placed on the September committee meeting agenda for further updates.

The consensus of the committee was to not hold discussions relative to the JSDC Bylaws and Policy and Procedures at this time as a meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 23rd at 11:30, at the JSDC Board Room for this discussion and a number of City Council members and staff have been invited to participate at that time. Liechty indicated that she did have a number of questions relative to the City Attorney's June 15th memorandum relative to JSDC Funding and City Authority. Liechty enumerated a number of questions which she had and City Attorney Dalsted indicated that he would be willing to discuss these with her at any time.

Schulz moved to approve the request from the Marcil Group for permission to place a portable sign in the city-owned parking lot at 1st Avenue North and 2nd Street NW for a period of one week prior to the grand opening of the Continental Bistro Italian Restaurant and Bar. Seconded by Liechty. Unanimous aye vote. Carried.

Grabinger moved to recommend the City Council grant the request from Duck's Unlimited for a gaming site authorization at the Gladstone Inn on February 16, 2008. Seconded by Parisien. Unanimous aye vote. Carried.

Liechty moved to recommend the City Council grant the request from Duck's Unlimited for a gaming site authorization at the Gladstone Inn on May 16 & 17, 2008. Seconded by Parisien. Unanimous aye vote. Carried.

Grabinger moved to grant the request from the Assembly of God to conduct a concert on the St. John's Lutheran Church parking lot on Monday, August 27, 2007, from 8:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. Seconded by Schulz. Unanimous aye vote. Carried.

Information was presented on research being done on various ordinances dealing with dangerous buildings by the City Attorney. He indicated that he found in the ordinance dealing with demolition permit fees an area which does provide for the establishment of a time for demolition and site clean-up to be completed which may be set.

Grabinger moved to request that the City Attorney work with City staff and to present a proposal to the City Council to amend the demolition permit, for the Ranch House Motel property which was damaged by fire, and would provide for a completion date for the demolition and general clean-up of the site. Seconded by Parisien. Unanimous aye vote. Carried.

Heinrich moved to recommend the City Council approve the request from Ted Kapp to move a 14' X 20' wood frame building from Courtenay to 1407 11th Avenue SW. Seconded by Parisien. Unanimous aye vote. Carried.

Schulz updated the committee relative to coordinating the various long range planning documents for the City and provide an update on the process of re-zoning various property along the US 281 bypass. He indicated that City records were being researched to clarify several zoning issues that have been presented by property owners in the area; however, not all pertinent information has been located to date.

Parisien presented a report prepared by the selection committee on the recommendation of a candidate for selection as a Civic Center Director. The report recommends that Nancy Allen be offered the position of Civic Center/Convention Director and that Pam Fosse be promoted from the position of Administrative Assistant to Assistant Civic Center/Convention Director.

Schulz moved to accept the report as outlined and to recommend the City Council authorize offering the position of Civic Center/Convention Director to Nancy Allen and to promote Pam Fosse to Assistant Civic Center/Convention Director. Seconded by Liechty. Unanimous aye vote. Carried.

Grabinger moved to approve the job description for the Assistant Civic Center/Convention Director. Seconded by Schulz.

Grabinger moved to amend the motion to approve the job description for the Assistant Civic Center/Convention Director to include in Section C. and C. 1. the language assist in. Seconded by Schulz. Unanimous aye vote. Carried.

The vote on the original motion as amended was a unanimous aye vote. Carried.

Informational: Monthly financial and departmental reports.

Jeff Fuchs, City Administrator