

City of Bancroft
Bancroft City Council Meeting
February 9, 2009
City Council Chambers
7:00 PM

Mayor Janice Wolf called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Council members present include Bob Richter, Phil Jaren, Pat Merron, Judy Vaske, and Tom Johnson. Also present were Mayor Janice Wolf; city staff Tracy Elliot, Mark Reimers, Tim Rowlet, Vickie Rahe and Michael Brennan; Blair Metzger from DeWild, Grant, Reckert & Associates Company; and J. Ingalls, E. Foster, C. Rasch, A. Delperdang, L. Vaske, B. Arndorfer, R. Hagedorn, and S. Wolf.

Motion Johnson, second Vaske to approve the agenda with alterations. All approve.

Motion Johnson, second Jaren to approve the consent agenda. All approve

Motion Vaske, second Johnson to approve city and utility bill with amendment to transfer a bill mistakenly assigned to the utility in the amount of \$1234.80 from the utility to the city. All approve.

PUBLIC HEARING opened at 7:30 by Mayor Wolf concerning the potential trade of city owned land to Roger Hagedorn. The offer submitted would be a trade of a twenty foot wide stretch of Long street between Oak Street to the south and the now vacant Elm Street to the North in exchange for the cost of a survey of only the 20 foot portion of the roadway and any costs for an Easement to guarantee city access to utility or other services would one be necessary. Mr. Hagedorn will not pay and legal fees incurred by the city therefore the city would be responsible for the cost of preparing legal documents for the exchange. The current value of the property is unknown to the city. A vote on the proposal will take place at the next regularly scheduled council meeting on March 9, 2009. Motion Johnson, second Richter to close the public hearing at 7:45 pm.

ISSUES CONCERNING THE BANCROFT MUNICIPAL UTILITY

- Blair Metzger from DeWild, Grant, Reckert & Associates Company presented updated information regarding the Burt utility supply project (Burt Project).
- There are two elements to the Burt Project:
 - 1) is the cost to build the line: The city will be reimbursed all expenses plus interest most likely by May, 2009
 - 2) Monthly cost of power: At end of month Burt is metered to determine usage. We apply a Kwh rate to the usage to determine cost we charge Burt (This rate has been predetermined by Blair Metzger to include all ongoing costs, including floating power costs). This rate can be adjusted every two year. The first billing cycle is complete and the bill has been submitted to the City of Burt.
- Motion Vaske, second Richter to table request to update electrical maps pending clarification from Superintendent Elliot on costs. All approve
- Motion Vaske, second Richter to adopt Red Flag Policy. All approve.

- Numerous residents attended the meeting to express concerns over wide disparities between the December and January utility bills. It was explained to residents and the council that due to weather and other factors about 175 customers' bills were estimated in December. This resulted in a lower than usual bill. In January, when meters were actually read this led to unusually high readings as readings caught up with the low December estimate. At the same time, customers were granted a 10% discount in December followed by a 15% rate increase in January; this along with an unusually high power cost in January created large electric bills for the month.

The council directed city hall staff to review December and January electricity bills. January bills for estimated customers will be reissued based on this formula:

combine December and January usage.

Divide that total by two.

Bill one of two halves at the December rate and the second of two halves at the January rate.

Customers will be notified of any changes in their bill. Council will approve changes at March meeting.

Scott Curtis from the Kossuth Regional Health Center offered a presentation to the council about expansion of the facility. They are currently seeking donations to cover the cost of the expansion.

City Budget issues: Due to rising costs, and decreasing tax revenues, the city need to look for opportunities to reduce costs and raise revenues. The council directed Administer Brennan to cut all expenses across the board by 5%. This will result in reduced services. A Ways and Means committee meeting will be scheduled for February 26, 2009 to finalize budget. A Public Hearing to approve the Budget will take place on Monday, March 9, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

Motion Johnson, second Richter to accept recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Committee for summer season with the addition of an increase in fees for baseball and softball to \$20.00. All approve.

Motion Johnson, second Jaren to approve the use of the city credit card for off-site backup services (cost of approximately \$50.00 per year). All approve.

Council directed Administrator Brennan to prepare a resolution for changes in Ambulance services for next council meeting.

Motion Johnson, second Jaren to adjourn at 9:41 PM. All approve.

Mayor Janice Wolf

Attest: Michael Brennan, City Administrator