

**Niagara City Council Meeting  
Monday, December 15, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Stern. Present: Mayor Stern, Aldermen Kuchinski, Lantagne, Steeno, Towns, Moreau and Brown. Also present: Administrator Novak, Ron Rugg representing the Department of Public Works Payette, Assistant Police Chief Angela Moreau, Shane and Andrea Moratti, Karen Klenke of the Borderland Journal, Dave Rock, Rose Bousley and Ron Lawrence.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

Mr. & Mrs. Moratti asked the Council if the City had determined the cause of the sewer backup that had occurred recently causing property damage in their basement. Discussion was held regarding alternatives to preventing this from happening again. It was noted that the City had offered to install a backflow preventer on their sewer lateral. The city also carries a no-fault insurance policy which will cover the damages regardless of the cause. Under such a policy, the cleanup is authorized immediately and any other repairs or replacement of property is subject to the insurance adjuster's authorization. Andrea Moratti indicated that when is all said and done, the City must make them whole. It was also noted that there had been previous problems with sewer backup at this property. The City has discovered no problems with design within the sewer main itself. Blockages have occurred previously affecting only the Moratti's lateral. No other property owners had been affected. The city had already authorized a backflow valve installation under their basement floor. During discussion it was noted that the Moratti's had obtained quotes to provide a backflow preventer under their driveway and it appears to be a very reasonable cost. The City's position is that if the cost is comparable to the cost of installing the backflow preventer under the floor, they have no objections to this remedy. Administrator Novak will contact the plumbers for comparable quotes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

After discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Steeno to approve the Minutes of the 11-17-08 Regular Council Meeting and the 11-17-08 Budget Meeting Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

After discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Moreau and seconded by Alderman Lantagne to approve the bill list as presented. 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 explained that the Annual Water System Report has been received from the Department of Natural Resources and suggested that the Public Works Committee schedule a meeting for either January or February 2009 to review the recommendations of this report as a response is required in regard to deficiencies and the DNR recommendations. Administrator Novak also informed the Council that the Marinette County Association for Business and Industry (MCABI) has provided funding to complete a grant application and an adaptive reuse study for the NewPage Paper Mill

property. Ayres and Associates have been contacted to complete the site assessment and the study will be completed near April 2009. There is no cost to the City for this report.

2. Administrator Novak also informed the Council that the City received a request from Jim & Christie Markell to purchase a strip of land from the City which is adjacent to the rear of their property. Mr. Markell indicates that he would like to purchase a strip approximately 100' wide to enable him to expand his commercial business on Roosevelt Road. This item must be referred to the Plan Commission and will be placed on the Council Agenda after the Plan Commission considers this matter.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

1. Mayor Stern indicated that the Niagara Women's club will provide Christmas Caroling on December 22, 2008 and a drawing will be held at the River Street Parkway gazebo for this event.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There is no old business to report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. It was noted that the request for replacement/repair of the mailbox has been resolved and this item does not need to be discussed at this time.
2. The next order of business was to consider approval for the 2009 Wage/Salary Agreements for the Non-union Personnel. There is no change in benefits and the 2009 Wage increases will be in accordance with the union personnel which is 3%. A motion was then made by Alderman Steeno and seconded by Alderman Towns to approve the 2009 Wage & Salary Agreements. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Pay Request #1 and Change Orders regarding the water main construction contract were addressed. It was noted that the water main had been completed and this would be the final payment and closeout of the project. The change order results in a \$6,942 reduction in the contract cost. Waino Construction has complied with all requirements at this time. A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Towns to approve Pay Request #1 and the change orders in the amount of \$105,809.25. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Pay Request #1 which is a progress payment to Kautza Construction was addressed regarding construction of the Well #4 Pump House. A motion was made by Alderman Kuchinski and seconded by Alderman Moreau to approve Pay Request #1 in the amount of \$46,271.46. Motion carried unanimously.
5. A request for attendance at a training seminar was then reviewed by the Council. This involves required training necessary for the continuing education credits for Steve Zigman and Joe Nawn. This seminar is being held on January 25, 2009 in Rhineland. A motion was made by Alderman Kuchinski and seconded by Alderman Moreau to approve the attendance as requested. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Discussion was held regarding an application for a new Volunteer Firefighter. In accordance with Fire Chief Harvath's recommendation, Zach Harvath is requesting to become a member of the Fire Department and would be available for service in February. There was discussion regarding the age of the applicant and eligibility. A motion was then made by Alderman Towns and seconded by Alderman Steeno to table this matter until January meeting and this will allow adequate time to resolve these questions.
7. The Council addressed Resolution 12-1-08 and 12-2-08. Administrator Novak indicated that these are Resolutions that will allow the city to become eligible to apply for Federal

Grants and Loan funding for the upcoming Sewer and Water Project on Highway 141. A new federal economic stimulus package may become available early in 2009. These resolutions allow cities to be placed on a list of eligible projects in the event funds become available. It does not authorize the borrowing of any money at this time. The total cost of the water project is \$2,050,000 and the total cost of the sewer project is \$2,025,000. A motion was then made by Alderman Kuchinski and seconded by Alderman Steeno to authorize approval of Resolution 12-1-08 and Resolution 12-2-08. Motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Towns noted that she would like to hold a Public Safety Meeting to address the need for the stop sign at Jefferson Avenue and Garfield Street. Administrator Novak noted that there is no signage at the intersection of Scott Street and Jefferson Street and this is an intersection that should require vehicles on Scott Street to yield to Jefferson. These locations are in close proximity to each other and should be addressed at the same time. Public Safety Committee Chairman Towns will schedule a committee meeting in January prior to the next council meeting to address this matter.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Towns and seconded by Alderman Moreau to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.