

**City of Oronoco**  
**Special City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, July 6, 2009**  
**7:00 pm**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Scott Keigley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Councilor Kevin McDermott, Councilor Brian Breider, Councilor Jackie Hall, Councilor Paul Briggs, Mayor Scott Keigley, Clerk Sandy Jessen, Attorney Fred Suhler, and City Engineer Joe Palen.

**III. ORONOCO PARK**

1. Discussion of personnel and operating costs for Oronoco park
2. State Approval Required - the city has not received a contract change with the state's approval yet. Olmsted County is working on a joint powers agreement to work in the interim; it creates a body with 3 people in charge until the state gives the approval. The Mayor, a County Park Board member, and an Olmsted County Board member will sit on this board. Tom Canan will present this to the County Board on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July. The DNR will also have to sign off on this. The County is still willing to pay for the operational expenses. They intend to fund the park as in the original contract for maintenance and half of the water assessment. The Joint Powers would stay in existence until the title is transferred to the city. It presupposes that the state will give their approval with the same conditions that the park remains a park. The agreement creates a governmental body; they will have to have meetings, audits, and insurance, which will be ran through an association. This is a good way to transition; the county could possibly lease it to the city. There may be a concern that the county is giving money to the city; or the state may see it as a conveyance.

Open Discussion: Councilor Kevin McDermott; is there still a deadline for the end of July - yes. Evelyn Mohlke is if off county payroll July 31<sup>st</sup>; she can be hired as a contractor or work for the city at that time. Councilor Brian Breider and Mayor Scott Keigley will have a personnel meeting. She is paid year round for the PERA and tax benefit.

Lance Sorenson; What is the affect for the parks committee; will they set policy and recommendations? Mayor Scott Keigley; yes, they will add Oronoco Park for the committee to make recommendations.

Steve Mohlke; they are set up as independent contractors so the County didn't have to worry about health insurance and minimum wage issues. The salary was spread out over 12 months to keep PERA. There are more hours worked in the summer than in the winter but the pay was spread out of 12 months. They provide daily operations including the mowing; but the city will lose the maintenance for the equipment. They are not hourly employees; there is no overtime. Evelyn is considered a ¼ to 1/5 employee. Had she not taken the early retirement Oronoco Park would be closed and she would have been laid off. The

city needs to work out the details for Gold Rush; she can't check in campers after August 1<sup>st</sup> through the county. During Gold Rush there are 40 to 42 campers. They need to file for a permit, and need approval for license renewal. July 31<sup>st</sup> is the cutoff. It was unclear how an independent contractor could still receive PERA; they will give a copy of the contract they have to the city, its 30 years old, but has been renewed each year. Attorney Fred Suhler will talk to someone in the county about the contract.

Who's going to be in charge of payroll? Unsure with the joint powers; the city will probably, theoretically have to do that. Councilor Brian Breider; what can the city do to create a revenue, what are some opportunities? Develop a plan with some concrete ideas for City Council. Look at the Park as an asset and how it can be utilized. It's messy with Gold Rush and the July 31 cutoff; the change of status at that point, no camping. The City is under a time crunch; Gold Rush is the main revenue for that park. The city could call a Special Meeting and there is also the Regular City Council meeting coming up.

Camping reservations; they have been taking them, but may have to cancel them if this does not take place. The Park was inspected from the Dept of Health, but has to re-file to extend camping for Gold Rush days. It is \$250 for the special permit; joint powers will be able to give the permission. There is political pressure for the state to approve this. The county has people that will work with the legislature, Judy Ohly spoke with Senjem and he will put it on the agenda first thing.

Tim Redepenning; are there ideas of doing something different at the Park? Steve Mohlke; the Zumbro Watershed group is having a fund raiser there.

Who would be responsible for Allis Park? STS sometimes helps out but Allis Park and the equipment maintenance would be Tim's responsibility.

#### **IV. ORONOCO DAM**

Discussion of who/when/how maintenance of Dam activities will occur: There was not much time that it took them to put the flashboards in; it was an hour. There may be a way for someone at the city to take care of this. There will be calls the City will be getting with reports of a log stuck. Steve Wittlief has done this for years; Oxbow Park called down when the water rose. He may be willing to continue to operate the flashboards. It has to be done a specific way; in during the summer, and out in the winter. There would be a high chance of a fish kill down below if you raise or lower the flashboards too quickly; if the silt goes too fast it robs oxygen from the lake. The Lake Shady Committee has asked to have the Army Corp of Engineers to have the lake put on priority list to look at the lake and dam and to have Mayor Scott Keigley write a letter. Councilor Brian Breider; the city has not received the log records on the dam; could a new way for the flashboards to be installed be used? If the City would be altering the structure it would require county approval. The EOC could help with the flashboards, but also need someone with experience to get you going. Randy Bartz recorded the flashboards being installed; the company made a few safety corrections; they slowed the water, set a safety cable, and two workers clipped on and put the flashboards in. The Fire Fighter's presume a greater risk at a fire; it doesn't look that

if it is done safely there is a high risk. When there was a tree in the gate they used a john boat. They lowered the water and then carefully cut the debris.

V. **ADDITIONAL SOIL BORINGS – authorization:** The MN Ave bridge is eligible to be placed on the historic register; if it was just local or state funds the city was pursuing it wouldn't impact the project but since the city is applying for AARA funding which is federal stimulus funds it complicates the permitting process. The city should look at crossing the river; the time that it would add by crossing the bridge could be months or years. The lines would cross the river to the east of the dam; they would use directional drilling but there is potential for rock at that location and that's why it was not proposed earlier. With directional drilling through the rock it is more expensive. City Engineer Joe Palen wants to give the contractor the best information possible. People's Coop has done some clearing on the south side which will make it easier to do the soil borings; there is a ROW there, but the second corridor has privately held land and requires an easement. The city should take additional soil borings if there is a lot of rock at 1<sup>st</sup> Street they would move east where the easements are required for additional borings. City Engineer Joe Palen will open the bids the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July. The soil borings will cost \$1200 – \$1500. The rock can be drilled but that information needs to be given to the contractor or they will assume that there is rock. Would like to the start of the project this year; after that there is no guarantees if funding will be available. The canoe landing site will be disrupted minimally; most of it is sand, but a valve would be installed. **Mayor Scott Keigley motioned to pay up \$1500 for soil borings Councilor Jackie Hall second; all in favor, motion carried.**

VI. **RWH Trail:** parks have not requested funds for sod once the vegetation is removed. It should be put in before the soil washes away. It was not stated that it was the responsibility of the homeowner, but one would assume that they would sod it. If not there is not much sod that would be needed and the Mayor could authorize that cost. The one tree can remain until dormant.

Mayor Scott Keigley called for a 5 minute recess at 8:30pm and Council will reconvene in closed session.

VII. **CLOSED SESSION**

The Special City Council reopened at 9:00pm. **Mayor Scott Keigley motioned to start the condemnation process on the Rucker property for the water project Councilor Paul Briggs second; discussion:** the resolution will be ready tomorrow. **All in favor, motion carried.**

**Mayor Scott Keigley motioned to renew the History Center Rental lease, Councilor Jackie Hall second; all in favor, motion carried.**

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mayor Scott Keigley motioned to adjourn at 9:04pm, Councilor Jackie Hall second; all in favor, motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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City Clerk

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Mayor