

City of Oronoco
Special City Council Meeting
Friday, May 29, 2009
4:30 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Scott Keigley, Councilor Brian Breider, Councilor Paul Briggs, Councilor Kevin McDermott, Attorney Fred Suhler, Attorney Tom Canan, Tom Ryan, Judy Ohly, and Clerk Sandy Jessen, Absent-Councilor Jackie Hall

III. ORONOCO PARK

Discussion; the flashboards may be dealt with separately from the dam and the park contract.

Park Discussion; the city would like a map and a survey of the Park with a legal description. Public Works can provide a survey. The city wants assurance of payment. The county could possibly discount the amount and pay up front. The condition of the house was questioned; the house at the park was moved from Whitewater, it was a WWII barracks. It is stable at this point; it will be stained this summer. There is very little asbestos in the house. With the water project moving forward, at this point there is a pending assessment for that location; the county will discuss assuming that cost. Would Oronoco be allowed to change the use of the land; they could go to the state and ask for approval. The city would have to pay the county back the funds they had received to that point. The state owned the park and they gave it to Olmsted County, Olmsted County now wants to give it to the city. The County would want it back if the City didn't want to keep it; green space is a commodity. The County is looking at having three regional parks: Oxbow, Chesterwoods, and one off the river. Regional parks are over 100 acres and have a unique or historical significance. As in Stewartville; the city wanted something different, they wanted ball fields. Security: the Mohlke's have agreed to stay on for a year. Olmsted County Sheriff Dept. has been the best ally, the park has only one way in and out which helps. If the county keeps the park it will become a day park. Finances: after five years the city may have to raise taxes to \$22 per resident to maintain the park; currently it costs \$.18 per county resident to maintain. In five years the city may bring in other resources and generate more business. The city needs to want this nothing is free.

Dam Discussion: Questioned the scope of the work involved, would liability be assumed by the city for lack of maintenance. The city would raise and lower the flash boards and deal with issues with them. The County would deal with dam issues. The flash boards are not an integral part of the dam. It is 50% less work with the boards out. The County would be like a landlord; the city the tenant. If it is an issue with the dam and not caused by the City, the county would be responsible. The city will have flood control, control of the flash boards, watch the water level and operate the gates. The city will receive \$15,000 this year; it is a 6 month seasonal position. The Dam Operator's Manual will be given to the city; it is outdated, it contains contact names and numbers, a log book, and requirements for notifying residents of work to be done. The County has not spent much money on the dam except for the replacement

of the chains last year. The study of the dam is close to being completed. It will be made available in a PowerPoint and presented to the advisory group. Liability caused downstream was a concern; there would have been negligence shown. The contract is extended to ten years if the city accepts both. If the stakeholder group decides to have Lake Shady go back to a river, the city will still receive the income for those 10 years. There may be pressure to not pay if the river is restored, but would be required to pay. It would give the city resources for the park. There has been overwhelming evidence for removing dams and restoring rivers with stream side restoration and recreation.

Discussion: The flashboards can be separate from Option 1 and 2. The park will be closed to camping July 31st if the city doesn't accept the contract. An inventory of the equipment and tools was given to the city. The county will check on the pending assessment and capping the well. The county will provide rewording of the option 2 contract; including the operation and manipulating of the gates and flashboards. If a flashboard breaks the city is responsible, the city will mow, garbage removal, watching water levels, flood control, and communication with EOC. The Allis family has approached the county to transfer the title of a small area. There is also two tax forfeited lands near the canoe landing that the county owns. A glossary of terms will be added to the contract.

Mayor Scott Keigley motioned to accept option three for the control of the flashboards, Councilor Kevin McDermott second; all in favor, motion carried.

IV. WEST FRONTAGE ROAD

Discussion: It is a standard practice of MNDOT to have a city acquire the ROW and they then build the road. The city could set a meeting with MNDOT and see if they would be willing to acquire the land: pay for or possibly cost share; the city pays the appraised value and have MNDOT acquire the ROW.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

City Clerk

Mayor