

CITY OF ORONOCO
Summarized Special City Council Meeting
Wed., Feb. 8, 2006
7:00 PM

At Council's direction these minutes have been changed and summarized by Clerk Nymann.

This meeting is to discuss the position of City Engineer with the Committee that interviewed WHKS and Bonestroo. Dennis Blanck withdrew application for street & alley vacation.

Clerk Nymann, Bertsinger, and Novak interviewed both engineering firms on February 3rd. Each gave their review of the interview; with Bertsinger and Novak recommending Bonestroo, and Nymann recommending WHKS. **Bertsinger motioned to table this, McDermott second; all in favor, motion carried. Council moved into a Public Hearing.**

Bertsinger reopened the Special City Council Meeting at 9:25PM Bertsinger recommended getting the minutes back on tonight's meeting, send them to and talk to perspective committees that brought forth these concerns.

Hall motioned to waive the first reading and to accept Ordinance 2006-01, 113.00, 114.0, and 230.0, McDermott second; DISCUSSION : These Ordinances include lot splits, fire department and 1st responder salary increases, and parks guidelines. Novak would like to include the pumping ordinance for approval. **Bertsinger made a friendly amendment criteria address septic issue on lot splits; AYES: Bertsinger, Hall, McDermott, NAYES: Novak. Bertsinger motioned to table Ordinances. 2006-02, 2006-03, 2-006-04 2006-05, McDermott second; all in favor, motion carried.**

City Engineer

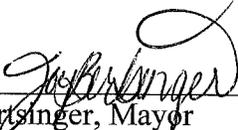
Discussion regarding the City engineer continued. McDermott discussed his thoughts on the engineering firms and summarized that outward appearances aren't inward reality. Both Novak and Bertsinger recommended Bonestroo based mainly on their strong presentation, and impressive background knowledge of the City. Clerk Nymann stood by her recommendation with WHKS based on their extremely positive recommendations from other Cities. **Novak motioned to accept Bonestroo as the city engineer, Bertsinger second; AYES: Bertsinger, Hall, Novak. NAYES: McDermott.** Bertsinger would like a meeting with Bonestroo to discuss fees, and what they would charge for and what they wouldn't. Clerk Nymann reported that today Jed from LMC confirmed an Educational meeting for the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Board of Review. Bertsinger questioned if P & Z knew about it, and it had been verified that Clerk Nymann had been working out the dates with them. Bertsinger suggested inviting Bonestroo to the meeting.

In light of tonight's questions on the DOGR Ordinance, McDermott suggested meeting earlier on the 21st. They will meet at 5:30PM instead of 6:00PM on the 21st.

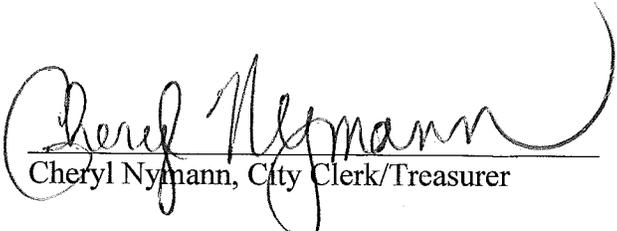
Clerk Nymann reminded Council that she is unable to attend the next Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 21st, and that Sandy will be here to take the meeting minutes.

Bertsinger motioned to adjourn at 9:53PM, Hall second; all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:



Joy Bertsinger, Mayor



Cheryl Nymann, City Clerk/Treasurer

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Dennis Blanck withdrew application for street & alley vacation.

Cheryl, Joy & Tom interviewed both engineering firms on February 3rd. Bertsinger stated that WHKS had good references from other Cities; they are hands on and take a low key approach to issues. Her concerns with WHKS are that they may not be fully aware of all the city issues and their presentation to the committee was not as solid. They also switched the individual to represent the City, which showed that they were not totally aware of all the City's needs initially, but understand more now. Bonestroo was well acquainted with the city, and gave a good presentation; they also checked on MPCA priority listing, was aware of the sewer and water tunnel placement with the Highway 52 construction project. Her concerns were that their costs are higher, and they had a couple of poor references. Bertsinger recommends Bonestroo. Tom Novak stated that going into the interviews last Friday, he had no doubts about going with Bonestroo because their presentation blew everyone else away. Friday, meetings were even, Bonestroo had better presentation and appeared to be more organized. He did meet with both engineering firms yesterday, and neither did anything for him. He said that he has to go with his gut feeling, and what he's seen thus far. He said he has to ask the questions "What firm wants the challenge of Oronoco, and who will give the City the best services?" Also he thought the presentations were important because he thought it would be a good indicator of how they will do in front of the audience. He also pointed out their proximity is a benefit because it is located on north side of Rochester. Novak recommends Bonestroo. Clerk Nymann stated that WHKS would be a much better fit for the City of Oronoco. WHKS provided all requested information, including sample invoices, being considerate and introducing her to everyone in the firm, as well as a tour, they contacted Oronoco's Planning and Zoning Chair with questions, provided a detailed listing of references, and had long lasting relationships with other Cities they represent. They received glowing references. Bonestroo had a great presentation. However, they did not provide all the material requested the first time. There were a couple of good references; however there were a few bad references from other Cities. Clerk Nymann recommends WHKS. **Bertsinger motioned to table this, McDermott second; all in favor, motion carried. Council moved into a Public Hearing.**

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Hall motioned to waive the first reading and to accept Ordinance 2006-01, 113.00, 114.0, and 230.0, McDermott second; DISCUSSION : These Ordinances include lot splits, fire department and 1st responder salary increases, and parks guidelines. Novak would like to include the pumping ordinance for approval. Bertsinger stated that there are citizen concerns on that ordinance and their comments should be taken seriously; and to get their questions answered. **Bertsinger made a friendly amendment criteria address septic issue; AYES: Bertsinger, Hall, McDermott, NAYES: Novak. Bertsinger motioned to table Ordinances. 2006-02, 2006-03, 2-006-04 2006-05, McDermott second; all in favor, motion carried.**

Bertsinger stated that Council could vote on the Ordinances if they feel prepared to at their next Council meeting.

City Engineer

Bertsinger stated that Council has heard Joys, Cheryl's and Tom's comments on both engineering firms and asked if Council had any questions. McDermott reported that he had gone through the proposals and understand Bonestroo put together a good package, and looking at the references swayed him the other way. He said that Clerk Nymann has done more foot work, spent more time with them. And, when it comes down to it, City Hall is the one dealing with them more on a one on one basis. And on a daily basis she felt more comfortable with WHKS. The one question in the interview pertaining to the engineering firms vision of what Oronoco should be was answered by Bonestroo, but they should be the one to carry out city's vision, not give it. Kevin included that's what the council, as representatives of the city, job is: to create a vision as what the people want, and have the engineers help us, rather than what they think. Citizen's know why they moved here, and what brought them here, and engineers should be using the City's vision. Novak agrees, in a way, about the question he asked; but, he was looking more at what research they did on the City. Novak also said that it was safe to say, that Bonestroo did more homework on what the City of Oronoco is all about. McDermott is also concerned with the poor references that Bonestroo received. He said that it's scary because the City has had bad luck with past engineering firms. They can look at the beautiful outward appearances and proposals, but is it reality (outward appearances aren't inward reality). He doesn't want Council to let that pretty picture from Bonestroo take the City somewhere they may not want go. Bertsinger stated that she tried to look beyond the references, stating that there are people that don't like her. Also, she stated that Bonestroo has to look at the many issues the City has; they have to work with council too; and understand residents and history of city. Hall stated that Bonestroo attended the bus tour in fall and came and listened to all residents and paid attention with what Oronoco was looking for. Clerk Nymann stated that she stands by her recommendation with WHKS, but her recommendations haven't been taken seriously from Council before, so she doesn't expect it to change now. Bertsinger stated that at any time, the City can go elsewhere. And that the City can reserve to keep an engineering firm for consultation to deal with plat, and city may choose to go with a different engineer for other projects. Clerk Nymann stands by her recommendation based on points made earlier and the nature of the references. **Novak motioned to accept Bonestroo as the city engineer, Bertsinger second; DISCUSSION:** Bertsinger stated that she would like to let them know they are under a microscope, and to make sure they are who we need to have. **AYES: Bertsinger,**

Hall, Novak. NAYES: McDermott. Bertsinger reported that she told the firms that they may be contacted as soon as tomorrow if Council made a decision. Clerk Nymann will call tomorrow and let them know.

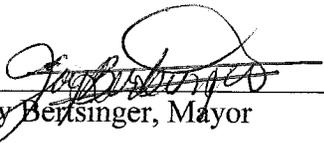
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