



City of Blaine
Anoka County, Minnesota
Minutes - Final
City Council

10801 Town Square Dr.
Blaine MN 55449

Thursday, November 15, 2012

7:30 PM

Council Chambers

Meeting Number 12-65

1. CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 p.m. by Mayor Ryan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Roll Call.

Quorum present.

ALSO PRESENT: Bryan Schafer, Community Development Director; Bob Therres, Public Services Manager; Chris Olson, Public Safety Manager/Police Chief; Joe Huss, Finance Director; Roark Haver, Communications Technician; Jane M. Cross, City Clerk; and Recording Secretary, Beth Bostrom.

Present: 5 - Mayor Ryan, Councilmember Hovland, Councilmember Swanson, Councilmember Clark and Councilmember Herbst

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Bourke and Mayor Pro Tem Kolb

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.-1 [MIN 12-36](#)

WORKSHOP MINUTES - 10/25/2012

Sponsors: Cross

Attachments: [Workshop Minutes 10/25/12](#)

Moved by Councilmember Swanson, seconded by Councilmember Herbst, that the Minutes be Approved. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

5. AWARDS - PRESENTATIONS - ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

None.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Ryan noted that they will talk at the end regarding vote canvassing.

7. OPEN FORUM FOR CITIZEN INPUT

Mayor Ryan opened the Open Forum at 7:44 p.m.

There being no input, Mayor Ryan closed the Open Forum at 7:44 p.m.

8. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented

9. 8:00 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING AND ITEMS SET FOR A CERTAIN TIME

9.-1 [MO 12-140](#)

**PRIVATE ON-SALE AND SUNDAY LIQUOR
LICENSE FOR FOGERTY ARENA THE ICE HOUSE
INC. DBA ICE HOUSE GRILLE, LOCATED AT 9250
LINCOLN STREET NE, BLAINE, MINNESOTA.**

Sponsors: Cross

Attachments: [Public Hearing Notice](#)

Moved in the agenda to follow agenda item 12.2.

10. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Councilmember Swanson, seconded by Councilmember Hovland,
that this be Adopt the Consent Agenda. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Moved that the following items be Approved by Consent Vote. Motion adopted
unanimously.

10.-1 [MO 12-141](#)

SCHEDULE OF BILLS PAID

Sponsors: Huss

Attachments: [10/26/12 Bills Paid](#)
[11/02/12 Bills Paid](#)
[10/12 Payroll Checks and Wire Transfers](#)

Approved unanimously by Consent Vote.

10.-2 [MO 12-142](#) **APPROVE 2012 THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE
ENTERPRISE LICENSE**

Sponsors: Cross

Approved unanimously by Consent Vote.

10.-3 [MO 12-143](#) **APPROVE AN AMUSEMENT DEVICE LICENSE FOR
NICKELS AND DIMES INC. DBA TILT, 398
NORTHTOWN DRIVE NE, BLAINE, MN**

Sponsors: Cross

Approved unanimously by Consent Vote.

The Following Two Items are Related

10.-4A [MO 12-144](#) **APPROVE OFF-SALE 3.2 PERCENT MALT BEVERAGE
LICENSE FOR KWIK TRIP INC., DBA KWIK TRIP #896,
8502 CENTRAL AVENUE NE, BLAINE, MN 55434 ;**

Sponsors: Cross

Approved unanimously by Consent Vote.

10.-4B [MO 12-145](#) **APPROVE A TOBACCO AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS
LICENSE FOR KWIK TRIP INC., DBA KWIK TRIP
#896,
8502 CENTRAL AVENUE NE, BLAINE**

Approved unanimously by Consent Vote.

11. **DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS**

11.-1 [RES 12-148](#) **GRANTING FINAL PLAT APPROVAL TO SUBDIVIDE
37.26 ACRES INTO TWO (2) LOTS TO BE KNOWN AS
GLIMCHER NORTHTOWN MALL FOURTH ADDITION**

**AT 398 NORTHTOWN DRIVE. GLIMCHER
DEVELOPMENT. (CASE FILE NO. 12-0033)**

Sponsors: Schafer

Attachments: [Location Map](#)
[Final Plat](#)

Moved by Councilmember Clark, seconded by Councilmember Herbst, that this Resolution be Adopted. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

12. ADMINISTRATION

12.-1 [MO 12-116](#)

**APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL TO CONFIGURE AND HOST
CITY OF BLAINE'S UTILITY BILLING DATA**

Sponsors: Huss and Therres

Attachments: [Sensus Document](#)

Public Services Manager Therres reviewed that in 2004 they went to an automated meter reading method and new technology is available now that does not support the previous system. He explained that they are seeking a hosted system that will address both. He reviewed that they have looked at whether this is cost effective. He suggested that the Cloud or Hosting solution would work best as service support is provided 24/7 and software upgrades will be automatically handled. He stated at Councils request they did a cost benefit analysis and found that over the balance of the 20-year warranty this is cost effective.

Councilmember Swanson asked how safe the facility is to manage a disaster in light of what happened to the east coast with Hurricane Sandy. Public Services Manager Therres stated that this has been researched and they found data is stored in North Carolina and possibly Idaho also has a Hosting system available. He explained that data can be transferred back and forth.

Councilmember Clark confirmed that data is stored both in North Carolina and Idaho. Public Services Manager Therres stated that there is a guarantee that they will have access to the data.

Councilmember Herbst asked if there is a guarantee that the data will not be sold. Public Services Manager Therres confirmed that the Blaine's utility data will not be sold.

Councilmember Clark asked whether Blaine remains in ownership of the data. Finance Director Huss stated that Blaine continues to own the data.

Councilmember Clark asked if Blaine's IS staff has confirmed that the system security is protected from being hacked. Finance Director Huss stated that the firewall has been looked at for census and he is not sure what guarantee there is. He commented that there is data security.

Councilmember Clark asked if there is personal data like social security numbers. Finance Director Huss stated that it is only publicly available data, which is address and utility usage.

Moved by Councilmember Clark, seconded by Councilmember Herbst, that this Motion be Approved. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

12.-2 [RES 12-149](#)

**CERTIFY DELINQUENT UTILITY ACCOUNTS AND
INVOICES TO ANOKA COUNTY**

Sponsors: Huss

Attachments: [Anoka Co Certification List](#)

Finance Director Huss explained the Council annually certifies delinquent utilities and unpaid invoices for mowing, false alarms, and meter repairs to Anoka County for collection with the following year's property taxes. He reviewed the notification process and indicated the amount to be certified for collection is \$594,954.47 of which \$584,412.97 is for delinquent utilities and \$10,541.50 is for other invoices. The certifications represent 1,113 properties, 1,081 with utility certifications and 32 for invoices other than utility bills. Finance Director Huss advised the amount to be certified is \$40,218.95 higher than the \$554,735.52 that was initially certified in 2011. He reviewed amounts certified in previous years, noting the amount to be certified reflects about 4% of the total revenues of the City's utility funds.

Mayor Ryan commented that the amount over is fairly constant whether the economy is up or down. Finance Director Huss stated that they did see an increase in delinquent accounts with the downturn in the economy. He confirmed that this will be payable with the 2013 property taxes.

Mayor Ryan asked if some people are delinquent annually and pay it through their utility or tax. Finance Director Huss stated that some people do this regularly and let it go to property tax payments.

Councilmember Clark asked about the numbers in 2001 and 2002. Finance Director Huss stated that up until 2004 the amounts were considerably less. He explained that in 2003 Council changed the ordinance where Blaine could turn off unpaid accounts. He commented that with delinquencies certified in 2003 to 2004 they saw a large increase. He stated that previous to this they saw far fewer delinquencies, under \$100,000 worth.

Councilmember Clark asked what the cost is to the City for having this amount of delinquent accounts. He suggested they consider having a workshop to looking at the changes made in 2004. Finance Director Huss stated that costs involved are time spent by maintenance staff visiting the property to turn the water off and then turning it back on along with staff preparing the certification.

Councilmember Clark suggested having a workshop on this topic. Councilmember Swanson supported discussing this at a workshop and looking at properties that are delinquent for two to three years.

Finance Director Huss commented that the accounts are certified annually and are never more than one-year delinquent on each certification. He stated that some accounts are annually certified and are never paid.

Councilmember Swanson asked how many accounts let this roll over for three to four years. Finance Director Huss stated that he would need to research this to know an exact number.

Mayor Ryan commented that previously people were angry that they had a shut off and rehook up charge.

Councilmember Herbst stated this should be looked at more closely as people are abusing the system. He stated that people are letting the back taxes go year after year. He asked if people follow through and pay when they pay their property tax.

Finance Director Huss stated that 75 percent of certified accounts are collected the following year and 90 to 95 percent are collected in two years. He stated that he is not sure what number have a tax forfeiture.

Mayor Ryan asked if there is a State law that this cannot be shut off. He stated that there are laws for electric and gas. Finance Director Huss stated that if they have radiant heat water cannot be shut off as water is used for heating. He stated that the change in the ordinance has arguments for and against changing it again.

Mayor Ryan stated that there is State funding for gas but it often goes unused even by people who need it.

Councilmember Hovland asked whether the garbage fee is included on the utility bill. Finance Director Huss stated that this is correct. He added that water, sewer, garbage and storm drainage are combined. He confirmed that it may include a mowing charge for a delinquent property but this is often a vacant property.

Moved by Councilmember Herbst, seconded by Councilmember Clark, that this

Resolution be Adopted. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

Motion by Councilmember Clark, seconded by Councilmember Herbst, to request a workshop on this topic regarding delinquent utility accounts at the second meeting in January.

[MO 12-140](#)

**PRIVATE ON-SALE AND SUNDAY LIQUOR
LICENSE FOR FOGERTY ARENA THE ICE HOUSE
INC. DBA ICE HOUSE GRILLE, LOCATED AT 9250
LINCOLN STREET NE, BLAINE, MINNESOTA.**

Sponsors: Cross

Attachments: [Public Hearing Notice](#)

Mayor Ryan opened the public hearing at 8:07 p.m.

City Clerk Cross presented the request of Fogerty Arena Manager, Mark Clasen, for a Private On-Sale and Sunday liquor license for the Ice House Grille located at 9250 Lincoln Street NE. She indicated the fees have been submitted and all required forms and documents have been received and are on file. City Clerk Cross advised the Police Department completed a background investigation and found no information to prohibit the granting of the requested licenses. This is being brought forward for approval. Mayor Ryan explained that this proposal is for the new curling rink.

Mark Clasen of Fogerty Arena offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Ryan asked for details regarding the restaurant. Mr. Clasen stated that it will be an upscale casual sports bar type atmosphere. He reviewed that the intent is for the facility to become a destination and serve the curlers and the public. He stated that the curling club can host private groups and corporate events, which are already expressing interest. He explained that these groups will utilize the restaurant.

Mayor Ryan asked if pizza and beer will be what is offered. Mr. Clasen stated that it will be more than that and even prime rib will be available.

Mayor Ryan asked whether the rinks will be visible from the restaurant. Mr. Clasen stated that there will be a beautiful view of the rink. He invited the Council to come by and take a look. He stated that the building is almost complete, the fireplace is in and it is beautiful.

Councilmember Swanson asked how high school hockey players will be kept out of the bar area. Mr. Clasen stated that the State High School League

requires that access from the arena to the club be locked down.

Mayor Ryan stated that this has worked well at the National Sports Center. He explained that kids being involved has not been an issue. He explained that the Council is interested in their opening and looking forward to it.

Councilmember Clark asked who the restaurant management company is. Mr. Clasen stated that they are working on a limited partnership and are a few days away from a contract with a management group who works with Gabes by the Park in St. Paul. He stated that partners in the partnership have extensive experience and are creative with promotions and food. He stated that one of the men involved won Best New Product at the Fair two years in a row.

Mayor Ryan asked when the opening date is. Mr. Clasen stated that in 7-9 days they will have a date in mind. He stated that curling would be available before the restaurant is open.

Councilmember Clark asked about hockey families and whether kid's food will be offered like pizza and hot dogs. Mr. Clasen stated that they will definitely have a kids menu. He explained that the official grand opening will be after the holidays.

Councilmember Clark asked about childrens food being available. Mr. Clasen stated that they will have typical childrens food like chicken fingers and pizza. He explained that they will be prepared for carbo loads for the teams.

Councilmember Clark asked about staff being hired for the curling arena. Mr. Clasen stated that they have hired a director of curling named John Benton who has been a member of the last two Olympic teams. He explained that they have hired an icemaker from Mankato who will start in ten days.

Mayor Ryan requested having a varied menu to keep people coming back.

Councilmember Hovland left the meeting at 8:15 p.m. and returned at 8:17 p.m.

Mr. Clasen stated that they are hoping to introduce curling to people who stop by the restaurant.

Mayor Ryan asked how many curling facilities are in Minnesota. Mr. Clasen stated that there are several in the State but only one in the Twin Cities which is in St. Paul. He stated that they are opening the only year round facility in North America. He stated that they are getting elite, off-season training requests from other countries.

There being no additional public input, Mayor Ryan closed the public hearing at 8:17 p.m.

Moved by Councilmember Clark, seconded by Councilmember Herbst, that this Motion be Approved. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

12.-3 [RES 12-150](#)

**CERTIFY DELINQUENT UTILITY ACCOUNTS AND
INVOICES TO RAMSEY COUNTY**

Sponsors: Huss

Finance Director Huss explained the Council annually certifies delinquent utilities to Ramsey County for collection with the following year's property taxes. He reviewed the notification process and indicated the amount to be certified for collection is \$2,528.44 for delinquent utilities. It was noted this is the first time in at least ten years that a Ramsey County property has been certified for delinquent utilities.

Moved by Councilmember Herbst, seconded by Councilmember Hovland, that this Resolution be Adopted. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

12.-4 [MO 12-146](#)

**AUTHORIZE FINAL PAYMENTS TO NORTHWEST
ASPHALT, INC., PIONEER ENGINEERING, INC.,
WOODLAND DEVELOPMENT AND BRAUN INTERTEC
FOR WOODLAND VILLAGE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 11-20**

Sponsors: Therres

Attachments: [Pioneer extra.pdf](#)
[Bond Fund Summary Update 103112.pdf](#)

Public Services Manager Therres reviewed that on May 17, 2012, the Council authorized a contract with Northwest Asphalt, Inc. in the amount of \$333,763.30 to install bituminous wear course, concrete sidewalks, and bituminous trail. A change order was then approved by the Council on May 17, 2012, amending the contract amount to \$395,249.30. Public Services Manager Therres presented a summary of the contract costs and recommended the Council authorize final payments to Northwest Asphalt, Inc., Pioneer Engineering, Inc., Woodland Development, and Braun Intertec and to pay the City Engineering cost for Woodland Village Public Improvements from bond proceeds and the City's internal MSA account.

Councilmember Herbst commented that this was a complicated process but it will be an attribute to the City.

Moved by Councilmember Herbst, seconded by Councilmember Swanson, that this Motion be Approved. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

HANDOUT ITEM

12.-5 [MO 12-147](#)

CANVASS OF 2012 CITY GENERAL ELECTION

Attachments: [Summary of 2012 City General Election by Precinct and Voter Turnout.pdf](#)
[Abstract of Votes Cast.pdf](#)
[List of Election Judges.pdf](#)

Mayor Ryan thanked staff City Clerk Jane Cross and the two Cathy's for their work. He stated that they have never been embarrassed as a City by things falling apart with the election. He acknowledged that there is not a lot of staff to do the work and it was a team effort. City Clerk Cross stated that although many days were extremely busy, things went smoothly. She added that absentee voting was done at city hall for the very first time. She thanked city staff that helped including Kathy Jensen and Krista Buth who helped out at the front counter. Rayla Ewald and Lisa Derr gave much needed help when possible. She added that early on Deputy Clerk Cathy Ekstrand took care of a lot of voters herself when it wasn't too busy. She stated that Rayla Ewald and Cindy Philipps helped on the Saturday before the election. She added that a couple of election judges, Laurie and Bill also came in to help on Saturday, November 3rd. She commented that Public Works staff does a lot of behind the scenes work by moving equipment to the polling places, securing it and returning it again after the election. She thanked Tom Newberger, Steve Dahl, Kurt Johnson, Kerry Carlson and others who helped. She thanked Maintenance workers Richard, Ray and Bruce and she also thanked Marc Shippee for letting his staff help out.

Councilmember Herbst congratulated Mayor Ryan on his reelection. He commented that he voted at Bridgewood Church, a new precinct in the Third Ward. City Clerk Cross commented that it had a 89 percent turnout, which was the highest in Anoka County. She explained that Westwood is no longer used as it is a long walk. She explained that the Blaine Senior Center is used instead.

Mayor Ryan stated that election judges are not paid much and do a lot of work. City Clerk Cross stated that she had a phone call from a resident who had a positive voting experience and only one who had a minor complaint. She asked that the Council sign off for the canvassing board.

Moved by Councilmember Hovland, seconded by Councilmember Clark, that this Motion be Approved. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Ryan reviewed that new elected officials are to find out how law enforcement works as it is a large budget item. He explained that their training covers how 911 works. He stated that elected officials have a lot to learn relating to this. He reviewed that this costs \$10 a person and is on December 8 from 8-8:30 a.m. and from 4-4:30 p.m. in the afternoon at the Anoka County Sheriff's Department.

City Manager Arneson stated that the Council will meet on December 29, 2012, for a budget session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilmember Herbst, seconded by Councilmember Hovland, that this be Adjourned. The Motion was adopted unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. by Mayor Ryan.