

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2007**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Orrock called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Dick Backlund, Chuck Heitz, Lori Kampa, Patricia May, and Donald Orrock. Town Board Members present: Jim Sanford and Mike Hayes. Also present: City Administrator Scott Johnson, Finance Director Corey Boyer, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, and City Engineer Brad DeWolf and Jared Voge of Bolton & Menk, Inc.

3. PROPOSED AGENDA

Council Member Heitz motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda. Seconded by Council Member May, unanimous ayes, agenda adopted.

4. BUSINESS

4A. Ice Arena Funding Discussion

Corey Boyer informed Council that the City of Becker has voted to “not cost participate” in the Becker/Big Lake proposed Ice Arena Project. Mr. Boyer also reviewed various financing scenarios that were provided by the ice association. The City of Big Lake’s annual cost, assuming a 20 year bond at 5% interest, would be approximately \$180,929.16.

This figure does not take into consideration that the City of Becker will not be contributing financially to the arena. Mr. Boyer informed Council that adding this debt service would mean taking tax dollars away from our general operating budget. Council questioned if operations will be able to support any of the arena costs and that the Ice Association should seek additional donations. Council also questioned if the County will be able to Bond or contribute the facility. Staff indicated that the County has concerns with participating in funding/bonding for this project as they haven’t participated in other community arena’s. Council also discussed 2008 budget concerns.

4B. Police Department Construction Management Discussion

Scott Johnson discussed the current construction management contract the City has in place with Northwest Inspection Services. Mr. Johnson asked for Council feedback on if they want to proceed with the new Police Department facility, and if so, does the Council want to continue with the current construction management contract or move forward with a Request for Qualification (RFQ), and to exercise the City's 30 day notice to break the current contract. Council Members Kampa and May indicated that they would like to move forward with the Police Facility in 2008. Council Members Backlund, Heitz, and Orrock indicated that they are opposed to proceeding in 2008 due to economic concerns. Council also discussed the need to re-evaluate the location of the new police station and to proceed with the RFQ process to contractors located in the local area, the northwest suburbs, and the St. Cloud area in the fall of 2008.

4C. 2008 Enterprise Funds Budgets/Fee Discussion

Corey Boyer reviewed the budget summary/detail revenue and expense reports for the City's four enterprise funds. Mr. Boyer also reviewed the current water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer fees in addition to proposed fees for 2008. The focus for the 2008 fees is on the capital expenditure side. The goal with the fees proposed for 2008 is to keep the average user's utility rate increases down, and to maximize the fee increases in the capital revenue items. Council discussed the timeline for the construction of the Waste Water Treatment Plant expansion and indicated that the fee's proposed by staff appear to be appropriate for 2008.

5. OTHER

No other.

6. ADJOURN

Council Member Heitz motioned to adjourn at 5:37 p.m. Seconded by Council Member May, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
City Clerk

Date Approved By Council _____ 11/14/07