

**MINUTES
CITY OF HECTOR
SPECIAL MEETING – 6:30 P.M.
APRIL 6, 2017**

COUNCIL PRESENT: Steven Squibb, Jeff Heerdt, Ralph Bergsma, Penny Kandt and Doug Best.

STAFF PRESENT: Jon Saunders, Kathy Blackwell, and Jerome Schueller.

Also Present: Mike and Linda Nezworski, Jill Nezworski, Taylor Newberg, Steve Karnik, Marlys Hagstrom, Penny Macik, Mona Ebner, Julie Schafer, Pam Macik, Shirley Willhite, Marie Breitreutz, Denise Peterson, Lori Carlson, Brenda Peterson, Rex Hammarback, Sam Heiderscheidt, Nic Heiderscheidt, Cory Heiderscheidt, Pam Kramer, Natalie Nelson, Dave Nelson, Nancy Fosland, Rick Broderius, Brad Wulkan, Allan Kirgiss, Cindy Christopherson, Dane Macik, Mike Skucius, Beate Rueber, Curt Sampson, Steve Wolff, Doug Breitreutz, Curt Hollan, Neil Lidberg, Doug Schleusner, Todd Kramer, Andy Weigscheid, Teri Hill, Seth Pierce, Kurt Sandgren, Jeff Kramer, Brad Melberg, Larry Kramer, Keith Johnson, Nancy Mathiowetz, Harold Carstens, Willard Fluck, Joy Skucius, Ron Ruona and Barbara Hoyhtya.

City Attorney Jon Saunders provided a summary of the letters the city has received from Andy Peek with the FAA. Peek references the existing residence as a violation of grant assurances 5, 19 and 21. Saunders noted that the FAA is now conducting an audit of past Hector projects and looking into possible violations. The FAA has also scheduled a land use inspection on May 10, 2017. When Saunders spoke with Peek, Peek noted that his office would not consider approving a lease until the airport is grant assurance compliance. Saunders recommended that the city have the residence vacated in order for the airport to be grant compliant and not jeopardize future federal funding. Saunder's noted that his concern is for the future of the airport.

Rex Hammarback, the attorney representing Ed and Connie Newberg, stated that his clients would like to find a resolution. Hammarback stated that there is nothing in writing from Mr. Peek's office stating that the city will owe any money back from past projects. Hammarback suggested that both parties continue working on a lease and see what happens at the May 10, 2017 inspection. Hammarback referenced that the airports in Crookston and Long Prairie both have a private residence and that not allowing the residence in Hector would be discrimination by the FAA. Hammarback also referenced that he has contacted Congressman Collin Peterson's office and made him aware of the situation. Hammarback read a portion of a letter from Mr. Peek regarding housing for an airport manager. Saunders replied by reading a latter portion of Peek's letter referencing families on an airport causing a safety concern.

Mayor Squibb read the revised motion from January, 2017.

Hammarback suggested again that the parties continue to work on a draft lease that would address all concerns by all parties involved, including a land lease amount. Saunders, Mayor Squibb and Councilor Bergsma stressed that a deadline be put on the draft lease being completed.

Saunders questioned the possible penalties and asked if Newberg is willing to cover costs due to further delays. Saunders suggested that a three month eviction notice be given to vacate the residence.

MOTION by Penny Kandt to have Saunders and Hammarback complete a draft lease by April 21, 2017 and then present the draft lease to Andy Peek at the FAA for consideration; and also to have Saunders give a three month notice to vacate the residence on the airport. Ralph Bergsma seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Mayor Squibb announced a ten minute break and called the meeting back to order following the break.

Mayor Squibb presented information on requested wage comparisons, the amounts spent to date on the water emergency incident and the arbitrator's decision that supported the council's decision to demote Schueller including a 20% pay reduction. Mayor Squibb recommended a 15% pay reduction for Schueller. Schueller stated that he doesn't agree with the arbitrator's decision. Councilor Kandt stated that they need to deal with the arbitrator's decision that is before them now and the actions that brought the city to where they are now. Kandt stated that she agrees with a 15% pay reduction. Residents were allowed to comment on the subject.

Motion by Doug Best to reduce Schueller's pay by \$2.50 per hour, and if after one year there are no additional incidents of negligence by Schueller, retro-pay of \$1.00 per hour will be given to Schueller, if there are no additional incidents of negligence in the second year, retro-pay of \$1.00 per hour will be given to Schueller. Penny Kandt seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

MOTION by Doug Best and seconded by Ralph Bergsma to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm.


Kathy L. Blackwell, City Clerk