



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

www.cityofyankton.org

VOL. 44, NUMBER 9

Commission Information Memorandum

The Yankton City Commission meeting on Monday, May 11, 2009, will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Non-Agenda Items of Interest

1) Parks and Recreation Department Update

Enclosed in your packet is an update on the various activities in the Parks and Recreation Department.

2) Personnel News

A coffee & cookie reception was held on Thursday, May 7 at the Street Shop in honor of Dave Haas' (Airport Maintenance/Signal Technician) retirement. He is retiring after 34 years of service to the City.

A free blood pressure screening was held on Thursday, May 7. Mary Hughes, Wellness Nurse from Avera Health Plans did the screenings for City staff.

Numerous applications have been received for our vacant positions (60 applications for the Wastewater Plant Operator and 39 for Recreation Coordinator). Human Resources will be available to assist with scheduling interviews after the department heads have completed their application review.

3) Community Development Update

We are at the start of the growing season which means our nuisance compliance activities are increasing. In 2008, staff responded to 195 nuisance issues. Compliance actions last year included addressing problems with weeds, dangerous and abandoned structures, snow on sidewalks, abandoned vehicles, sight line obstructions caused by vegetation, grass dumping in Marne Creek, garbage, junk and rubbish. For the year 2009 to date we have taken action on 29 nuisance code violations.

Wal-Mart Manager, Chad Bent has been in contact with us regarding the tree situation south of Wal-Mart. As you know, our agreement with Wal-Mart stipulates that they must maintain the trees on the berm. They have had a very difficult time with keeping trees alive and their current nursery specialist has indicated that soil compaction is a major cause of the problem. They have replaced 40 trees in the last two weeks and will be replacing an additional 20 trees in the coming days. They then plan to till in looser black dirt around the trees and replace the irrigation system. We will continue to monitor the situation.

4) Library Update

Enclosed in your packet is an update on the various activities in the Library.

5) Finance Office Update

The annual malt beverage license applications were due May 1st. Several applications are outstanding but should be received in the next few days. Also, restaurant license applications will be mailed out in a few days and will be due by the end of May. Renewals are effective July 1, 2009.

The Finance Office is preparing for the annual financial audit for fiscal year 2008 which has been scheduled for mid-June.

6) Police Department Update

Cpl. Mike Burgeson and Det. Todd Brandt were involved with the annual RTEC Career Days. Approximately 700 students from around the area attended this event. YPD set up a crime scene and an accident scene for the students to ask questions regarding crime scene investigation and careers in Law Enforcement. Several members of the South Dakota Highway Patrol were also on hand as representatives of the Law Enforcement community.

Cpl. Dean Larson and Officer Jason Foote took a dip for Yankton's first Polar Plunge for Special Olympics participating as "Cops and Robbers". Officer Foote and Dean were able to contribute nearly \$1000.00 for the Special Olympics. Dean has been an active representative for Special Olympics for a number of years. He is also involved with the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run which will take place next week on May 13th in downtown Yankton.

The Yankton Police Department would also like to thank the City Commission and Mayor Specht for the resolution recognizing National Law Enforcement Memorial Day on May 15, 2009, it is greatly appreciated.

7) Fire Department Update

The Fire Department has received 37 calls for service between January 1 and April 15. This compares to the typical 5 year average of 23.6 calls during the same time period. Major losses were realized at the St. John's Church Fire (in excess of \$2 million) and a fire that destroyed a home under construction (valued at \$300,000) north of Yankton. Other calls included several grass fires, accidents with injuries and minor structure fires during that period. The volunteers of the fire department have amassed 1339.87 man hours away from work and family during that time period. This compares to an average of 419.78 man hours during the previous 4 year period.

Additionally, work has begun in earnest on the Fire Station #2 project. Earthwork is near completion, building footings are being poured, and concrete forms are being placed for the east parking lot. The utility cut in 23rd Street will be made during the week of May 11-15. This will result in 23rd Street being closed between Cedar Terrace and Walnut for that week. A press release is being prepared to notify the public of this street closure.

8) Comfort Station

Following discussion at the CIP Commission meeting and the City/School committee meeting, staff has moved forward with the comfort station project. The architect has established a total project cost that is estimated to be in line with the budgeted allocations inclusive of all engineering and architecture fees. The project is comprised of smaller restroom and concession areas, and removal of the storage area. We will be working with the architect to take this project back out to bid.

9) Park Shop

Staff has reviewed pre-bidding cost estimates for construction of the new Park Shop and has revamped the original dimensions accordingly. To bring this project in line with these preliminary estimates, the

dimensions have been decreased in the original building with a secondary cold storage building placed as an alternate bid item. This will meet the original space demands, yet substantially lower the cost, not only for the original construction, but also for continuing operation costs.

10) Retail Recruitment

While it may seem that it has been quiet in relation to the approved TIF plan on North Broadway, the developer is in continued negotiations with national retailers. The retailers will have to do site reviews, engineering, etc., at the location prior to making a commitment. The project still looks promising in terms of its development.

11) Public Services Update

Construction season is well underway. Curb and gutter replacement associated with the streets that City staff will be undertaking has been completed. The 25th Street (Broadway to Douglas) asphalt mat removal is scheduled to begin Monday, May 11, 2009. The neighborhood meeting was held on April 30, 2009.

Grass clippings may be dropped off at the solid waste transfer station on Wednesday nights from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM beginning May 6, 2009. Grass clippings can also be disposed of during regular transfer station hours which are Monday through Saturday 8:00 AM to 3:45 PM.

12) Monthly reports

Building and Yankton Police Department monthly report are included for your review. Minutes from the Park Advisory Board are also included.

Have an enjoyable weekend and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these or other issues. If you will not be able to attend the Commission meeting on Monday, please inform my office.

Sincerely,

Doug Russell
City Manager