

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

### AGENDA ITEM

December 7, 2009

1. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of St. Cloud, Minnesota, was held on December 7, 2009 at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.
2. Moment of Silence for our men and women serving in the Armed Forces.
3. Councilmember present were Berg (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), Garven, Hontos, Johnson, Libert, Masters, and Pederson.

### Consent Agenda:

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** ACTION TAKEN: Approved.
5. **RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR 2010.** ACTION TAKEN: Pederson/Garven moved approval. Motion carried unanimously. Resolution was adopted and assigned number 2009-12-188.
6. **APPLICATION FOR A TEMPORARY ON-SALE INTOXICATING LIQUOR LICENSE FOR DELTA COMPANY, I-194 FAMILY READINESS GROUP, FOR AN EVENT TO BE HELD AT THE NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009, FROM 4 P.M. TO 8 P.M.** ACTION TAKEN: Approved.
7. **EMPLOYMENT GUIDE REVISIONS.** ACTION TAKEN: Approved.
8. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE MN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE PROVISION OF CHEMICAL ASSESSMENT TEAM SERVICES BY THE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM OF THE ST. CLOUD FIRE DEPARTMENT.** ACTION TAKEN: Approved. Resolution was adopted and assigned number 2009-12-

191.

9. **AN EXTENSION OF THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SARTELL TO PROVIDE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION SERVICES AND LIMITED SUPPORT ON CIVIL LEGAL ISSUES.** ACTION TAKEN: Garven/Masters moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.
  
10. **ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR CREATION OF THE RIVER WALK AND PANTOWN SELF-GUIDED AUDIO TOURS.** ACTION TAKEN: Approved.
  
11. **SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR DECEMBER 21, 2009, TO CONSIDER 9<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE NORTH CORRIDOR STUDY.** ACTION TAKEN: Garven/Berg moved to set the public hearing for January 11, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

**Open Forum:**

Luke Tripp, 804 Washington, Memorial Drive: Mr. Tripp addressed the Council on the need to have a Human Rights Director funding in the city budget. Mr. Tripp was advised to speak on this issue during the public hearing on the budget.

**Public Hearings:**

12. **GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BUDGET AND TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2010.**  
**(A) MAYOR'S BUDGET MESSAGE.**

Mayor Kleis gave his 2010 Budget message. He noted that the preliminary budget which set the levy was approved in September. He highlighted that the City has had to make reductions, which was very difficult. The reason for this was primarily the result of a decrease in State aid. The City has 28 vacant positions which is the result of attrition. In addition, the City currently is in a hiring freeze. He also noted that he will not raise property taxes; in fact, most properties have seen a slight reduction. The City of St. Cloud is a regional center and it is not fair for the citizens of St. Cloud to pay for those who visit/work/etc. He touched on the importance of Local Government Aid is to St.

Cloud and that any further decrease in this funding will be very difficult. He complemented City employees and the great service they continue to provide with the budget cuts.

**(B) FINANCE DIRECTOR’S BUDGET REVIEW.**

Finance Director John Norman gave an overview of the budget. He showed the increases and/or decreases of each department.

**(C) CONDUCT THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

Council President Johnson opened the public hearing. The following individuals testified:

Luke Tripp

804 Washington Memorial Drive; Mr. Tripp continued his discussion from the Open Forum and noted that he feels that the City of St. Cloud greatly needs a Human Rights Director. He understands the difficulty the city faces the budget but a reduced budget should not translate to reduced social justice. There is a need for the City to fund a Human Rights Director.

Debra Leigh

1313 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; There is a need for a fully funded Human Rights Office and a Human Rights Director. She understands the fact that budget constraints are real. There might be other options such as having money allotted for consultants if an office can’t be fully funded.

Donald Justin

805 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Mr. Justin would like to see property taxes lower for those who make very little or on a fixed income. He would like to see taxes reduced by about 15%.

Patricia Ezepue

760 14<sup>th</sup> St. South; Ms. Ezepue is new to the area. She expressed her concern that the Human Rights Office is not fully funded. This is a much needed service since there is a lot of diversity at SCSU and in the city.

**(D) CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

Council President Johnson closed the public hearing.

**(E) CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FINAL TAX LEVY AND BUDGET FOR THE 2010 GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS.**

Hontos/Libert moved to hold the item over for consideration to December 21, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

13. **ENTERPRISE FUNDS BUDGETS FOR 2010.**

**(A) CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2010 ENTERPRISE FUNDS BUDGET.**

Council President Johnson opened the public hearing. No one testified.

**(B) CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

Council President Johnson closed the public hearing.

**(C) CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2010 BUDGETS FOR ENTERPRISE FUNDS.**

Berg/Masters moved approval. Motion carried 6-0; Councilmember Hontos was absent for the vote. Resolution was adopted and assigned number 2009-12-189.

**New Business:**

14. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX LEVY FOR THE ST. CLOUD HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR PAYMENT IN 2010.**

Garven/Hontos moved approval. Motion carried unanimously. Resolution was adopted and assigned number 2009-12-190.

**Open Discussion:**

- It was announced that there was a Human Rights Event on December 10, 2009 from 7-9 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.
- Mayor Kleis confirmed that the Navy's Blue Angels will be in St. Cloud in June 2010.
- There will be a Police Station Dedication on December 18, 2009 at noon.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

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City Council President

Bob Johnson

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Jennifer Burrows, Recording Council Secretary