

1 **City of Minneola**
2 **Council Workshop**
3 **Minneola City Hall**
4

Aug. 9, 2011
6:30 P.M.

5 The City of Minneola Workshop Meeting was called to order by Mayor Pat Kelley.
6 Present were: Vice Mayor Rick Roderick, Councilwoman Debbie Flinn, Councilwoman
7 Kelly Price, Councilman Joseph Saunders, Mark Johnson (City Manager), Charlotte
8 Gentile (Accountant III) and Jan McDaniel (City Clerk).
9

10 A moment of silence was observed and the pledge of allegiance was lead by Vice Mayor
11 Roderick.
12

13 **Mayor Kelley** informed the audience that this workshop was for discussion and not
14 voting would take place.
15

16 **Rick Roderick** explained that the mil rate had been advertised at a higher rate to allow
17 the Council to discuss the budget and to reduce the needed mil rate for a balanced budget.
18

19 **Mayor Kelley** opened the meeting for public comment.
20

21 **Kevin McClung** (Minneola business owner) expressed his opposition to a fire
22 assessment fee. He gave a lengthy description of how a fire assessment fee could affect
23 his business and suggested that if necessary any assessment fee be on the utility bill each
24 month as compared to on the annual tax bill.
25

26 **Sandy Reaves** (Minneola Elementary Principal) spoke at length requesting the Council
27 not cut the sheriff's contract which could jeopardize the safety of the students.
28

29 **Lt. Link** (LCSO) stated that if the amount budgeted for the LCSO contract stays at \$1.15
30 million, there would be a reduction of three officers from the Minneola detail.
31

32 **David Yeager** (Minneola resident) stated that the fire assessment fee should be
33 clarification.
34

35 **Lori Sokoloski** (Clermont resident) urged the Council to remedy the problem of no place
36 for students to walk to school along Turkey Farms Road.
37

38 **Rick Roderick** explained that the City is a third party in the construction of the
39 sidewalks, as Lake County is in charge of those improvements, as well as working with
40 the school board.
41

42 **Ardena Lewis** (Clermont resident) complained that the students were being given i-pads
43 which thieves may try to take from the student and expressed her concerns for the safety
44 of the students.
45

46 **Mark Johnson** distributed the proposed budget (Exhibit A) He explained the document
47 was based on a 7.9812 mil rate as directed by the Council. He also explained this was the
48 highest millage rate allowed per the City's TRIM notice.

1 **Shannon DuPont** (Minneola resident) asked what the shortage was for the budget.

2
3 **Mark Johnson** explained that by cutting the sheriff contract amount the City could
4 possibly balance on a roll-back rate and explained the property values had gone down
5 considerably over the last few years causing the reduced revenue.

6
7 **Rick Roderick** explained that a proposed fire assessment would be for FY 2013 and not
8 for this upcoming budget. He explained those funds would be what the fire department
9 would operate on.

10
11 **Mayor Kelley** stated he wanted the monies in the proposed budget for fire assessment fee
12 study to be removed and used for student safety/.

13
14 **Jimmy Williams** (Minneola resident) asked if the city's mil rate was comparable to
15 surrounding cities and at what point would the City no longer be competitive for
16 businesses locating here. He urged the Council to be fair when considering a fire
17 assessment fee.

18
19 **Mayor Kelley** stated he did not support an assessment fee and again stated he wanted the
20 monies in the budget currently marked for an assessment fee study.

21
22 **Joe Saunders** clarified that the reason the Council decided to consider a fire assessment
23 fee was mostly because of the decline in property values and the lower amount of
24 revenue available to run the City. He explained that the possibility that values will
25 continue to go down and the millage rate could be very high to receive the funds to run
26 the fire department.

27
28 A lengthy conversation continued regarding the fire department, fire assessment fees and
29 what it takes to run the department.

30
31 **David Yeager** explained that the City residents used to pay a fire assessment fee to the
32 County prior to the City of Minneola Fire Department being established.

33
34 **Chief O'Neal** further explained the role of first responders.

35
36 **Joe Saunders** explained the workings of the MPO and the future road plans for the area.
37 He also acknowledged that everyone has concerns for the students who would be walking
38 to school but again reiterated that it is the County who is responsible for the sidewalks.

39
40 **Sandra Reeves** again asked that the City budget patrols for the students safety.

41
42 Discussion continued.

43
44 **Lt. Link** explained how he schedules for the school traffic and stated they are still subject
45 to call.

46
47 **Mark Johnson** explained that the proposed contract was a compromise and asked Mrs.
48 Reaves if the school could contribute towards the cost of extra deputies.

1
2 **Sandra Reaves** stated she could not commit any funding and continued to speak of the
3 traffic around her school and the safety of the children.

4
5 **Rick Roderick** stated he would consider increasing the Sheriff's Contract if a
6 compromise could be reached and requested the Library budget be increased

7
8 **Mayor Kelley** stated he was against the proposed budget and any tax increase.

9
10 **Mary Kay McGuire** (Minneola Librarian) explained the money from the County would
11 be determined at a later time.

12
13 **Rick Roderick** stated he was in favor of the turnpike study, and the assessment fee study.

14
15 **Mayor Kelley** asked where the Council wanted to set the millage rate.

16
17 **Charlotte Gentile** explained that to fund the Sheriff's Contract at \$1.3 million, the rate
18 would need to be 7.2 mil.

19
20 **Lt. Link** stated that even with the budget cut, he would still have a deputy in the school
21 areas.

22
23 **Mark Johnson** stated the City staff has had pay cuts, and position cuts and asked all
24 involved to compromise as the City could not be cut anymore.

25
26 *Mayor Kelley called a recess at 8:24 p.m.; the meeting resumed at 8:35 p.m.*

27
28 **Joe Saunders** asked for the Mayor's position.

29
30 **Mayor Kelley** stated he would fund the sheriff's contract with \$1.3 million, expressed
31 his desire to cut the City Clerk position and to consolidate that position with the City
32 Manager duties, remove the copier from the clerk's office, dissolve the clerk's part-time
33 assistant and shift those funds over to the sheriff's department.

34
35 A general discussion pursued.

36
37 **Rick Roderick** stated he would not support eliminating the clerk's position.

38
39 **Joe Saunders** stated he believed the Sheriff's contract should stay at \$1.3 million for the
40 next two years, and that he would not support any more cuts to the City staff. He stated
41 he would support a mil rate of 7.2 to efficiently run the city.

42
43 **Rick Roderick** stated he supported Mr. Saunders' position and would support a 7.4 mil
44 rate.

45
46 **Kelly Price** also agreed to support a 7.2 mil rate and not cutting any staff.

47

1 **Debbie Flinn** also supported a 7.2 mil rate and would not support other cuts. She stated
2 she had met with Sheriff Borders and believed the number of officer's would not be cut,
3 even with a \$1.15 million contract. She also informed Council that she would be getting
4 more information from the sheriff's office.

5
6 **Mayor Kelley** asked Mrs. Flinn to share that information when received.

7
8 **Charlotte Gentile** explained the schedule for advertising and the dates of the public
9 hearings and workshops.

10
11 Council determined to tentatively schedule a budget workshop on Aug. 30th.

12
13 **Mark Johnson** explained he had attended a meeting with the turnpike representatives
14 and they seem very positive for the Minneola interchange.

15
16 **Joe Saunders** stated he had also attended and that the \$30 million funding had not been
17 secured and cautioned that it could be at least 18 months after funding is secured before
18 bids could be sent out. He explained that he had also reminded them that the City's
19 contribution had been the \$20 million wastewater plant and that no funding would be
20 coming from Minneola.

21
22 **MOTION by Kelly Price, SECONDED by Rick Roderick to adjourn the City**
23 **Council workshop.**

24
25 **AYE:** Roderick, Flinn, Kelley, Price, Saunders

26
27 **NAY:** None

28
29 **MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

30
31 *The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.*

32
33
34 _____
Mayor Pat Kelley

35
36
37 **Attest:**

38
39 _____
Jan McDaniel, CMC

1 **City of Minneola**
2 **Council Meeting**
3 **Minneola City Hall**

Aug. 16, 2011
6:30 P.M.

4
5 The City of Minneola Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Pat Kelley. Present
6 were: Vice Mayor Rick Roderick, Councilwoman Debbie Flinn, Councilwoman Kelly
7 Price, Councilman Joseph Saunders, Scott Gerken (City Attorney), Jan McDaniel (City
8 Clerk), and Mark Johnson (City Manager).

9
10 **Vice Mayor Roderick** led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence was
11 observed.

12
13 **PROCLAMATION**

14
15 **Mayor Kelley** read the proclamation for "Constitution Week."

16
17 **AGENDA REVIEW**

18
19 **Debbie Flinn** requested the Big Sky Final Plat to be moved to Item 2 on the agenda.

20
21 Council agreed.

22
23 **AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD**

24
25 **Gary Tolley** (Minneola resident) requested a workshop to be held to instruct the P & Z
26 Board and the City Council on "Robert's Rules of Order" to help expedite meetings.

27
28 **David Yeager** (Minneola resident) agreed that the meetings are at times unnecessarily
29 long; gave a brief history of past council's and commented on the articles in *The Right*
30 *Side of Lake* website.

31
32 **Platt Loftis** (Waste Pro representative) requested permission from Council to hold a
33 barbeque for staff on October 27th.

34
35 **Scott Gerken** stated he believed the event would be fine.

36
37 **Sandra Reaves** (Minneola Elementary Principal) again urged the Council to consider the
38 safety of the school children and ensure that there are enough deputies to patrol during
39 school start and close time.

40
41 **Mary Mikolaitis** (Minneola resident) asked Council to consider thee small business
42 owners and look at the big picture before raising the mil rate.

1 **Tab 1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2
3 **MOTION by Kelly Price, SECONDED by Rick Roderick to approve**

4
5 **AYE:** Roderick, Flinn, Kelley, Price, Saunders

6
7 **NAY:** None

8
9 **MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

10
11 **Tab 4 Big Sky Final Plat**

12
13 **Aaron Mercer** (City Planner) explained the request for final plat approval.

14
15 **Scott Gerken** informed Council that the previous property owner's agreement with the
16 City was to pay approximately \$22,000.00 to the City in lieu of a park in the
17 development; but since that owner had claimed bankruptcy and the property sold, the
18 agreement was no longer valid and those funds would not be collected.

19
20 **Mayor Kelley** asked for public comments; there were no comments.

21
22 **MOTION by Rick Roderick, SECONDED by Debbie Flinn to approve the Big Sky**
23 **Final Platt and that there will be no future payments for City parks.**

24
25 **AYE:** Roderick, Flinn, Kelley, Price, Saunders

26
27 **NAY:** None

28
29 **MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

30
31 **Tab 2 Redistricting Process**

32
33 **Sean Parks** (Lake County Commissioner) spoke to Council regarding district
34 representation for the County Commission and the School Board. He explained the
35 County is required to look at the districts and make sure each district is properly
36 represented which is determined by population; and that the process is required every ten
37 years following the last census. He informed everyone that both boards would be looking
38 at proposed changes and a meeting would be held on August 30th to discuss if changes
39 were needed.

40
41 A general question and answer session pursued.

42
43 **Tab 3 P & Z Board Appointment**

44
45 **Jan McDaniel** explained an additional application had been received today, and asked if
46 Council would like to postpone the appointment and consider the two applicants at the

1 next meeting. She stated the City Manager had requested the item be moved to the next
2 meeting.

3
4 Council agreed to wait until the September 6th meeting to appoint a new member to the P
5 & Z Board.

6
7 **Tab 5 Resolution 2011-15**

8
9 **Scott Gerken** read Resolution 2011-15 by title only and explained the resolution is in
10 regard to emergency funding and most cities in Lake County were approving a similar
11 resolution.

12
13 **MOTION by Kelly Price, SECONDED by Rick Roderick to approve Resolution**
14 **2011-15.**

15
16 **AYE:** Roderick, Flinn, Kelley, Price, Saunders

17
18 **NAY:** None

19
20 **MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

21
22 **Tab 6 Ordinance 2011-06**

23
24 **Scott Gerken** read Ordinance 2011-06 by title only for the first time and noted the
25 updates made to the agreement as follows:

- 26
- The park land would be owned by the City
 - 27 • Contract for thirty years
 - 28 • Expenses to be paid by the County
 - 29 • Park will be fully staffed
 - 30 • County will pay off the balance due on the ball field lights
 - 31 • County will provide a master plan which will be approved by the Minneola
32 Council
 - 33 • City Council will continue to have input as to what improvements are made to the
34 park
 - 35 • A fee schedule will be provided
 - 36 • A provision for unilateral termination is included
- 37

38 **Mayor Kelley** asked for public comment.

39
40 **Mary Mikolaitis** asked if the City would be liable for the park.

41
42 **Scott Gerken** stated the County would be responsible, although the City would continue
43 to carry liability insurance as the City is the owner of the property.

1 **Darren Gray** (County Manager) expressed his appreciation to the City for working with
2 the County and stated everything should go very smoothly and that this is a win-win for
3 everyone.

4
5 **Sean Parks** thanked the Council for their cooperation.

6
7 **Tab 7 Ordinance 2011-07 Code Amendment**

8
9 **Scott Gerken** read Ordinance 2011-07 by title only for the first time and explained the
10 ordinance would amend the city code to comply with new legislation regarding firearm
11 regulations.

12
13 **Mayor Kelley** asked for public comments; there were no comments.

14
15 **REPORTS:**

16
17 **Mark Johnson:**

- 18 • Stated the County Health Department would be using the café area two days a
19 week until another facility is found.

20
21 **Scott Gerken:**

- 22 • Working with the contractor to finish the US 27 N utility project.

23
24 **Rick Roderick:**

- 25 • Stated he had attended the FL League conference.
- 26 • Commented that the workshops should be a time for Council to work and not play
27 off of public comments.
- 28 • Stated he could not assure the Council that he could vote for a 7.2 mil rate

29
30 **Debbie Flinn:**

- 31 • Reminded Council of the Lake County Sponsor Night on September 28th
- 32 • Read an email received from a recent visitor to Minneola complementing the
33 Minneola bike trail
- 34 • Asked that the staff complete the information for the FL League

35
36 **Kelly Price** – No report

37
38 **Joe Saunders:**

- 39 • Stated that the person running the meeting is the one in control of how a meeting
40 flows; but he was not convinced that a workshop on “Robert’s Rules of Order”
41 could help the situation. He suggested that leadership training might be helpful.

42
43 **Mayor Kelley** stated he acknowledge the comments.

44
45 **MOTION by Rick Roderick, SECONDED by Debbie Flinn to adjourn the meeting.**

1 **AYE:** Roderick, Flinn, Kelley, Price, Saunders

2

3 **NAY:** None

4

5 **MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

6

7 *The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.*

8

9

10

11

Mayor Pat Kelley

12

13

14 **ATTEST:**

15

16 Jan McDaniel, CMC