

**CITY OF GRAFTON  
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Ways and Means Committee of the City of Grafton was held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Grafton, North Dakota at 5:30 p.m. Monday, December 1, 2014.

Vice-Chairperson Young presided. Chairperson West was out of town. Members present: Dave Fellman, Don Hutson, Mary Stark and Greg Young. Others present: Nick Ziegelmann, Chris Lipsh, Brian Sieben, Shane Mohn, Len Wysocki, Ken Miskavige, Tony Dumas, Russ Geddes, Jon Markusen, Todd Morgan, John Aasand, John Tweten, Brandon Oby, Todd Kjelland, and Ryan Johnston.

**NEW BUSINESS**

It was moved by Mr. Hutson and seconded by Ms. Stark to recommend the City Council approve the purchase of five parcels from the County they own due to unpaid taxes. The parcels are identified as 10005, 10011, 10110, 10186, and 10276. All members present voted in favor thereof and Vice-Chairperson Young declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Fellman and seconded by Ms. Stark to recommend the City Council approve a resolution entitled, "A RESOLUTION TO CANCEL OUTSTANDING ABANDONED CHECKS AND METER DEPOSITS PURSUANT TO SECTION 40-16-13, N.D.C.C." All members present voted in favor thereof; Vice-Chairperson Young declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Hutson and seconded by Mr. Fellman to recommend the City Council approve the applications for 2015 alcoholic beverage licenses as submitted, with contingencies:

Maher El-Sarraf, LLC – d/b/a Last Chance Bar and Grill  
Polly's Lounge, Inc. – d/b/a Polly's  
Grafton Company – d/b/a Extra End  
Gail Martinson – d/b/a Shananigan's Family Restaurant  
Rosie's Place Too, Inc. - d/b/a Rosie's Place Too  
Grafton Curlers, Inc.– d/b/a Grafton Curling Club  
TayDer, Inc. – d/b/a Marketplace on 8<sup>th</sup>  
Valley Liquors, Inc. – d/b/a Hugo's Wine and Spirits  
Pop's Bottle Shop, Inc. – d/b/a Pop's Bottle Shop  
Lee's Restaurant, Inc. – d/b/a Lee's Restaurant  
12<sup>th</sup> Street Bowl, LLP - d/b/a 12<sup>th</sup> Street Bowl  
Grafton Golfers, Inc. – d/b/a Fair Oaks Golf Course  
Hart Management, Inc. – d/b/a Pizza Hut of Grafton  
Grafton Hospitality, LLC –d/b/a AmericInn Motel & Suites  
Plains Liquor, LLC – d/b/a Cenex Zip Trip #61

The City Administrator recommended approving the applications contingent on 12<sup>th</sup> Street Bowl becoming current on their taxes and Marketplace on 8<sup>th</sup> becoming current on their utility bill.

Kober and Kober, LLP d/b/a Generations and Azteca Restaurant Group, LLC d/b/a Azteca Mexican Grill did not renew their liquor licenses for 2015. All members present voted in favor thereof; Vice-Chairperson Young declared the motion carried.

Polly's owner John Tweten spoke on behalf of the Grafton On and Off Sale bar owners petitioning to have the liquor license fee reduced. He said the bar owners are proud to be business owners in Grafton but in light of the no smoking laws, decreased population, more people drinking at home, etc, business is down; however expenses have increased. Extra End owner John Aasand said if someone builds a new house in Grafton they are given \$20,000 and he requested that the liquor license fees be reduced by \$500 as a gesture of giving back to the bar businesses in Grafton. He said the bars are collecting the new 1/2 cent sales tax, but will not be increasing their drink cost to offset it. It was noted the last adjustment to the alcohol beverage license fees was 1988 when the fee was reduced from \$2,250 to \$2,000 and Mr. Young pointed out that some cities are charging an extra fee for being open on Sunday, but Grafton is not. In reviewing the fees from other communities it appears that Grafton's is comparable. Discussion will continue at next month's meeting.

The Walsh County Health Department has received a grant to cover the costs associated with providing server training to owners, managers and staff of alcoholic beverage businesses. Wanda Kratochvil from the Walsh County Health Department suggested the City make this training a requirement of alcoholic beverage licensure. Currently the City Police Department provides server training several times a year. Mr. Tweten said with the staff turnover they experience it would be difficult to have them all trained. Mr. Lipsh said that he is a member of the Alcohol Prevention Coalition and a study was done which identified concerns with binge drinking and over-serving patrons. Police Chief Dumas said Hugo's mandates server training, however he questions the ability to link the alcohol licensing with server training unless training is required for the owner/manager and encouraged for the servers.

Committee members were provided with copies of letters sent by the Building Official to owners of 134 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and 203 Kittson Avenue requiring them to clean up their properties.

Mr. Ziegelmann reported he was contacted by Superintendent Maus about utilizing the green space east of the Centennial Center for Junior High football next spring. The City Attorney said there are no liability issues involved in the School using the property so the City will be permitting practice in that space.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Fellman, seconded by Mr. Hutson and carried to adjourn the meeting.

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Greg Young, Vice-Chairperson

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Connie A. Johnson, City Auditor-Treasurer