

**CITY OF GRAFTON  
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2015**

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 7, 2015.

Chairperson West presided. Members present: Dave Fellman, Don Hutson, Mary Stark, and Greg Young. Others present: Shane Mohn, Len Wysocki, Chris Lipsh, Nick Ziegelmann, Tony Dumas, Dave Kurtz, Russ Geddes, Rock Desautel, Ed Sevigny, Ryan Johnston, and Todd Kjelland.

**ABATEMENTS**

An application for abatement and settlement of taxes was received from Housing Alternatives, Inc. for the Grafton Living Center at 809 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street for the 2013 and 2014 tax years. City Assessor Sevigny explained that Housing Alternatives, Inc. is requesting the affordable housing exemption provided for by the 2013 Legislature. The exemption allows affordable housing property to be exempt from ad valorem property taxes; in lieu of the property taxes the owners would make a payment equal to 5% of the balance of the total annual rents collected during the preceding calendar year less the utility costs to the property paid by the owners of the property. Mr. Sevigny explained in order to qualify for the exemption the property owner needs to provide a copy of the form entitled, "Exemption from Property Taxation Initial Owner Certification" and the form needs to be approved by the State Housing Finance Agency to be valid. He said as of today, he has not received a copy of the form from Housing Alternatives, Inc. therefore, he recommended the abatement be denied for Parcel Numbers 11141 and 11142 for the 2013 and 2014 tax years. It was moved by Mr. Fellman and seconded by Mr. Hutson to recommend the City Council deny the application for abatement and settlement of taxes submitted by Housing Alternatives, Inc. for Parcel Numbers 11141 and 11142. All members were present and voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

**LABOR RELATIONS MATTERS**

Police Chief Dumas informed the Committee that Dave Kurtz, former employee of the Grafton Police Department applied for the School Resource Officer position and his first day of working for the City is today.

Mr. Young commended the Power Department for doing such a nice job with hanging outside holiday decorations on City Hall.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There is one parcel available from purchase from Walsh County due to delinquent taxes. The property is a vacant lot at Lot 7, Block 3, Johnsons Addition, identified as 729 Noben Avenue. It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Ms. Stark to recommend the City Council approve the purchase of Lot 7, Block 3, Johnsons Addition. All members were present and voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Fellman 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.” The funds from these checks are transferred to the Unclaimed Properties Division of the State of North Dakota and the check owners can collect the funds from the State at any time in the future. The City has made several attempts to contact these parties. All members were present and voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

A list of applications for 2016 Retail Alcoholic Beverage Licenses was reviewed. The applications from Hugo’s and AmericInn did not include all the personal forms and 12<sup>th</sup> Street Bowl did not include the license fee and they are delinquent on their taxes. It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Hutson to recommend the City Council approve the following list of applications for 2016 Retail Alcoholic Beverage Licenses, contingent upon receipt of all outstanding personal forms, and the taxes and license fee for 12<sup>th</sup> Street Bowl must be paid in full. He added that 12<sup>th</sup> Street Bowl is also allowed to amend their application from an alcoholic beverage license to a beer license.

- 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
- 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

All members present voted in favor thereof; Mayor West declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Fellman and seconded by Mr. Young to recommend the City Council approve the 2016 Retail Fireworks Licenses for: Cole Neset d/b/a Big Top Fireworks in Leonard Motel Parking Lot and Bruce Eikenberry d/b/a TNT Fireworks in Hugo’s parking lot. All members were present and voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Young, seconded by Ms. Stark and carried to adjourn the meeting.

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Chris West, Chairperson

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Connie A. Johnson, City Auditor-Treasurer