Humboldt Town Board Minutes

The Humboldt City Board met in regular session on Monday, March 11th, 2013. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ritchy Griepp at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Allen Schmeichel, Theresa Muth, Dawn Hahn and Matt Sieverding. Others present were Daryl Sieverding, Kira Schmeichel, Paul Clarke, Don Boll, Mike Garrey, Dee Robinson, Dakota Steineke, Monie and Heath Siemonsma, Heather and Nolan Fischer, Vince and Diane Siemonsma, Steve and Deon Christensen, Dave and Diane Rieck, Amy and Greg Johnson, Matt and Sarah Heumiller, Sarah Swanson, Troy Sutton, Darin Garry, Jessie Travis, Josh Siemonsma, Forest Smith, Dave Derschen, Scott Russell, Adam Lund, Ryan Pressler, Bob Schulte and Bob Sieverding.

The minutes of the from the February 25th, 2013 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Muth and seconded by Schmeichel to approve the minutes. Roll call was held. The motion carried with Griepp, Schmeichel, Muth and Sieverding voting yes and Hahn abstaining.

A motion was made by Muth and seconded by Schmeichel to move the Library under old business after Summer Ball. Roll call was held. The motion carried with all present voting yes.

The public hearing was held for the amendment to the Central Building section of the Zoning Ordinances, to allow, under the Conditional Use section, Apartments in the Central Business section on the Top, Ground and Lower levels. The Planning and Zoning Board met on March 4th, 2013 and voted not to recommend the changes to the Central Business section.

The precedence of voting and why meetings were held by Planning and Zoning if the votes did not count were discussed. Vince Siemonsma stated that Planning and Zoning member Bob Schulte should have excused himself from any vote regarding the matter due to a conflict of interest.

Mike Garrey who is opposed to the change, stating that allowing apartments in the old café building will reduce the value of his property and business more than an empty building. He also indicated that the Building Inspector was holding illegal meetings with the Siemonsma’s regarding the property.

Paul Clarke explained his past experience, job duties and indicated that it is in his job description to advise property owners on any questions they may have and no illegal meetings were being held.

Matt Heumiller questioned how the issue got to this point in the first place; Forest Smith and Ryan Pressler both stated that it is too late to go back and that a workable compromise must be achieved. Diane Rieck indicated that they own rental properties and the minute one comes open they get 20 to 30 calls on the property and there is definitely a need for rental properties in town.

Monie Siemonsma indicated that this is their community also; they do not live in town, however, they made the decision to move their business to town to promote the Town of Humboldt and bring in sales tax. They not only have a business, but through their business, they also patronize the other businesses in Humboldt.

Dave Derschan stated most businesses are seeking high traffic areas and putting their businesses on the out skirts of town by the Interstate exits.

After further discussion, the Ordinance 03-11-13-01 was submitted for the first reading. A motion was made by Sieverding and seconded by Muth to approve the first reading of the Ordinance 03-11-13-01 to change the Central Business section of the Planning and Zoning Ordinances to allow for apartments on the upper, ground and lower levels of a building under a conditional use permit. Roll call was held. The motion carried with all present voting yes. The second reading will be March 25th, 2013 regular meeting.

Sarah Swanson, Manager of the Hartford American Legion, and Troy Sutton were present to request a one day liquor license so the Hartford Legion could serve alcohol for the April 13th, 2013 wedding dance which will be held at the Humboldt Community center in honor of Julie Kueter and Troy Sutton. The board indicated that the Liquor License is in the Name of the Humboldt Bar LLC and no other entity can serve liquor on the premises.

Mayor Ritchy Griepp was presented with the award from, ESGR, Employer Support of The Guard and Reserve. (Picture and caption elsewhere in this paper).

Dakota Steineke was presented with an Achievement Award from the Mayor for accomplishing Eagle Scout. (Picture and caption elsewhere in this paper)

Don Boll was present to discuss the part time summer position. The board would like Donnie to take over the ball diamond preparation on the large diamond since Bucky Needles will not be working for the City this summer.

Theresa Muth met with the members of the West Central School staff, members of the Sioux land Library staff and Jeff Danielson on March 4th, 2013 at the Elementary School in Hartford. The discussion was very positive and Sioux land Library will start working on the details.

March meetings will be March 18th, 2013 Equalization and March 25th, 2013 regular Town Board meeting.

The 2012 PUC Audit and the FEMA meeting to be held on May 8th were discussed.

The list of election workers was given to the Town Board. A motion was made by Griepp and seconded by Muth to appoint Marian and Leroy Puthoff and Agnes Even as the election workers for the 2013 Election. Roll call was held. The motion carried with all present voting yes.

On-Call Pay will be discussed on March 25th, 2013 with members of the Natural Gas Board present.

The utility manager got a quote for putting a meter pit at the Large ball diamond to monitor the water usage for the required Water Loss Report for the Two year Audits. It will be about $600.00 plus digging. The board indicated that if the audit is requiring the report, the meter pit should be put in.

The bills, financials and payroll were all submitted for approval. After review and discussion, a motion was made by Sieverding and seconded by Schmeichel to approve the bills, financials and payroll. Roll call was held. The motion carried with all present voting yes. (E-mails attached)

Chairman Griepp called the meeting in to executive session at 8:46 p.m. Chairman Griepp reconvened the meeting at 8:57 p.m. A motion was made by Griepp and seconded by Muth to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. The motion carried.

ATTEST: KRISTIE ELLIS

 FINANCE OFFICER