

St. Michael City Council Minutes
Special Joint City Council Meeting with Albertville
November 29, 2010

CALL TO ORDER ROLL CALL

6:00 P.M.

Pursuant to due call and notice a special joint meeting of the St. Michael and Albertville City Councils was held on Monday, November 29, 2010, in the Council Chambers of St. Michael City Hall, at 11800 Town Center Drive at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Albertville Mayor Ron Klecker; Council Members Tom Fay, Larry Sorensen, Dan Wagner, John Vetsch, and Council-elect Jillian Schommer; Albertville City Administrator Larry Kruse; St. Michael Council Members Joe Hagerty, Joe Marx (in at 6:45 p.m.), Cindy Weston, and Council-elect Nadine Schoen; St. Michael City Administrator Robert Derus, Community Development Director Marc Weigle, City Engineer Steve Bot, and City Clerk Diana Berning.

Call to Order

St. Michael Acting Mayor Joe Hagerty called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., declaring a quorum present. The pledge of allegiance was said.

Set Agenda

Motion by Wagner, seconded by Klecker, to set the agenda as presented. All voted aye.

Introduce New Members taking office in 2011

St. Michael Councilor-elect Nadine Schoen and Albertville Councilor-elect Jillian Schommer were introduced to everyone present.

Tour of St. Michael City Center

St. Michael Administrator Derus gave the group a tour of the new St. Michael City Center. The building is a joint effort with Albertville and Hanover, who are contributing some money to the library. Albertville Mayor Klecker commented the building is a great facility for the community, and will hopefully be well used by residents.

Use of Facilities

Derus explained there are various conference rooms as well as the large Council Chambers in the City Center that can be rented by the public for use. The rental policy for the rooms is similar to Albertville's policy and allows certain groups to use the building once a month at no charge.

STMA Ice Arena

Albertville Councilor Wagner said the STMA Ice Arena seems to be functioning well. Late in 2009, Albertville staff began providing more oversight and management to the ice arena, which has improved the communication and financial record keeping for the arena. There are also new members on the Youth Hockey Association board who are adding excitement and use to the arena. Albertville Administrator Kruse said the operations are cash-flowing. There is a goal to double the summer ice usage for 2011, with the hope of being able to set aside money for a second sheet of ice. Kruse also explained the roof at the arena continues to leak and that the board recently authorized a temporary repair to the roof, but that within the next three years, the roof will likely need to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$120,000. There is continuing pressure to build a second sheet of ice, and the Hockey Board and members of the Youth Hockey Association are working together on options and funding solutions for a second sheet. At this time, there is not much money available from the three public entities involved for a second sheet.

Community Garden

Community Development Director Weigle informed the members of an opportunity to lease some land from the STMA School District to be used for a community garden. The location of the land is along Frankfort Parkway across from the Joint Apprenticeship Training Center. He said there is a

Gardening Committee that has already put together bylaws for the garden, and will advertise and sell the lots, and take care of other administrative responsibilities. St. Michael has offered to till the land for the plots and provide a water supply for the area. Weigle said residents living in St. Michael and Albertville will receive the resident discount for the price/plot.

CSAH 18 Pedestrian Trail

Kruse noted the city of Albertville has applied for a couple of grants hoping to secure some money to complete the trail along County Road 18 to Jamison Avenue NE, which would provide a safer route for students traveling to the STMA High School.

Update on FYCC

There was general discussion on FYCC. Derus noted it's been about a year since both cities become more involved in the oversight of FYCC. There have been some meetings with Jim Behle (the Assistant Superintendent) and Mary Ellen Barthel (Community Education) to determine if there is some overlap in programs and whether Community Ed. and FYCC can better coordinate their programs. Derus also informed the group that due to budget restraints, Tammy Pellaton's work hours had been scaled back to 20 hours per week earlier in the summer and that she has since left for a different full-time position in Cokato. Kruse indicated it is important to make sure that the school district and cities are working together. There was also discussion about the cost of a traditional parks and recreation department, with the observation that St. Michael and Albertville have a much more cost-effective program than most other cities.

I-94 Interchange Project

Kruse said Albertville is continuing to move forward with the I-94 Interchange project. Most of the right-of-way has been acquired for the project and the city has secured a large amount of money from both the federal government and the county for the project. St. Michael Engineer Bot congratulated Albertville on their success in receiving outside funding for the project and spoke of the importance of spending the money allocated for the project rather than turning it down.

Naber Avenue Interchange

A question was asked about the Naber Avenue Interchange project. Bot said all the necessary approvals have been received for the project; now it's just a matter of figuring out the funding for it. It will likely take a private developer to be interested in the interchange and willing to help fund it before it will happen.

Electric Franchise Fee

Albertville is considering implementing an Electric Franchise Fee and asked about St. Michael's experience with resident feedback on the fee. Bot said residents are always concerned about the benefit they receive for paying the fee, but that once it is explained to them that they money received helps pay for the street lights, traffic lights, and outdoor warning sirens residents are generally okay with the fee.

Outgoing Members

Several members of the group expressed their thanks and appreciation for the service of outgoing Albertville Mayor Ron Klecker, Albertville Councilor Tom Fay, and St. Michael Councilor Joe Hagerty.

Adjourn

Motion by Sorensen, seconded by Klecker to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. All voted aye.

Attest:

City Clerk

Mayor