

CITY OF MONTEVIDEO  
ADJOURNED CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
June 24, 2008

The city council met in adjourned session Tuesday, June 24, 2008 in the council chambers at city hall. President Hodge called the meeting to order at 5:13 P.M.

Council members present: Sandra Hodge, Mike Diggins, Marvin Garbe, Bryce Curtiss and Karen Nieuwbeerta. Absent: None. Mayor Curtiss absent.

Also present were: City Manager Steven C. Jones, City Attorney Janice M. Nelson, Finance Director Jan Flaherty and City Clerk Glennis A. Lauritsen.

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss library financing issues and future of the Montevideo Public Library with members of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, members of the County Library Board and other interested individuals. Those in attendance included: County Commissioners Jim Dahlvang, Kenneth Koenen, Jeff Lopez, Gene VanBinsbergen and Mark Dahl; Library Board members Marlyn Slettum and Mary Weber; John Houlahan - Director, Pioneerland Library System; David Lauritsen - Librarian; Jon Clauson, Chippewa County Auditor-Treasurer; and, Al Johnsrud.

Commission Chair Lopez called the County Commissioner's meeting to order at 5:13 P.M.

Council President Hodge thanked all present for coming together to discuss this issue of mutual concern. Hodge distributed an outline of points she wished to have discussed, noting that her intent was not to steer the meeting in any particular direction and welcomed other suggestions.

Discussion centered on the current library budget deficit. Dave Lauritsen distributed and discussed a revenue and expense sheet compiled for the library. Houlahan distributed and discussed an information sheet which addressed the Pioneerland Library System services and programs. Commissioner Lopez explained the loss of federal funding to the library system in the 2005-06 year, and the underfunding which has occurred at the state level. Houlahan added that there is some funding available 7/1/08 for telecommunications (Internet, computer, "juice" for automation) of approximately \$19,000 for Montevideo.

Houlahan further discussed cuts that have been made, particularly in the book transport services. He estimated tech services, which includes acquisitions/processing and cataloging, costs \$5.00/book. With Montevideo's approximate 2,890 books @ \$5.00 each, this equals \$13,945.

The cataloging service has had to be outsourced and now costs \$5.00-\$6.00/book for this service alone. Costs have risen without enough revenue participation from other sources.

Next discussed was the responsibilities of each entity - county, library board, city, Pioneerland. The following was determined:

- ▶ The county is required by statute to participate in a regional library system.
- ▶ The county has an agreement with Pioneerland Library System for public library services.
- ▶ The city has a library building agreement with Chippewa County (not Pioneerland).
- ▶ In addition to the city's library levy, it contributes additional monies to the library for books (\$13,051 in 2007 and 2008).
- ▶ The library board makes decisions which are supported by Pioneerland.
- ▶ Pioneerland manages the library.

Other topics of discussion included: hours of operation, maintenance of effort commitment, other library expenditures not shown on the information provided (utilities, maintenance, capital improvements, set asides/reserves) and other revenues not indicated (charges for copying/faxing, etc.) It was also suggested that perhaps rental fees for use of the meeting rooms by entities other than non-profits should be considered as an additional revenue source.

Houlahan suggested the group determine what kind of library they wish to offer the citizens of Montevideo, i.e., hours of operation, book budget, computer availability, etc. In the meantime, he asked that the group be mindful of two budget issues. One - developing a "PC Replacement Fund," to set aside money to replace equipment in four-year increments; and, Two - developing a "working capital fund" to set aside money to help fund the local library. It was noted that a combined spreadsheet would be helpful, one that would encompass all budgets - city, county, Pioneerland - so that all information can be viewed in a combined format.

Some discussion also took place regarding the recent request by the county for an additional \$10,000 city contribution - from which fund the money could be taken - and the idea that it not be reflected in the city's "maintenance of effort" in future years.

The future of the library board and its make-up was discussed. Possible options voiced included abolishing the board, re-creating the board and/or creating a task force to further examine the issues brought forward by this group. It was decided that a sub-committee be formed of two county commissioners, two city council members, two library board members and two others.

Contributions by the Cities of Redwood Falls, Morris and Madison to their libraries were compared to the contribution made by the City of Montevideo to its library. Staff was directed to obtain information relative to sources of revenue for those cities.

Following all discussion, the following motions were made:

- ▶ City Council. It was moved by Diggins, seconded by Nieuwbeerta and unanimously passed to appoint Hodge and Garbe to the library sub-committee.
- ▶ County Board. It was moved by VanBinsbergen, seconded by Koenen and unanimously passed to appoint Dahlvang to the library sub-committee. (Dahl already a member of the library board.) It was noted that library board members Slettum and Weber would also sit on the sub-committee.
- ▶ City Council. It was moved by Garbe, seconded by Diggins and unanimously passed to appoint Al Johnsrud to the library sub-committee.

It was determined that the first meeting of the sub-committee would be held on Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 P.M. at the library. It was asked that reminder notices be sent in advance of the meeting.

The meeting of the County Board of Commissioners was adjourned with a vote by Dahl, second by Koenen and a unanimous vote.

The city council meeting was adjourned at 6:56 P.M.

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Glennis A. Lauritsen, Secretary

Approved by council July 7, 2008:

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Sandra Hodge, President