

City of McVile
Minutes of Special City Council Meeting
8:00 AM on Wednesday, August 19, 2015

ATTENDING: Mayor Douglas Stein; Council members Haley Klefstad, Neil Reiten, Edward Sadowsky, and Douglas Trostad; Auditor Renae Arneson; Deputy Auditor Joanne Brennan.

PURPOSE OF MEETING: Discuss availability of McVile Restaurant management position.

Auditor Arneson reported receipt on Monday morning, August 17, 2015 of written and verbal notice from Kathleen Ingalls and Jim Robinson of their intent to discontinue leasing the McVile Restaurant. Their stated reasons for discontinuation were personal health issues (Kathleen), and increasing cost of food/groceries which has a direct negative impact on profit margin and feasibility of hiring help (servers, dishwashers, cooking assistants, etc.).

Kathleen and Jim offered assurance that the restaurant will be 'turn-key' ready on October 1, 2015.

Discussed that the restaurant experienced loss of some early morning breakfast patronage since November 2014 when Jim and Kathleen made a decision to change from early morning (6:30 AM) to 8 AM opening, and also loss of some senior citizen patronage when they opted out of Senior Meals program, however the noon meal specials they offered in place of Senior Meals menu seemed to satisfy needs of the community and kept support of the facility quite constant.

Discussed the need to establish specific expectations of future lessees, including (but not limited to): **#1 - expanded restaurant hours**, especially earlier opening at 6:30 or 7 AM to better accommodate out-of-town visitors such as hunters, family-event visitors (funerals, weddings, graduations, etc.); **#2 – open a minimum of five days per week**, with closed days being at the owner/manager's discretion; **#3 –increased utilization of banquet room;** **#4 - hiring/maintaining adequate staff** in order to provide efficient service to patrons; **#5 - having a list of substitute staff and/or volunteers who could be called in and allow the restaurant to stay open rather than closing temporarily** due to illness or other circumstances of regular staff; etc. Also discussed continuation of start-up financial support and utility assistance policy as in the past. These issues will be included under the agenda item, McVile Restaurant, for the September 8th City Council meeting.

Renae noted that she has contacted previous restaurant lessee, Steve Harris, to determine whether he would be interested in the restaurant, and he indicated he would be willing to manage it on a temporary and limited basis, including reduced hours from 11 AM to 2 PM and offering a lunch-only menu.

Renae will prepare an ad for immediate statewide publication and also place an ad on Craig's List. It was also suggested that the Culinary School at Wahpeton State College of Science be contacted. The ads will emphasize that applicants possess strong cooking skills and experience, as well as business management skills.

A suggestion/comment box was discussed. Renae will order one and attach to the wall in the entry. It will be locked and the City Council will be utilizing this for suggestions.

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried on voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 AM.

ATTEST:

ATTEST:

Renae Arneson, Auditor

Douglas Stein, Mayor