

A Special Meeting of the Wolf Point City Council was held Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers with Council President DeWayne Jager presiding.

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Dewayne Jager, Council President; Judy Page, Carla Hunsley, Dan Will, Sonny Douglas, Bob Waldron and Lee Redekopp **ABSENT:** Chris Dschaak

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Marlene R. Mahlum, City Clerk/Treasurer; Jerry Schuster, City Attorney

**CITIZENS PRESENT:** None

Mayor Matt Golik was tragically killed in a fishing accident at Fort Peck Lake on Saturday, March 1, 2008. He was reported missing by his wife, Kay when she was unable to contact him on Sunday morning. She had contacted Police Chief Jeff Harada, who also notified Public Works Director Isle. Valley County Rescue was also notified since Fort Peck Lake was in Valley County. He was found late Sunday afternoon and the City Council and others were notified of this tragedy Sunday evening. His funeral is scheduled for Friday, March 7, 2008 at the First Lutheran Church in Wolf Point, with burial at Greenwood Cemetery. The community has suffered a tremendous loss.

The agenda of the Special Meeting is limited to the following item:

**Selection of a Deputy/Assistance City Council President**

According to the city's ordinance, Title 1, Chapter 6, Section 5, entitled ***Absence of the Mayor***, it reads as follows:

*"In the absence of the mayor from the city or from his inability from any cause to discharge the duties of his office, the president of the council shall exercise all the powers and discharge all the duties of the mayor. In case of absence or inability of the mayor or president of the council to discharge the duties of his office, the council may appoint one of its numbers to be acting mayor."*

As a result of the death of Mayor Golik, Councilman DeWayne Jager has assumed the duties *in the absence* of the Mayor as the Council President presiding until a replacement for the Mayor is appointed by the Council. With this appointment, this individual will serve as the appointed Mayor until the next city election, which will take place in 2009. At which time, election to the position of Mayor will be for the unexpired term of the previous Mayor, which will be two (2) years. If an individual is selected from the Council, the Council seat will be declared vacant and an appointment will be necessary to fill that seat also until the next city election, which will take place in 2009.

Jerry Schuster, City Attorney also made reference to the MCA, specifically 7-4-4112, entitled ***Filling of Vacancy***, which reads as follows:

(1) *When a vacancy occurs in any elective office, this position is considered open and subject to nomination and election at the next general municipal election in the same manner as the election of any other*

*person holding the same office, except the term of office is limited to the unexpired term of the person who originally created the vacancy. Pending an election and qualification, the council shall, by a majority vote of the members, appoint a person within 30 days of the vacancy to hold the office until a successor is elected and qualified.*

Mr. Schuster stated that an individual can be appointed as Mayor from the community as well, but must meet the qualifications as follows:

- is at least 21 years old;
- has been a resident of the state for at least 3 years; and
- has been a resident for at least 2 years preceding the election to office of the city or town or an area that has been annexed by the city or town.

Council President Jager informed the Council that he will be out of the state for at least a week next week and therefore, due to his absence, the Council must appoint someone from the Council to perform his duties during his absence until an interim Mayor is appointed. Council President Jager called for nominations from the floor.

**Councilman Douglas nominated Councilman Lee Redekopp to serve as the Deputy/Assistant Council President.** Council President Jager asked if there were any further nominations. Hearing none, Council President Jager declared that the nominations are closed.

**Council President Dewayne Jager called for an acclamation of the appointment of Councilman Lee Redekopp as Deputy/Assistant Council President. FOR: (6) Will, Douglas, Hunsley, Waldron, Redekopp, Page; AGAINST – (0).** Council President Jager congratulated Councilman Redekopp on his appointment as Deputy/Assistant Council President.

Councilman Douglas asked if the appointment of the Mayor will be listed on the Council's agenda for the next Regular City Council meeting to be held on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. City Attorney Schuster stated that yes, it needs to be listed and action taken at that time.

There being no additional business at this time, **a motion was made by Councilman Waldron, seconded by Councilman Douglas to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

ATTEST: