
Truth In Taxation Public Hearing & REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES December 8, 2020

Attending: Mayor Jeff Ramsley; Council Members: Edie More, Joan Proehl, Richard Staloch Lon Stenzel via phone.
City Staff: **City Maint.-** Absent; **Police Chief** –Ben Standahl; **City Clerk** - Dawn Whitehead; **Mn Lake Fire Dept**-Dave Malakowsky; **Mn Lake Ambulance:** Dave Radtke;
Others via Zoom: **Mn Lake Tribune**-Don Kain; **Maple River Messenger**- Tamara Dicks
Citizens via Zoom: Kathleen Reid, Quentin Staloch, Connie & Tod Stokman, Scott Tangen, Julia McCandless, Ashley Buth,

Mayor Ramsley called to order the Truth In Taxation Public Hearing meeting at 6:05 p.m. and asked if there were any comments. Kathi Reid asked why her property taxes were 28% higher, Quentin's was 31% and Jeff explained that the City only raised taxes 4% partly it was the new school levy taking affect. When asked what the taxes pay for in the City, Ashley Buth was told it pays for salaries for the Police, Fire and Ambulance services, street maintenance and City Maintenance salaries, water, sewer & parks – everything it takes to run a City. Ashley expressed concerns about the snow plowing on her street and whether it was adequate and timely.

Joan made a motion to adjourn the Truth in Taxation meeting at 6:18 PM, the motion was 2nd by Richard, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ramsley called to order the Regular City Council meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Fire Department (FD)- Chief Dave Malakowsky stated the FD responded to one Fire Call and 2 Vehicle accidents. He reviewed the bills for the month. The Jaws of Life cost increased from \$20k to \$31,705. **Lon motioned to approve the increase in price for the Extractor Tool to \$31,705, 2nd by Councilmember More, motioned carried.**

Richard motioned to approve the appointment of Alex Emory as Assistant Chief, Darrin Hueper as Lieutenant, and Chris Koch as Training Officer as of 1/1/21, 2nd by Joan, motion carried.

FD Chief's Association is starting grant process for replacing radios county-wide. Community Service: Santa will be visiting Mn Lake and riding 251 through town on December 19th at 1:00 pm.

Fire Hall meeting room demo starts Dec. 5th and 12th. Seeking bids on Grass Rig replacement.

Training: Vehicle Extraction. Truck 251 pump replacement scheduled to Kirvida on 1/10/21 and will take several days for installation of pump, transmission, and foam injector.

Retiring Firefighters: Greg Bruegger 26 yrs, Matt Nowak 22yrs, Craig Hanson 19 yrs & Lisa Gobats 13 yrs. Roster down to 20 members.

Grants for Dryer and Bin Rescue Tube have been submitted.

Richard motioned to approve the Fire Department's wages of \$7,200 (24x300) and Chief pay of \$1,000, 2nd by Edie, motioned carried.

Ambulance Department (AMB) – Captain Radtke stated there were 14 calls in Oct, Nov. had 23 calls. The No load/No Fee hasn't had much impact. New contract with Expert T. has increased rates of \$1/ run. It's a 5-yr contract, which we can cancel at any time. There is a price lock for 2 years and will be evaluated.

Vaccine update: EMSRB called an emergency meeting Dave attended. Directors were asked to come up with the 1A category for vaccines. Any active EMT/EMR driver would qualify and it's looking to deploy the Monday before Christmas.

Life-Pak service plan expired on 11/30/20. Renewal only good for one year as we cannot get parts.

Joan made a motion to approve the contract with ExpertT Billing, 2nd by Richard, motioned carried.

Edie made a motion to approve the 1 year service agreement with Stryker, 2nd by Joan, motion carried.

Batteries for the cot are not carried by Stryker anymore. Dave will have more info next meeting.

Three current drivers are starting EMR course fully online. Two EMT's out for COVID, 3 out on medical LOA.

Police Department (PD) – Chief Standahl stated there were 92 calls for service. He attended COVID webinars, use of force training, and a Police committee meeting regarding Citizen complaint. The radar had its annual calibration. Use of

force policy must be updated per State requirement. Officer Lawson started taking shifts and Officer Donovan gave notice that he will deploy early 2021. Squad car had warranty covered repairs. The police commission met to review a Citizen complain that a dog had destroyed some property and he was a loose dog. They were fined.

Public Works /Parks (PW) – Jeff reviewed Public Works report: PW is going to rent a bobcat to clean up brush and shoreline. Water tower fill pipe repaired today. **Eddie made a motion to approve John Hawk's PTO hours over 960 hours in the amount of \$1,557.09, 2nd by Joan, motioned carried.**

Kremer House– Submitted by Peg Sonnek, read by Joan: Kris McGregor is the Vice President and will be conducting any meetings while Peg is gone. The December meeting has been canceled, as the museum is currently closed.

Mary Stevermer is willing to go to the KH by appointment if someone wants to order books or return them. Please indicate whether this is ok to do.

The gun case is located in the "Military Rm". Jim More had not placed the guns into the case when by the time they left. He knows how the guns go into the case. Lois & Jim know the location of the key. We are not especially excited about where the case is now placed so may make a change after we return.

About half of the board are not happy about having a security camera - they feel they are being "watched". Others feel that it is OK but wonder if it's really necessary to have a security system. They don't think there is anything that valuable in the museum. Presently, it is hoped to have the Easter egg hunt.

Ben had Hawk Alarm go thru the museum to see how it could be set up. No estimate yet, but will be itemized. Council discussed the necessity of a security system. Richard suggested at least getting the quote.

Clerk's Report– Dawn stated City received 2nd half of \$193,222.73 Levy & 2nd half from Blue Earth City of \$11,950.

The Fire Aid 2020 item is the portion in budget that City gives to FD Relief's pension.

Remote Deposit Machine (RDC) from CCF requires City to keep checks for 45 days, then they can be destroyed with cross-cut shredder or microchip shredder.

Councilmember Joan motioned to approve the paying of 2020 Fire Aid of \$6,000, 2nd by Richard, motioned carried.

Dawn went over the 2020 year-end budget and how to use the surplus. Jeff suggested \$20k to streets, \$10k to PD, Amb & Jaws of Life and not put toward FD as that is just trading funds.

Eddie made a motion to put into Reserves Savings \$20k to streets, \$10k to PD and Ambulance Dept., 2nd by Joan, motion carried.

Mayor polled Council for percentage increase and all agreed to 1% increase down from the 2% Proposed Levy in September. **Richard made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-27 Final Levy for a 1% increase, General Fund \$293,840 and 08 GO Bond Improvement of \$30,632.00, 2nd by Joan, motion carried unanimously.**

Jeff thanked the City Depts. for controlling expenses this year.

Consent Agenda:

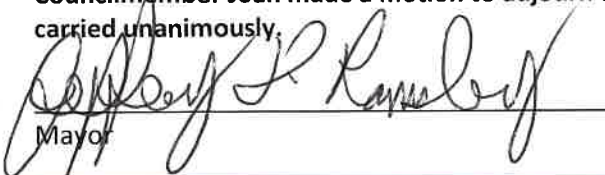
Joan made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-25 Certification of the 2020 General Election results, 2nd by Richard, motion carried.

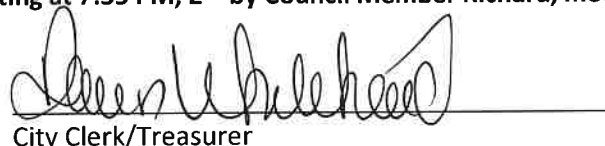
Eddie motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, including Resolution 2020-26, June 29, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes, September 16 & 29, 2020 Special Meeting minutes, November 10, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, Council Wages of \$10,850, Claims paid and Claims to be paid (Lon Stenzel reviewed), 2nd by Council Member Richard, motion carried.

New Business:

The January meeting is on the 12th at 6:00 pm.

Councilmember Joan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM, 2nd by Council Member Richard, motion carried unanimously.


Mayor


City Clerk/Treasurer