

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Werner. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance. Present for the meeting: Mayor John Werner; Councilors Suzanne Herstad, Bob Quade, Jayme Heim, and John Hegstrom; Clerk-Treasurer Toni Blomdahl; and the attached list of public.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Toni stated we received a letter from St. Louis County for CDBG requalification and noted we don't need to do anything if we agree. Suzanne asked about the statement that if we participate in CDBG we cannot apply separately for DEED grants. Toni stated she researched that and it only deals with DEED grants that are the same as CDBG not the DEED grants we wanted to apply for infrastructure. Toni provided the Council with the agenda for the LMC conference, everyone but Bob would like to attend.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes:

April 8, 2019 Council minutes

Executed Claims:

General fund checks – April 9, 2019 thru April 22, 2019 totaling \$60,721.33

Payroll checks – 1545 thru 1572 and EFTs totaling \$42,228.73

Resolutions:

Resolution 19-16 Support for the 148th Fighter Wing

Resolution 19-17 Award of Lowest Bidder for East Calvary Water Loop Project

Gambling Permit:

Lawful Gambling Permit for Bingo for Benedictine Health Center

Ordinances:

Ordinance #51 Dog Control and summary

Ordinance #52 Regulating Small Cell Wireless Facilities in the Public Right-of-way and summary

Suzanne made a motion to approve the consent agenda with a second by Bob. All in favor. Motion carried.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Suzanne stated we held the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization (LBAE) last week for taxpayers to come in to the City and appeal their valuation or classification. We had a few individuals that came in saying their taxes or valuation are too high and if we adjust theirs, then the amount has to be spread out to your neighbors or those that didn't come in to appeal. People can appeal to St. Louis County if they didn't like Council's decision.

John H. stated he attended the Utility meeting and LBAE, which he was just a spectator as he isn't trained yet, but he was disheartened by our lack of ability to change things. Nobody says their taxes are too low and Rice Lake is a hot market for real estate which is forcing everyone's values higher.

Jayme stated she attended the Utility meeting and the LBAE and Suzanne and John H. summarized it well.

Bob stated he attended the Utility meeting and was topper shopping for the animal control truck. The lion share of our taxes goes to ISD 709 and the county. Bob stated he and John W. met with the MIC Directors to look at long range transportation plans for Rice Lake.

John W. stated the State of MN has placed a taxable value on Rice Lake which goes to market value and levies from different governing bodies. Residents should look at what entity gets what from your

taxes. East Calvary Water Loop Project lowest bid went to Ulland and our portion was estimated at \$3 million and it came in at \$1.5 million and Chicago bid was \$625,000. The pre-construction meeting will be in May and the start date will be published once we know. South Fire Hall painting is done and we will do the floors in June.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Sewer and Water Comparison Report: Council went over the sewer and water comparison report which noted we had a WLSSD exceedance, manholes were allowing ground water into the sewer system during thawing so they are on the repair list. Water usage was high due to the water main break.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing Date for MS4: Toni stated we need to set a date for the MS4 hearing. Council agreed to hold it at 5:45 prior to the next Council meeting.

Hazardous Real Estate: Toni shared with Council pictures of the building at 5021 Arnold Rd along with an Order to secure the building. Suzanne noted the progression of the deterioration since last summer. Council agreed the building is a hazard. Bob asked if there have been ongoing repairs. Toni stated no. Bob asked if the building is vacant. Toni stated yes. Suzanne made a motion to approve the Findings and Order with a second by Jayme. All vote in favor. Motion carried.

Employee Pay Rate Increases: Suzanne stated there were three employees that were recently reviewed for pay raises and one is an exemplary raise to get employee up to the amount deserving of this employee as they have done lots of training and improvements for the City. The other two employees are to get them up to their peers. John H. made a motion to accept the proposed pay rate increases with a second by Bob. All vote in favor. Motion carried.

Interim Financing for East Calvary Water Loop Project: John W. stated the federal monies will not be available for 3 - 6 months and the project will start in May with the first payment application in late June or early July so we need to arrange interim financing for now. Suzanne asked how we know the financing will go through. John W. stated we had a meeting with PFA, MSA, and our finance people and were reassured this project qualifies for federal funding. Suzanne made a motion to approve pursuing a line of credit with US Bank with a second by Jayme. All vote in favor. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Liquor License Quarterly Payments: Toni stated she was following up with the request to allow quarterly payments for liquor license renewal and noted she didn't find any reason why it wouldn't be allowed as long as the full payment is received prior to the license being issued. John W. stated he would be in favor of a semi-annual payment. John H. stated he is in favor of being flexible with the business owners. John H. made a motion to approve semi-annual payments or one payment for liquor licenses with a second by Suzanne. All vote in favor except for Jayme who abstained as she is a liquor license holder in Rice Lake. Motion carried.

Motion for Adjournment: Having nothing further to discuss, Suzanne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Werner adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,


John Werner, Mayor


Toni Blomdahl, Clerk-Treasurer

5-13-19
Date

5-13-19
Date

**Council Meeting
Date: April 22, 2019**

| | Name: | Address: | phone and/or email address: | X-speak |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Cindy Lindahl | Kingston | | |
| 2 | Nellie Schefler | 5234 H St Rd | | |
| 3 | Randy DeLone | | | |
| 4 | JOHN GOMMAD | 4194 NELSON | | |
| 5 | Wayne Baicher | 4263 Lavaeerd. | | |
| 6 | Ashon Twining | 4640 Schultz Rd | | |
| 7 | Dan Swanson | 4440 Schultz | | |
| 8 | Robert Dyke | Calverly Rd | | |
| 9 | Stella Dyke | Birchwood Rd | | |
| 10 | Jake Dyke | Birchwood Kd | | |
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