

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 2018

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, Greg Andrews, and Bob Quade; Clerk/Treasurer Toni Blomdahl; Deputy Clerk Carley Hungerford; City Attorney Mike Couri; and the attached list of public.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None

CORRESPONDENCE: John W. read the list into record:

Email from Evelyn Freitag regarding dust control on city roads – Toni responded to email advising that chloride is scheduled to be applied beginning this week. John W stated that the chloride delivery is delayed, so this has been pushed back to the week of July 16th.
General Correspondence – see folder

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes

June 25, 2018 Council minutes

Executed Claims:

General fund checks – 12627 thru 12677 and 461E
Payroll checks – 1304 thru 1347
Fair Housing Authority – none

Resolution:

Resolution 18-07-15 for Election Judges for 2018 Primary and General
Resolution 18-07-16 for Purchasing Land from FOG

Greg made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Bob seconded. All in favor. Suzanne noted correction to last general fund check number from 12676 to 12677. Motion passed.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Greg stated I&I ordinance has been started.

Bob asked about televising; Toni stated this is completed, but no report yet from Justin S.

John W. stated roadsides are being mowed.

Suzanne stated she and John G have interviewed new animal control officer candidate. Will bring up in new business.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Financial Report: Council received copies of the Financial Report and Revenue and Expense Summary. Toni stated there is \$168,773.50 in general checking. John W asked about apportionment; Toni stated this will be on July report, and Carley stated the amount was around \$786,000.00.

Building Department: Toni read the following report into record.

Type of Permit Issued	# issued
• Commercial	1
• Demolition	2
• Fill	1
• Gas/Furnace	1
• Deck	2
• Garage	2
• New Home	4
• Plumbing	1
• <u>Siding/Roofing/Windows</u>	<u>3</u>

Total issued 17

Total valuation of projects: \$ 1,034,200.00

Planning & Zoning report: Toni read the following report into record as prepared by Teresa Koivula.

- Complaints: 4
- Onsite visits: 16
- Zoning Violations abated: 3
- Outgoing correspondence: 33
- Mn Department of Health: 1
- MPCA: 1
- St. Louis County Environmental: 2
- Public Hearings: 1
 - a. Approved Variance, rear yard setback: Tom Jansen Rice Lake Rd
- Applications received:
 - a. Commercial Rezone: 1
 - b. Home Business: 1
- Annual Conditional Use Permit Inspections: 25
- GTS Educational Virtual Training: 1
- Safety Committee meeting: 1
- Joint Airport Zoning Meeting: 1

Public Works: Toni read the following report into record as prepared by Justin Schendel.

- Exercised booster station pumps.
- Called in 3 locates for sign installation and ditch excavation.
- Assembled new locator and received training from copperhead innovations.
- Assisted Justin A. with installing 2 culverts at 3907 Porter road.
- Assisted Justin A. With marking centerline of Gothenburg road.
- Exercised water tower transducer valve.
- Setup volleyball net.
- Cut back weeds inside of cell phone tower and sprayed with round up.
- Graded baseball field and set up bases.
- Brought old sander to Darrell Johnson.
- Cut back all hydrants.
- Assisted Justin A. With ditching on Kingston road.
- Changed Colorado oil.
- Took video of MH 131.
- Assisted Justin A. With landscaping at City Hall.
- Assisted Justin A. With fixing ditch on Mather road.
- Studied lock out tag out procedure.
- Attended safety committee meeting.
- Met with Midway sewer to pump all 4 air relief valve vaults.
- Cut back area around air relief valves vaults.
- Removes park and firehall trash weekly.
- Picked up supplies at Ferguson water works.
- Assisted Darrell Johnson with fixing bent water service stand pipe on Martin road.
- Assisted Justin A. With installing culvert extension on Gothenberg.
- Started flush program with Phillip from MSA.
- Cleared 51 locates.
- Replaced 1 water meter.

Road and Bridge: Toni read the following report into record as prepared by Justin Aleshire.

- Daily Driving Duties checking all roads and ditches along with public works maintenance.
- Had Ted S. make a tool holder for the 5 yd dump truck (Shovel & Rake).
- Installed a 40' culvert for 3907 Porter Rd with Justin S.
- Hauled gravel from Northland and Ulland pits.
- Located and staked out the center line for the Gothenburg Rd with Justin S.
- Dug a 150' ditch on the Luzerne Rd to keep the water from flooding it.
- Maintained Equipment used.
- Put straw mat down on the new ditch on Porter Rd.
- Installed 8 "No Parking" signs on Rice Lake Dam Rd.
- Added a 5' culvert extension on the Mather Rd.
- Removed some overgrown grass in the ditch of 4138 Kingston Rd.
- Removed large rocks where a power cable was buried at City Hall and reseeded the front lawn.
- Painted and labeled new oil drum along with making a large oil drain pan.
- Installed new lockers at Public Works building with John W. And Justin S.
- Cut the remaining trees in the ditch on Gothenburg Rd and pushed back some of the material.
- Put in a 10' culvert extension on Gothenburg Rd with Justin S.

Fire Department: Chief Niemi read the following report into record.

Total Calls:

- June Total Calls Responded to was 23.
 - 15 Medicals
 - 2 Structure Fires
 - 3 Car Accidents w/injury
 - 1 Hazardous Materials Call
 - 1 Wilderness Search and Rescue
 - 1 Gas Odor Investigation

Water Usage

- 100,000 Gallons above normal consumption mostly from the pool fill fundraiser
 - Our relief will cut a check to the city for \$1,643.50 for our water usage

Total Number of Hours Volunteered by All Members

- May Total Hours Volunteered- 631 Hours
- June Total Hours Volunteered- 518 Hours
- Total Hours Volunteered through 1st half of this year – 3,311 Hours

Membership

- Recently swore in 3 new probationary members.
 - Wyatt Hamilton, Caleb Johnson, and Hannah Barry
 - Will need to outfit them with appropriate fitting gear and pagers.
 - If full turnout sets are needed, cost will be in neighborhood of \$10,000
- Currently have 3 applicants that I anticipate will be good candidates.
 - Current bylaws are set that the department has a cap of 30 members. I believe that this was based on the issue with relief monies and the city's liability for any short falls back when this was established.
 - With the need for volunteers being greater than ever recently, I'd like to request that this limit be raised to 35 based on the need, the PERA retirement fund performance being very good, and the length of service anticipated on average being 7-9 years which is much less than 20 years which was the standard in the departments early years. We have also changed our department bylaws to increase what the minimums are in order to achieve a "Good Year of Service".
 - Members are vested after 5 years but do not achieve 100% until year 20.
 - 5 years = 40% and increases by 4% vested each year until year 20.

John W asked about costs associated with buying gear for new members who may not stay. Mark stated that potential new members are monitored for 3 months prior to being sworn in. Bob asked how

many are near retirement; Mark stated 3 members are over 20 years of service and 1 will likely retire within in the year. Greg made a motion to approve changing bylaws to increase allowed number of members from 30 to 35; John W seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Council asked for an update on how the Tahoe is working out; Mark stated that response times are down from 9-11 minutes to 3-5 minutes. 7 members have used it.

Good and Welfare

- Requested a new flag for the fire hall. – John W stated we have one here in storage they can have, so long as they return the old one to City Hall.

Animal control: Toni read the following report into record as prepared by Gloria Dallum.

- Hours worked 39
- Miles driven 103
- License fees collected \$27
- Fines issued \$0
- Dogs to kennel 0
- Dogs to pound 0

Utilities Commission report: None

Sherriff: None

Sewer and water report: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Animal Control Officer Applicant: Suzanne stated that she and John G interviewed Jessica Rahja for the position. Applicant has previous experience with animal control in Duluth. She has a full time job but is able to be on call and requested her cell phone number be made available for public use. Sabrium kennels will still be used for boarding as needed and will bill the city when used. John W asked if it was made clear to Jessica that Toni is her direct supervisor, and she will require a background check and drug test. Toni confirmed that she has been made aware, and that her background check is already completed. Suzanne made a motion to approve hiring Jessica; Greg seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

3742 Mulvahill securing house: Mike stated that the city has a couple of options.

1. Condemn the house through court order: this is costly and takes quite a long time
2. Secure the house to keep public safe; assess the property owner for the costs. If the property owner doesn't pay taxes, after 4 years the property goes to the state and is managed by the county. At that point we can work with the county to tear the house down.
3. Do nothing

Greg asked if the liability stays with the property owner; Make stated yes, even if we board it up. The city could be sued if something were to happen, but it likely wouldn't go anywhere.

Mike recommends the option of securing the building. John W stated that although we do not need to respond at all from a legal standpoint, we do have a moral responsibility to keep the public safe. Will need to send letter to property owner and wait until the 7th day to act. John W made motion to approve Mike's recommendation; Suzanne seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

County Commissioner meeting: John W stated county commissioners will be at City Hall at 9:30 on July 10th. A representative from League of MN Cities (LMC) will be here to explain insurance issues. John W asked for council's permission to negotiate insurance with county. LMC charges \$2000.00 per year, to increase coverage from \$1.5 million to \$2 million. Greg made a motion to approve John W discussing insurance with LMC and St. Louis County at meeting; Suzanne seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Budget Meeting Dates set:

Weds July 25th: 3pm – 5pm

Tues Aug 14th: 6pm – 8pm

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

Respectfully submitted,



John Werner, Mayor

7-23-18
Date



Carley Hungerford, Deputy Clerk

7/13/18
Date

Council Meeting
 Date: July 9, 2018

	Name:	Address:	phone and/or email address:	X-speak
1	Bill Rosenbush	2nd Ave R		
2	Gandy Eschmitt	Knigston Rd.		
3	Jessie Kovula	Kedi Lake		
4	Brandon Cree	Martin Rd		
5	Nellie Schellley	H.S. Rd.		
6	Robert Spindel	Calway Rd		
7	Nancy Niman	Hershey		
8	Dax Leslie	1942 Arnold		
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