**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday March 11, 2018**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St. SW**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**  James Ackerson, Raye Ludovissie, Jim Runyan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ardith Carr, Tara Erckenbrack

**STAFF PRESENT:** Barbara Holmes, City Clerk/Treasurer; Michael Madsen, Fire Chief; Matt Uselman, Public Works Manager; Melissa Current, Deputy Clerk

**STAFF ABSENT**: Cory Carr, Police Chief

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Trinity Gruenberg, Verndale Sun; Joeb Oyster, Moore Engineering; Amos Self, Family Life Church; Lee Tarrell, Lauren Hassa

**OPENING PRAYER:** The opening prayer was led by Amos Self, Family Life Church.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND MARCH PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Runyan to approve the February 11th, 2019 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve the March payables in the amount of $17,842.32

seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS**

**Lee Tarrell – Verndale Area Senior Center:** Tarrell stated that the Methodist Church is trying to get a Christian based Verndale Area Senior Center started. Tarrell stated that they need a location that is handicapped accessible. Tarrell stated that they have been told that they will need insurance. Tarrell stated that they are thinking that for now they will meet in the Fellowship Hall of the Verndale Alliance Church. Tarrell asked if the City would insure the Senior Center under its insurance policy. Holmes stated that if the City owns a building it can insure the building but the City cannot insure an entity. Ludovissie stated that if the City could find a way to support the center the City would. Holmes asked if the group is meeting in the church why does the group need separate insurance. Tarrell stated that maybe they don’t, it would become more of an issue if they were using a building like The Anchor. Ludovissie tabled this discussion until the next meeting so more information could be gathered.

**Lauren Hassa –** Hassa stated that he wanted to see what could be done about his water bill. Hassa stated that his usage was 7,000 gallons this month that’s a lot of water. Ludovissie stated that the bills were estimated last month. Holmes stated that Hassa’s bill usually isn’t over 1,000

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gallons. Holmes stated that Hassa is running water but he is getting a 1,000 gallons credit for doing so. Holmes stated that Hassa received credit for 2,000 gallons since the last bill was estimated so he is paying for 5,000 gallons of water. Hassa stated that that is still a lot of water. Runyan asked Uselman to go over to Hassa’s house and make sure he is not running the water too high. Ludovissie stated that he thought that when the readings were estimated Hassa’s must have been estimated low so this is a double bill.

**Joeb Oyster - Moore Engineering:** Oyster stated that Eagle Construction is planning to be on site on Wednesday to clear snow. Oyster stated that the building corners will be staked on Thursday. Oyster stated that they will put their blankets down and they will hopefully be excavating next week. Ludovissie questioned whether this was going to be okay, he has heard that winter construction isn’t good. Oyster stated that as long as the ground isn’t frozen when they pour concrete it will be good. Oyster stated that the Contractor’s Application for payment No.1 is for their bonding insurance, which is allowed. Oyster stated that amount requested is $71,487.50. Holmes stated that she would submit it to PFA for reimbursement. Oyster stated that the City doesn’t have to pay this until it gets the funds from PFA.

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve the Contractor’s Application for Payment No. 1 in the amount of $71,487.50, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

Oyster stated that as long as the City sends in requests to PFA by the 15th of each month the City will receive the funds it needs. Oyster stated that a preconstruction meeting with J & J Excavating will probably be set for next month.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRECHIEF-** Madsen stated that there was 1 fire call and 4 medical calls for the month. Madsen stated that on September 14th, 2019 Verndale

will be hosting a large-scale drill on a railway accident involving propane. Madsen stated that the next meeting is April 1st at 6 pm at the Verndale Fire Hall. Madsen stated that the township meeting on February 19th went well. Madsen stated that they received a grant from Todd Wadena Electric for $1500 to purchase rope rescue harnesses, an MPD for rope rescue (used for ascending and descending), and safety vests. Madsen stated that he doesn’t have the numbers for the vests yet.

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve Resolution 19-0311 – A Resolution Acceptinga Grant from Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative in the amount of $1500.00 for the Verndale Fire Department to purchase Rope Rescue Harness, MPD for Rope Rescue and Safety Vests, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

Madsen stated that their Annual Action is set for April 20th.

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**LIQUOR STORE- MELISSA CURRENT-** Ludovissie stated that he went to the meat raffle and that it was a lot of fun.Current stated that sales increased $3,265.06 over to last year but there was a net loss of $1,338.28 for the month. Current stated that in March of 2018 there was a net loss of $4,547.59 so the Liquor Store is doing better this year. Current stated some of the reasons for the loss. Holmes stated that the IRS notified the City that it is now a semimonthly depositor for payroll taxes. Holmes stated that in the past the City was a monthly depositor so the deposits were not due until the 15th of the following month. Holmes stated that the Liquor Store ended up paying for two months of deposits in February. Current stated that there will be karaoke on March 15th from 8:30 PM – 12:00 AM for St. Patrick’s Day. Current stated that the Liquor Store will be providing a bar at the Community Center for a wedding on March 23rd. Current stated that the MMBA is holding their conference from April 27 – 30th in Alexandria, MN. Current asked Council if they wanted her to go. Ludovissie stated that if there are things that Current wanted to go to at the conference, he is all for it.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that there was only one application for the weekend and holiday job and that was Polly Uselman. Uselman stated that the council needs to vote on whether to hire her. Runyan asked what happens if P. Uselman can’t read the meters one weekend. Uselman stated that then himself or Fleischer would read the meters. There was discussion about whether there should be another person hired as a backup. Uselman stated that he wants one main person to do it. There was discussion about the rate of pay.

A motion was made by Ackerson to hire Polly Uselman as the weekend and holiday meter reader at the rate of $20 per day, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

Uselman stated that there have been 7 water services and 2 sewer services with freeze-ups. Uselman stated that residents in the downtown area and anyone who has had freeze ups in the past should be running their water. Uselman stated that the frost will be driven deeper even as the weather starts to warm up. Ackerson requested to put this information in the City Newsletter. Runyan stated that he would like to discuss increasing the amount of credit given next year for running water. Uselman stated that the City’s policy states that it is the property owner’s responsibility to keep their lines from freezing. Uselman stated that the Liquor Store bathroom remodeling has been put on hold for a month. Uselman stated that in January and February the City has had 37.5 inches of snow. Ackerson asked how much snow there was in the last storm. Uselman stated 6 inches. Uselman asked the Council if the City should just get rid of the hydrant that is by the Catholic Church. Uselman stated that it is not needed because there are enough hydrants to cover the area that is required. Council agreed to get rid of the hydrant. Uselman stated that he has 2 quotes for paving the streets (2nd Ave and 4th Ave). Ludovissie asked why the quotes are so high. Uselman stated that the City will only be able to get one street paved. Runyan expressed concern about paving the streets, he thought maybe there were other options. Uselman stated that curbed streets are wider than streets with out curbs.

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A motion was made by Ackerson to approve the quote from Ideal Construction in the amount of $44,625.00 to pave 4th Ave, seconded by Ludovissie. AIF/MC

**CLERK/TREASURER- BARBARA HOLMES-** Holmes stated that theFamily Life Church Water Main loan needs to be paid off. Holmes stated that the contract states that no new services can be added prior to paying of the loan and the new project will give property owners access to city water. Holmes stated that funds could be transferred from the General Fund Money Market Account from the General Fund Capital Funds to pay off the additional $35,000 for the water main. Ludovissie stated that this needs to be tabled until the next meeting. Ackerson stated yes, because he would need to abstain. Holmes stated that Current and herself will both be out of the office on March 28th to attend the LMC Safety & Loss Control workshop. Holmes stated that Lisa Dargis from DEED came on March 6th to do an audit on the information the City has for the Custom Builders MIF loan and everything was good. Holmes reminded Council of the Board of Review Meeting on April 4th at 3:00 p.m. Ludovissie asked if everybody should be here. Holmes stated that she needed a least three council members present. Holmes stated that work is continuing on the USDA loan application for the water tower.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Sourcewell Annual Meeting – April 10, 2019

Holmes asked if anybody wanted to go. Runyan asked if there were elections at this meeting. Holmes stated yes. None of the Council members responded as to whether they would attend.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

Mayor Ludovissie adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, Deputy Clerk Raye Ludovissie, Mayor