**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday April 10, 2023**

**6:00 pm**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St SW**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**  Ardith Carr, Tara Erckenbrack, Daryl Jacobson, Jim Runyan, Brad Cottrell

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:**  Matt Uselman, Public Works Manager; Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer

**STAFF ABSENT**: Michael Madsen, Fire Chief

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Brian Hagen, Cory Carr

**OPENING PRAYER:** The opening prayer was led by Daryl Jacobson, Verndale Alliance Church.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND APRIL PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Carr to approve both March 13, Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for Variances and the March 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve the April payables in the amount of $24,872.12, seconded by Cottrell. AIF/MC.

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS:**

1. Brian Hagen: Hagen stated that they would like to charge vendors a fee for setting up. Hagen expressed concern about vendors setting up on the sidewalk. Uselman stated that when he was on the Celebration Committee, they charged a fee to set up in the park unless they were a non-profit. Uselman stated that when the Amish were selling items on the sidewalk, he looked into it and was told that as long as they produced/made it, they could sell it on the sidewalk (public property). Uselman stated that City Ordinance excludes Verndale Days for needing a license to sell products. Hagen asked if The Pirate’s Den could set up a liquor booth in the park. Erckenbrack stated that the City would not appreciate that at all because they would be in direct competition to the City.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRE CHIEF-** Madsen was absent; no report.

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**LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT-** Current stated that there was a net profit of $3,530.02 for the month. Current stated that there was an increase in sales from 2022 in the amount of $3,637.34. Current stated that meat raffles are done now until possibly Fall. Current stated that karaoke with Jason Neuerburg on March 17 went very well. Current stated that she will be attending the MMBA Conference at Arrowood on April 30. Current stated that the Ice Machine arrived today.

**POLICE- CHIEF RANDY ATHMANN -** See Report in Council Packet

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that there was a water main break at the corner of N Brown St and 2nd Ave N that was fixed. Uselman stated that he will be on vacation April 14 – 16. Uselman stated that he plans to have Fleisher start on April 24. Uselman stated that he hasn’t heard anything on the wheeled loader grant. Uselman stated that he will be contacting Vinco to see when they plan on putting up the new street lights. Uselman stated that he needed to bring the tractor in for some repairs as the 3-point hitch wouldn’t go up. Uselman stated that the work would be covered under the warranty. Uselman stated that street sweeping will be done once the ice is off the curbs.

**CLERK/TREASURER- MELISSA CURRENT**- Current stated that the Board of Review will be on April 11 at 3 pm. Current requested approval to transfer $5,030.50 from the General Fund Money Market Building Fund to the General Fund Checking Account to pay JR Construction for the new roof on City Hall.

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve transferring $5,030.50 from the General Fund Money Market Building Fund to the General Fund Checking Account to pay JR Construction for the new roof on City Hall, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

Current stated that Steve’s Auto and Tire asked if the City would approve a clean-up weekend. Current stated that Steve’s would pick up scrap metal, appliances, etc. as long as they were marked and placed in the boulevard. Council thought it would be a great idea. Current will ask Steve’s for a list of approved items for pickup and set up a weekend. Erckenbrack asked Current to share what she learned at the conferences that were attended. Current gave an overview of what she learned.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Cory Carr: Erckenbrack stated that a review was done on vacation payout and gave the report on the findings. There was discussion about Carr’s unpaid vacation time and whether he left the City in good standing. Carr gave a letter to Erckenbrack to read out loud. The letter demanded that Carr’s vacation benefits be paid out.

A motion was made by Jacobson to pay Cory Carr the prorated rate for his vacation time. There was no second. Motion Failed.

Runyan asked for the meeting to be closed to discuss this matter. Current stated that she thought they could because it was a personnel issue, but she would double check.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution 23-0410 – Resolution of Public Employee Retirement Association – Police Officer Declaration

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Resolution 23-0410 – Resolution of Public Employee Retirement Association – Police Officer Declaration for Randal S. Athmann, seconded by Cottrell. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 23-0410A – Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Delivery of an Allonge

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Resolution 23-0410A – Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Delivery of an Allonge for the Health Care Facilities Revenue Note, Series 2021A (Tri-County Health Care) in the amount of $9,700,000.00, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 23-0410B – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Resolution 23-0410B – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions in the amount of $30,083.29 to put in their Building Fund, seconded by Cottrell. AIF/MC.

1. Crawley/Taves - Extension on Building Permit - Current stated that they are requesting an extension on their Building Permit until Oct. 31, 2023 to finish their fence as they are having a hard time finding rod iron.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve an extension on the Building Permit for Lynn Crawley and Terry Taves until October 31, 2023, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

Erckenbrack asked Current what she found out about closing the meeting. Current read the criteria for closed meetings. It was determined that the meeting could be closed. The meeting was closed at 6:52 pm.

The meeting was reopened at 7:13. The closed meeting discussed whether Cory Carr left the City in good standing.

A motion was made by Jacobson to deny the request made by Cory Carr for full pay out of his vacation, seconded by Cottrell. Voting in favor were Cottrell, Erckenbrack, Jacobson, and Runyan. None were opposed. Carr abstained as they are related. MC.

**OTHER BUISNESS:** None

Mayor Erckenbrack adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm.

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer Tara Erckenbrack, Mayor