**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday May 7, 2018**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St. SW**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Raye Ludovissie, James Ackerson, Tara Erckenbrack, Ardith Carr, Jim Runyan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Barbara Holmes, City Clerk/Treasurer; Gary Rosenthal, Liquor Store Manager; Michael Madsen, Fire Chief; Cory Carr, Police Chief; Matt Uselman, Public Works Manager; Melissa Current, Deputy Clerk

**STAFF ABSENT**: None

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Marlo Benning, Verndale Sun; Joeb Oyster, Moore Engineering; Amos Self, Family Life Church, Robin Fish, Tony Puhl, Annette Adamietz, Erwin Barney

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND MAY PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve the April 2nd, 2018 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, the April 6th Special Meeting Minutes and the April 11th, 2018 Board of Review Minutes as written, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

A motion was made by Carr to approve the May payables in the amount of $25,978.51 seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS**

**Verndale Lions: Resolution 18-0507B- Approval of Duck Drop Raffle**

A motion was made by Carr to approve Resolution 18-0507B-A Resolution approving the Lion’s Raffle, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

**Wi-Fi at Liquor Store for electronic gaming**- Rosenthal stated that there would be 22 games on an iPad and there would be no cost to the City or the Lion’s. Rosenthal stated there would be progressive Bingo on there. Rosenthal stated that they would be provided with two iPads to start with. Rosenthal stated that having these devices would be a benefit because then people can play pull-tabs while everyone else is getting their drinks served. Rosenthal stated that electronic

Page 2

May 7, 2018

City of Verndale

Regular Council Meeting

gambling would not replace the paper pull tabs. Carr asked how the money is tracked. Rosenthal stated that it is all done on the computer and the Lion’s have the software that is needed. Rosenthal stated that there would need to be more money on hand for payouts and that the Lion’s will provide that. Rosenthal stated that MN Gambling Supply is set up with the State and Federal government so the people that play can get up to a certain amount without having tax consequences. Carr asked what the largest amount that would be paid out. Rosenthal stated that the Liquor Store would have 3 days to pay out larger amounts, once the amount is verified. Adamietz stated that everything would be paid out and that the winner wouldn’t have to go anywhere else to receive their winnings. Adamietz stated that any amount above $600 would require a 1099 to be filled out. Rosenthal asked what the cost of Wi-Fi would be. Holmes stated in 2015 the cost was $31 per month. Self stated that this is electronic gambling not gaming. Ackerson asked why electronic gambling wasn’t done sooner. Rosenthal stated that MN Gabling Supply just started marketing in our area. Adamietz stated that the Liquor Store would not be locked into a contract so if electronic gambling doesn’t take off, the Liquor Store can just not offer it anymore.

A motion was made by Runyan to put Wi-Fi in the Liquor Store with a review to be done in October, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

**Erwin Barney:** Barney expressed concerns about putting a water tower at the property next to him and not getting any prior notice. Barney stated that notices should have been sent out to everybody within 350 feet. Barney expressed concern about how his property values will be affected. Ludovissie stated that the City had a problem with finding a location for a water tower and this property was a tax-forfeited property with a nasty house on it that the City has been trying to get rid of. Ludovissie stated that doing it this way the City gets the property and the City will take care of getting rid of the house. Barney asked if the City has exhausted all the other options. Ludovissie stated that three other options were looked at. Ludovissie stated that the City should have let them know what was going on and that maybe the City moved a little too quickly but the City is in a time crunch. Barney stated that it seemed like the City was trying to sneak this project through. The Council stated that that wasn’t their intent. Holmes asked the Council if they would like to set up a Public Hearing and send out a mailing. Barney stated that he thought the City should. Ludovissie stated that the Council would look into a Public Hearing. Erckenbrack stated that there should be some pictures of what the water tower would look like. Ludovissie apologized for not letting Barney know and for moving so quickly.

A Public Hearing was set for May 22, 2018 at 5:00 pm.

Page 3

May 7, 2018

City of Verndale

Regular Council Meeting

**Joeb Oyster - Moore Engineering:** Oyster stated he needed approval of the IUP (intended use plan) to get Verndale put on the funding list.

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve the IUP Placement Request Letter, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC.

Carr asked Oyster if he would bring the water tower design to the May 22 Public Hearing. Oyster stated yes. Ludovissie asked what colors were decided, black, white and green. Uselman stated that darker colors cost more. There was discussion about colors. Oyster stated that he would come up with something based on the gray, white, black and green colors discussed.

**Brian Hagen:** Uselman stated that Hagen’s property is in a Commercial district. Ludovissie stated that the City would like Hagen to have his house classified as Residential and then the property where he is selling to be classified as Commercial. Hagen stated that he is not selling anything it is just storage. Ludovissie stated that there is a Sale sign up. Hagen asked if a sign constitutes as a business. Ludovissie stated that there is a lot of snowblowers out there not just one. Hagen stated that it is all overstock from Merlin’s in Wadena, which is the business he bought. Ludovissie asked if the equipment would be moved by the end of the year. Hagen stated easily. Ludovissie asked Hagen if he would agree to make the property where the equipment is Commercial if the equipment wasn’t gone by the end of the year. Hagen agreed. The City will check in with Hagen at the end of Nov.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**LIQUOR STORE- GARY ROSENTHAL-MANAGER**- Rosenthal stated that there was a net profit of $4,879.00 for the month. Rosenthal stated that Texas Hold-Em had 14,13,14 and 19 players in April. Rosenthal stated that the Liquor Store will play through May and will not play in June, July or August but may resume in September. Rosenthal stated that he has an interview set up for a potential employee that he plans to start training immediately. Ackerson asked if background checks were performed on all employees. Rosenthal stated yes. Rosenthal stated that part of a successful April was the Firemen coming to the bar after the Auction. Rosenthal thanked the Firemen for their support. Rosenthal stated that one of the bartenders missed a service check, which is inexcusable. Ludovissie asked if the City would lose anything. Rosenthal stated that the bartender and the Liquor Store would get a warning, but if it happens again there would be a fine. Carr shared her experience and the knowledge she gained from attending the MMBA Conference.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT- MICHAEL MADSEN- FIRE CHIEF-** Madsen stated that there were 7 calls for the month, 2 were medical and 5 were grass fires. Madsen stated that May 19th is their pancake feed with the Verndale Flower Club Sale starting at 8:30 am and going until

Page 4

May 7, 2018

City of Verndale

Regular Council Meeting

11:00 am at the Fire Hall. Madsen stated that the grass fire danger will be really high probably for a couple weeks yet. Madsen stated that the Rescue Van will be outside for the Council to look at. Madsen stated that the DNR grant came in and he would like to apply for that. Madsen stated that he believed it was up to $2500 with a $500 match. Madsen stated they would like to put another well up North on County Road 26 off of Highway 10 for water supply. Ludovissie asked where the line was with Staples. Madsen stated that he would talk to them and see if they want to go in on it; their line starts ¼ mile to the East. Madsen stated that he wants to put in for the Tri-County Hospital grant to get a Lucas device. Madsen stated that this device does the chest compressions for you and costs about $2,500.

A motion was made by Carr to approve the Fire Department to apply for the DNR and Tri-County Hospital grants, seconded by Ackerson. Erckenbrack abstained because she works for Tri-County Hospital. Voting in favor were: Carr, Ludovissie, and Ackerson. None were opposed. Runyan left the meeting before the vote was taken. MC

**POLICE DEPARTMENT- CORY CARR- POLICE CHIEF-** Erckenbrack stated that she wanted to do a Spring drive around. Chief Carr stated that he has seen people working on cleaning their properties. Ludovissie stated that if letters needed to be sent out he wanted them included in the Council packet for approval. There was discussion on some properties that may need to have a letter sent out or posted on the door.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that he attended the County Weed Inspectors meeting. Uselman stated that he has a couple quotes for a new plow for the pick-up truck. Council reviewed the quotes.

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve the lowest bid of $6,958.00 for the purchase of the plow, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

Carr asked Uselman how snowplowing went. Uselman stated that it was tough to do the work with two people. Uselman stated he would budget for an extra part-time person for next year just for snow removal. Uselman stated that he let the Firemen use the skid steer for their auction this year. Uselman stated that this will need Council approval for them to use it in the coming years since the Auction is for the Relief Association.

A motion was made by Carr to allow the Verndale Fire Relief Association to use the skid steer for the Auction at Uselman’s discretion, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

Uselman stated that the City received a Certificate of Accommodation. Uselman stated he will be on vacation May 10th and 11th. Uselman stated that he had one applicant from the ad that was placed in the paper for a Cemetery mower. Uselman asked if the Council wanted to do an

Page 5

May 7, 2018

City of Verndale

Regular Council Meeting

interview. Council replied no since there was only one applicant, Uselman could use his discretion. Uselman stated that on May 15th he will be listening in on a webinar for Working

with School to reduce Lead in drinking water. Uselman stated that schools are now required to have an action plan and post it for the public. Uselman stated that he will attend training on May 8th for the City of Little Falls sewer camera. Uselman stated it will cost $500 a week to use it.

**CLERK/TREASURER- BARBARA HOLMES-** Holmes stated that she had a resident ask if the City would like to start registering bikes. The Council stated no because the City can’t even get residents to register their dogs. Benning asked about the bike Rodeo. Holmes stated that the registering of bikes ties in with the Rodeo because they wanted to register each bike. Holmes stated that herself and Current attended the Wadena County demonstration of the new election equipment on April 10th. Holmes stated that the City will receive a Poll Pad and a machine which is provided by the County. Holmes stated that the County came and checked to see how the equipment would work in the Community Center and they determined that the City needs an additional piece of equipment that the County will provide. Holmes stated that the auditors starting working on the City’s 2017 audit on April 30th. Holmes stated that Current attended her first year of the Clerk’s institute. Current thanked the Council for allowing her to go to the conference. Current stated that the conference was very educational and it was a great networking opportunity. Holmes stated that Brad Swenson’s retirement party is May 15th at the Double Eagle Golf Course in Eagle Bend at 5 pm.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve Resolution 18-0507- A Resolution of sponsorship authorizing participation with the Community Concern for Youth Program with Todd-Wadena Community Corrections, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve Resolution 18-0507A- A Resolution accepting a donation from the Verndale Lions in the amount of $1,500 for the Verndale Celebration, seconded by Carr. Ludovissie abstained because he is on the Celebration Committee. Voting in favor were: Carr, Erckenbrack, and Ackerson. None were opposed. MC

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve the Summer Sewer credit for June through August, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was discussion about the Historical Society building and how nice it looks. Holmes stated that the plan is to have the building open during the Celebration.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

Page 6

May 7, 2018

City of Verndale

Regular Council Meeting

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, Deputy Clerk Raye Ludovissie, Mayor