**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday October 14, 2019**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St. SW**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ardith Carr

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

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

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Clif Allen, Moore Engineering; Amos Self, Family Life Church; Trinity Gruenberg, Verndale Sun

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

Ludovissie stated that there were some quotes in the paper by some of the council members that were not well received by the community. Ludovissie apologized for the comments that were made at the last meeting. Ludovissie congratulated Holmes on retiring and thanked her for all her hard work. Holmes stated that this council has been a very good council to work with.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND OCTOBER PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve the September 9 Public Hearing Minutes as written, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve the September 9 Regular Meeting Minutes as corrected, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

A motion was made by Runyan to approve the October payables in the amount of $35,002.85, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS**

**Clif Allen - Moore Engineering:** Allen stated that he has four (4) items that need approval. Allen stated that the first one is partial payment No. 4 for J & J Excavating.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve J & J Excavating’s application for payment No.4 in the amount of $22,060.42 seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

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Allen requested approval of partial payment No. 8 for Eagle Construction.

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve Eagle Construction’s application for payment No. 8 in the amount of $387,205.67, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

Allen stated that Change Order No. 3 is for contractor costs for the well, excluding site revisions. Allen requested approval for Change Order No. 3.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Change Order No. 3 in the amount of $17, 662.96, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

Allen stated that the last action item is the professional services contract (Moore Engineering) invoice in the amount of $37,496.85

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve the Moore Engineering in the amount of $37,496.85, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

Allen stated that the road to the Treatment Plant won’t get paved this year. Allen stated that they are well into design on the Water Tower Project. Allen stated that he would like the Council to think about where they would like to put the Verndale name and the Pirate logo. Allen asked the Council if they want something similar to what the City has now. Council stated to try to leave it the way it is on the current water tower. There were questions on the well and how much water it is pumping. Allen stated that they have found water and the test well has been pumping 215 gallons per minute. Allen stated that the well is now to the south instead of the north so there will be a change order to wrap around to the south to connect to that.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRECHIEF-** Madsen stated that there were 8 calls for the month; 3 fire and 5 medical. Madsen stated that that the large-scale drill went well. Madsen stated that Oct 19 is the Fire Department’s fish fry and gun raffle give away at the community Center; it goes from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Ludovissie asked if tickets needed to be bought ahead of time. Madsen stated that no tickets were needed for the fish fry. Madsen stated that the cost would be $10 per plate and that gun raffle tickets are $10 per ticket.

**LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT-** Current stated that sales increased $14,026.15 over last year. Current stated that there was a Net Profit of $6,195.51 for the month. Current stated that a portion of that profit came from the Wedding at the Community Center on September 28. Current stated that there is a Net Loss for the year $8,559.51. Ludovissie asked if that was because of the bathrooms. Current stated yes. Ackerson asked what the Liquor Store was getting from Drastic Measures. Current stated that the Liquor Store is trying to carry their kegs; starting with El Cheapo. Current stated that meat raffles on Fridays at 6 pm have been going well. Current stated that the Liquor Store will not be sponsoring a pool league this year

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because the team that was sponsored last year decided to play in Wadena. Current stated that the Liquor Store is looking to have 2 teams for dart league. Current stated that drink prices increased 25 cents per drink. Current stated that she has talked with Endless Ink to get long sleeve shirts and sweatshirts ordered. Current stated that there will be Karaoke in celebration of Halloween on October 25 from 8:30 pm to 12:30 am. Current stated that there will be a costume contest with prizes and she is working with vendors to get door prizes. Current stated that the Liquor Store will provide a bar at the community center on Nov. 2 for a wedding. Current stated that the Liquor Store is trying to get Aitas booked to play on the Wed before thanksgiving.

**POLICE CHIEF-CORY CARR-** Ludovissie stated that there are some properties that need to be cleaned up. Ludovissie asked Officer Savaloja to have letters that have been sent out to residents included with the police report. Ludovissie stated that he would like a paper trail so that when the City says they have talked to someone it is being documented. Holmes suggested that if a property needs to be talked about in a meeting that parcel numbers get used instead of names. Ludovissie asked Officer Savaloja how things were going. Officer Savaloja stated good, he’s learning a lot.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that he found out that he will need a CDL Class B to drive the plow truck since it is over 26,000 pounds GVWR. Uselman stated that the plow truck did get DOT’d and is ready to go. Uselman stated that he picked colors for the interior of the treatment plant. Uselman stated that the interior doors will be Kelly Green, there will be a black strip on the rim around the level, the walls will be off-white/cream and the floors will be a darker grey. Uselman stated that Fleisher will be laid off on Friday Oct. 18. Uselman stated that there are new water lines to the public restrooms as the old lines were galvanized steel and were rusted. Uselman stated that there are new sinks and faucets as well. Uselman stated that the gas line to the treatment was approved with the claims. Uselman stated that the line needs to come from Eastside Drive now. Ludovissie asked if the City could connect onto that in the future. Uselman stated that the City would need to hook onto the main. Ludovissie stated that there was a pot hole that needed to be taken care of. Uselman stated that the pot hole was on a County Road so the County would need to take care of it.

**CLERK/TREASURER- BARBARA HOLMES-** Holmes requested that with her last day being October 31, a motion should be made to approve Melissa Current as City Clerk/Treasurer on November 1, 2019. Holmes stated that her personal opinion is that Current’s pay scale should be adjusted on that day for the position. Ludovissie stated that he thought that it was agreed upon to wait until January for the pay increase; pay will be discussed later.

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve Melissa Current as the City Clerk/Treasurer as of November 1, 2019, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

Current stated that at the last meeting December 16 was set for the last meeting of the year but no time was set. Council set the meeting for 5:00 pm.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Sign

There was discussion about the quotes and if sizes should be adjusted. Ludovissie stated that he would like the City to move forward with the sign. There was discussion about asking the School, Lions, and the EDA to donate money for the use of the sign.

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve moving forward with the sign using J & H Signs with the conditions of coming back to the next meeting with a quote for a 10-foot-high pole and information on other funding, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution 19-1014 – Recognizing National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve Resolution 19-1014 – A Resolution Recognizing National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day as October 15, 2019, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

1. Resolution 19-1014A – A Resolution of Sponsorship

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Resolution 19-1014A – A Resolution of Sponsorship in the amount of $941.00 to the Community Concern for Youth Program for 2020, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

1. Resolution 19-1014B – Polling Place

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve Resolution 19-1014B – A Resolution Re-establishing the Polling Precinct and Location for the City of Verndale as the Verndale Civic Center, 109 SE First Avenue, Verndale, MN 56481, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

1. Resolution 19-1014C – Lion’s Raffle

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve Resolution 19-1014D – A Resolution Approving the Lion’s Raffle on November 23, 2019, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

1. Resolution 19-1014D – Donation to Fire Department

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve Resolution 19-1014D – A Resolution Accepting a Donation from Coor’s Beverage Company in the amount of $355 to the Verndale Fire Department., seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

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**OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Ordinance 35C

Current stated that this Ordinance needs to have changes made however it is not currently being enforced. Current asked if she should make the changes or if the Council wants to rescind the Ordinance. There was discussion about wanting to have an Ordinance that includes Golf Carts but not to this extreme. Current stated that the City does have a snowmobile ordinance; maybe the Golf Carts could get added to that. Current stated that if changes are made to the snowmobile Ordinance then the City would need to approve that Ordinance with the changes. Ludovissie asked Current to come to the next meeting with the snowmobile ordinance.

A motion was made by Runyan to rescind Ordinance 35C, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

Ackerson stated that he wanted to apologize publicly for the comment that he made about the mobile home park and the condition of it at the last meeting. Ackerson stated that it was not in order for him to say such a thing. Ackerson stated that in that case, he is resigning his position on the Verndale City Council immediately. Runyan asked Ackerson to reconsider. Ackerson stated that he thought that this was the appropriate decision to make; he doesn’t want to make a mistake like that again. Ackerson stated that the only way to remedy the situation is to resign. Runyan disagreed. Ackerson thanked the City for allowing him to serve on the Council.

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to accept the resignation of Jim Ackerson as City Council member, seconded by Ludovissie. Voting in favor were Erckenbrack and Ludovissie. Runyan was opposed. There was not a quorum so this will be tabled until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Ackerson to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 pm, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, Deputy Clerk Raye Ludovissie, Mayor