**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday November 13, 2019**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St. SW**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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

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

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Clif Allen, Moore Engineering; Robin Fish, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bartlett Township; Trinity Gruenberg, Verndale Sun; UnaMae Thurlow, Amos Self

**OPENING PRAYER:** The opening prayer was led by Robin Fish, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bartlett Township.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND NOVEMBER PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve the October 14 Regular Meeting Minutes and the October 21 Public Hearing Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Ludovissie. AIF/MC

A motion was made by Carr to approve the November payables in the amount of $17,014.43, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS**

**Clif Allen - Moore Engineering:** Allen stated that he has three (3) items that need approval. Allen stated that final close-out documents are being worked on with J & J Excavating Allen recommended approval of partial payment estimate no. 9 for Eagle Construction.

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve Eagle Construction’s application for payment No. 9 in the amount of $235,273.72, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

Allen stated the items that Change Order No. 4 includes. Allen recommended approval of Change Order No. 4.

A motion was made by Carr to approve Change Order No. 4 in the amount of $13,017.10, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

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Allen stated that the last action item is the professional services contract (Moore Engineering) invoice in the amount of $55,836.38.

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve the Moore Engineering Invoice in the amount of $55,836.38 seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

Allen stated that there are preliminary plans for the water tower.

Erckenbrack arrived at 4:07 pm.

Allen stated that they are still looking at a bidding period starting in January. There was discussion about Thurlow having the documents for the DEED grant and how to proceed. Thurlow would like compensation for the work that was completed by her late husband Stan Thurlow. Ludovissie asked if there was a dollar figure for what has been done. Neither Allen or Thurlow had numbers. Ludovissie asked Moore Engineering to work with Thurlow to figure out a fair value of the work completed and come with that dollar amount to the next meeting.

Runyan arrived at 4:17 pm

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRECHIEF-** Ludovissie stated that Madsen only had the calls for the month for his report. There were 4 calls for the month, 2 fire and 2 medical.

**LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT-** Current stated that sales increased $6,137.19 over last year. Current stated that there was a Net Profit of $5,679.85 for the month. Current stated that there is a Net Loss for the year $2,879.66. Current stated that meat raffles on Fridays are going well. Current stated that there will be two dart teams for Dart League which will be starting soon. Current stated that the band Aitas will be performing on November 27 from 8:30 pm to 12:00 am. Current stated that the Liquor Store will be closed on Thanksgiving.

**POLICE CHIEF-CORY CARR-** Ludovissie stated that at the last meeting he asked Officer Savaloja to pass on that the Council would like to have any letters that have been sent out in the past month to be included in the packet. Chief Carr asked if the letter(s) should be redacted so the names aren’t included. Ludovissie stated yes. There was discussion about businesses being ran out of homes. Erckenbrack stated that there needs to be classifications of what businesses are so that what is done for one is done for all. Cheif Carr stated that there was a squad car issue that cost about $2200.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that the December Safety Meeting is going to be on Wadena County Emergency Management. Uselman stated that it will be on Dec. 4 at 10:00 am in Sebeka; all Council members are invited. Ludovissie asked

Uselman if he had any use for the old tanker truck; could it just be scrapped. Uselman stated that

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years ago the Fire Department donated it to the maintenance department so he would like to give it back to them. Uselman stated that he didn’t think it had much value, maybe a few thousand dollars. Erckenbrack stated that since it was donated to the maintenance department it would be nice to make a little money from it. Current stated that if the tanker was put on the Fireman’s Auction then the Fire Department and the City would both get money for it. Erckenbrack stated that she would like to see money come back to the City to help buy equipment.

A motion was made by Carr to put the maintenance tanker truck on the fireman’s auction with commission going to the Fire Department and the rest going to the maintenance department seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

Uselman stated that his computer still isn’t fixed but he is hoping to get it back on Monday. Uselman stated that the power unit inside the computer went out. Uselman stated that he is anxious to see if he will get all of his Cemetery maps back.

**CLERK/TREASURER- MELISSA CURRENT-** Current stated that there is a Council meeting on Dec. 9 and that is the same day as the band and choir concert. Current asked if the meeting time could be changed; the Truth and Taxation meeting is set for 5:30 pm that night. The Regular Council meeting was set for 4 pm on Dec. 9. Current stated that there is Board of Appeal and Equalization Training available online until Feb 1, 2020 at 5pm. Current stated that it is required to have one member certified; which the City does. Current stated that it would be nice to have more than one certified. Carr stated that she would get certified online. Current stated that there will be a new election this year on March 3 that is called Presidential Nomination Primary. Current stated that residents will be required to pick one party when they arrive and will then be given that parties ballot. Current stated that there will be three (3) elections in 2020; the Presidential Nomination Primary in March, the Primary in August and the General in Nov. Current stated that she will be attending election training for the Presidential Nomination Election on Dec. 6 in Pequot Lakes. Current stated that new computers are needed for 2020. Current went over the quotes she had received. Current stated that since Uselman has been waiting for his computer to get fixed she doesn’t think it would be a good idea to go with the one business. Carr asked if the City just goes on its own and checks Best Buy. Current stated that the City could but the City would probably still need to pay someone to come and transfer files. Erckenbrack stated to ask Geek Squad to do that.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Sign

Current stated that Council asked for the pole to be shorter and the quote came down $500 from the original quote. Current also stated that MN DOT regulates the signs along the highway and it is not allowed to advertise for something that isn’t physically at the location of the sign. Current

stated that community events could be displayed, but no advertising. There was discussion about

whether to continue with the sign since the City can only display community events.

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Erckenbrack asked about the designation of the funds. Current stated that the City had to let DEED know what the money was being used for but the designation could change. Runyan stated that a small sign could still be purchased and be visible. Erckenbrack stated that purpose of the sign was to advertise for the Liquor Store and then add community events. Ludovissie suggested fixing the liquor sign that hangs outside the Liquor Store. Runyan stated that it is a neon sign so it should get fixed and not replaced. This was tabled until the next meeting. Current was asked to come with estimates.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution 19-1113 – A Resolution Accepting a Donation to Green Lawn Cemetery

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve Resolution 19-1113 – A Resolution Accepting a Donation to Green Lawn Cemetery in the amount of $230.00 from the Weniger family and $270 from the Goddard family in memory of Sam Goddard, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

1. Tobacco License – Verndale Liquor
2. Liquor License – Verndale Liquor

A motion was made by Runyan to approve a Tobacco License and Liquor License for Verndale Liquor, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

1. Liquor License – Maasconi’s

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve a Liquor License and Sunday Sale Liquor License to Maasconi’s, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

1. Liquor License – Verndale Liquor – Community Center

A motion was made by Runyan to approve a Liquor License for Verndale Liquor for the Community Center location, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

Ludovissie adjourned the meeting at 4:49 pm

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer Raye Ludovissie, Mayor