**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday December 12, 2022**

**6:00 pm**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St SW**

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

Tony Stanley

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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

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

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Trinity Gruenberg, Verndale Sun; Amos Self, Family Life Church; Lynn Crawley, Terry Taves, David Desrocher

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND DECEMBER PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve the November 14, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

A motion was made by Carr to approve the December payables in the amount of $52,285.54, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS:**

1. Final Levy Comments - Desrocher questioned why the value of his home is so high. Erckenbrack stated that the County Assessor deals with the value. Carr stated that late in March or early April the Assessor will be here to answer questions.
2. Clif Allen – Moore Engineering: Allen stated that DEED sent him an email stating that the Water Tower/ Water Meters project is in the monitoring process (audit). Allen stated that he left a flash drive with drone footage of when both towers were up. Uselman stated that Verndale didn’t win the Tank of the Year however, it did get published on the third page of the Tank of the Year calendar.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRE CHIEF-** No report.

**LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT-** Current stated that there was a net profit of $7,494.84 for the month. Current stated that there was a decrease in sales in the amount of $157.79 from 2021. Current stated that there is a net profit for the year in the amount of $47,506.40. Current stated that

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Meat Raffles will continue on Fridays at 6:30 pm. Current stated that Karaoke with Jason Neuerburg on Nov. 19 went well. Current stated that Jonny B Badd will be performing on Dec. 31 (New Year’s Eve) from 9 pm – 12 am. Current started that the Liquor Store served at an event at the Community Center on December 10. Current stated that she would like approval to purchase an Ice Machine so that the Liquor Store can make its own ice. Current stated that some customers are unhappy with the quality of ice currently received from the vendor. Current stated that the vendor is charging a minimum order fee and a delivery fee. Current stated that the cost of a new machine with cleaners and a filter would be $3,516.77. Stanley questioned how long it would take for the machine to be profitable for the Liquor Store. Current stated that a plumber would need to come in and hook it up to a water source. It was determined that within a year and a half the machine will pay for itself.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve the purchase of an Ice Machine in the amount of $3,516.77, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

**POLICE-CHIEF CARR-** Chief Carr stated that it was a slower month as he’s been doing SRO duties and it’s getting colder out and people aren’t traveling like they used to. Chief Carr stated that he doesn’t have any applicants.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that he received a quote for new winter tires and rims for the pickup plow truck in the amount of $1,692.00. Uselman stated that a set of all season tires would cost $1,318.12 so it would be better to get the winter tires. Chief Carr asked Uselman if he checked with Heartland Tire or OK Tire about state bid pricing for tires. Uselman stated no, he didn’t know if he would qualify to receive the state bid pricing or if it was just for Police.

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve the quote from Verndale Auto Sales in the amount of $1,692.00 for new winter tires and rims unless a better deal is found, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

Uselman stated that the brush pile is closed now until Spring. Uselman stated that the City is possibly going to be involved with the PFAS Recovery Program. Uselman stated that there is a law firm that filed a PFAS Cost Recovery action against the global manufacturers of the PFAS forever compounds. Uselman stated that he didn’t know if Reverse Osmosis takes out the PFAS. Uselman stated that there would be no cost to the City unless there is a settlement; the City Attorney is reviewing the retainer document.

A motion was made by Carr to approve the Retainer Agreement once the attorney approves, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

Uselman stated that the County Board will be discussing the ARPA grant that the City has requested for the Water/Sewer Building on Dec. 13. Uselman stated that The Community Facilities grant pre-application for the Wheeled Loader has been submitted. Uselman asked if the sidewalk snow removal fees could get put into the sidewalk fund.

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve putting the sidewalk snow removal fees into the sidewalk fund, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

Uselman stated that the City currently has an Easement with Olson’s Custom Farms and they have requested to build a grain pit over the easement. Uselman stated that the original Easement made the

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City responsible for replacing anything that was dug up to repair/replace the sewer lines. Uselman stated that the attorney drafted an amendment to the Easement making Olson’s responsible for replacing the grain pit if the City needs to repair or replace any sewer lines.

A motion was made by Stanley to approve the amended easement with Olson’s, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

There was discussion about the timing of clearing of snow from the sidewalks. Uselman stated that the snow would get removed any time after 24 hours. Uselman stated that a day or an amount of snow will not be set; the purpose of the Ordinance is to have the Resident’s clear their sidewalks, not to have the City clear them.

**CLERK/TREASURER- MELISSA CURRENT**- Current requested to transfer $5,328.00 from the General Fund Money Market - Streets to the General Fund Checking account to cover the Vinco Invoice.

A motion was made by Carr to transfer $5,328.00 from the General Fund Money Market - Streets to the General Fund Checking account to cover the Vinco Invoice, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

Current stated that residents have asked to sign up for the running water credit to keep their pipes from freezing. Current asked if the Council wanted to offer this again.

A motion was made by Carr to offer the running water credit starting at Uselman’s discretion, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

Current stated that a date needed to be set to discuss year end transfers with Dec. 19 at 4:30 pm getting chosen. Current stated that she needs the number of Committee meetings attended submitted by Dec. 19. Current stated that the water tower/ water meter loan requires the City to set up a Short-Lived Asset Reserve account. Current stated that a Money Market account would be the best as then the City has access to funds if something needs to be replaced. Current stated that the City is required to deposit $21,738.00 annually for the life of the loan (40 years).

A motion was made by Stanley to set up a Short-Lived Asset Reserve Money Market account, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution 22-1212 – Donation from the Verndale Lions

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve Resolution 22-1212 – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions in the amount of $29,948.32 to put in their Building Fund, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

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1. Resolution 22-1212A – Re-establish Polling Place

A motion was made by Carr to approve Resolution 22-1212A – Resolution Re-establishing the Polling Precinct and Precinct Location for the City of Verndale as the Verndale Civic Center, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 22-1212B – Final Levy

A motion was made by Stanley to approve Resolution 22-1212B – Resolution Approving Final 2022 Tax Levy Collectable in 2023 as $192,450.00 seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 22-1212C – Resolution of Sponsorship

A motion was made by Carr to approve Resolution 22-1212C – Resolution of Sponsorship in the Community Concern for Youth Program by contributing $970.00, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 22-1212D – Setting Assessment for Services Rendered

A motion was made by Stanley to approve Resolution 22-1212D – Resolution Setting Assessment for Services Rendered by the City of Verndale, Minnesota in the amount of $442.00, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 22-1212E – Accepting a Donation

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve Resolution 22-1212E – Resolution Accepting a Donation of a park bench from the Lee and Donna Denny Family to the City of Verndale for use at the Ball Park, seconded by Stanley. AIF/MC.

1. Verndale Liquor Tobacco License

A motion was made by Runyan to approve a Tobacco License to Verndale Liquor for 2023, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

1. Verndale Liquor On & Off Sale Liquor License

A motion was made by Carr to approve an On & Off Sale Liquor License for Verndale Liquor for 2023, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

1. Verndale Liquor On Sale – Civic Center Location

A motion was made by Carr to approve an On Sale Liquor License for Verndale Liquor the Civic Center Location for 2023, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

1. My Store – Verndale - Tobacco License

A motion was made by Runyan to approve a Tobacco License for My Store- Verndale for 2023 contingent upon receiving their paperwork, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

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1. The Pirate’s Den, LLC – Tobacco License

A motion was made by Runyan to approve a Tobacco License for The Pirate’s Den, LLC for 2023, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

1. The Pirate’s Den, LLC – On Sale Liquor License

A motion was made by Runyan to approve an On Sale Liquor License for The Pirate’s Den, LLC for 2023, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

1. The Pirate’s Den, LLC – On Sale Sunday Liquor License

A motion was made by Runyan to approve an On Sale Sunday Liquor License for The Pirate’s Den, LLC for 2023, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Desrocher asked who is responsible for repairs to the sidewalks. Uselman stated that in the past the City has repaired or replaced the sidewalks. Uselman stated that every year the City does a sidewalk audit to determine which sidewalks need to be repaired or replaced.

Mayor Erckenbrack adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer Tara Erckenbrack, Mayor