**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2018**

**4:30 p.m.**

**Verndale Fire Hall**

**102 Butler St SE**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** James Ackerson, Ardith Car, Raye Ludovissie, Jim Runyan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**  Tara Erckenbrack

**STAFF PRESENT:** Barbara Holmes, City Clerk/Treasurer; Matt Uselman, Public Works Manager; Derek Huotari, Police Officer

**STAFF ABSENT**: Michael Madsen, Fire Chief; Gary Rosenthal, Liquor Store Manager; Cory Carr, Police Chief

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Trinity Gruenberg, Verndale Sun;Donald Weniger, Debra Erickson, Melissa Current

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to discuss the City’s plans for water systems improvements, including project scope, activities, schedule, environmental concerns, estimated overall costs of the project and grant/loan funding options including PFA, USDA rural Development, Small Cities Development program funding sources and costs to local users.

Oyster provided handouts and verbally discussed what was on each page of the handout. Oyster asked for citizen input. Erickson asked where the treatment plant would be located. Oyster stated that it would be located on Highway 10 by Verndale Custom Builders, where well #2 is located. Erickson asked where the water tower was going to be located. Oyster stated that they would like to have it in the park where Well #1 is. Oyster stated that the City doesn’t own the park so the City has to wait to hear from BNSF as to whether they will sell that land to the City. Runyan asked why the tower wasn’t going to be out by the treatment plant. Oyster stated that there wouldn’t be enough pressure to distribute well, so part of town could experience reduced water pressure. Erickson asked what if you don’t want soft water. Erickson stated that salt would hurt the plants that she grows. Oyster stated that there is no salt being used for softening the water so the water would not harm the plants. Erickson asked if the water would be stripped of all minerals. Oyster stated no, it would be a blend of water. Erickson asked about the chemicals that would be used in the Reverse Osmosis plant. Oyster stated that he wouldn’t know the exact chemicals until after the Pilot Study was complete, but they would all be nonharmful chemicals. Erickson asked if the water would have a salty taste. Oyster stated no, softening with Reverse Osmosis is not the same as softening with the softeners that utilize salt. Erickson asked why the City didn’t go with a deep well, was it more expensive. Oyster stated that a deep well would be less expensive but there are concerns about having enough water available. Oyster

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stated that the City is required to have 2 wells and each well needs to hold enough water to supply the City on its own. Runyan asked how much of an increase in cost there would be. Oyster stated that there would be an increase of $22 per user, but that includes softening so now residents wouldn’t have to buy softening salt. Gruenberg asked when the water tower was built. Oyster stated that it is 70 years old. Holmes stated that it was built in 1948. Erickson stated that she had no objection to replacing the water tower because her husband had looked at it a few years ago and said he thought it should be replaced.

The Public Hearing was closed by Mayor Ludovissie at 4:59pm.

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, Deputy Clerk Raye Ludovissie, Mayor