**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday September 9, 2019**

**6:00 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:** Michael Madsen, Fire Chief; Cory Carr, Police Chief; Tyler Savaloja, School Resource Officer; Barbara Holmes, City Clerk/Treasurer; Matt Uselman, Public Works Manager; Melissa Current, Deputy Clerk

**STAFF ABSENT**: None

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Tom Mayfield, National Health Care Capital; Clif Allen, Moore Engineering; Amos Self, Family Life Church; Cindy Savaloja, Bryan Savaloja, Karli Savaloja, John Rousslang

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND SEPTEMBER PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve the August 12 Regular Meeting Minutes as corrected, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

A motion was made by Carr to approve the September payables in the amount of $32,962.87, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS**

**Tom Mayfield – National Health Care Capital:** Mayfield gave an overview of what is going on with the building of a new Tri County Hospital. Mayfield stated that the City of Verndale and the City of Bertha both bonded for the financing of the 2017 project with Tri County Hospital. Mayfield stated that the new Tri County Hospital is estimated to cost $81 million. Mayfield stated that the City of Bertha has been asked to finance this project because they haven’t done any bonding this year. Mayfield stated that they don’t need the City to bond for them right now, but he does need the City to authorize the City of Bertha to issue debt that would refund/refinance debt that the City of Verndale issued in 2017.

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A motion was made by Runyan to approve Resolution 19-0909C – A Resolution approving the issuance of a Health Facilities Revenue Note by the City of Bertha, Minnesota, to Refinance Projects, seconded by Ackerson. Voting in favor were: Ackerson, Carr, Ludovissie, and Runyan. Erckenbrack abstained because of a possible conflict of interest. MC

**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. 3 for J & J Excavating. Allen stated that their contract is winding down and is virtually complete; he thought they were at substantial completion.

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve J & J Excavating’s application for payment No.3 in the amount of $44,973.77 seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

Allen requested approval of partial payment No. 7 for Eagle Construction. Ludovissie questioned whether the City was going to pay that contractor. Holmes stated that the City has enough retainage, so the City can pay them what was requested.

A motion was made by Carr to approve Eagle Construction’s application for payment No. 7 in the amount of $196,370.70, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

Allen went over the bullet points on Exhibit A of Change Order 2 and requested approval.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Change Order No. 2 in the amount of $7,214.92, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

Allen stated that he has Amendment #3 to Task Order 2. Allen stated that there is concern about not getting water at the site and the methodology that was used to drill the wells. Allen stated that the Health Department recommended bringing in a third party (Leonard Rice Engineering (sub-consultant) and Thein Well (2nd tier sub)). Allen stated that the Health Department stated that both of these fall under engineering and professional services. Ludovissie stated that the Sewer and Water Committee decided to bring in Thein Well and have them drill a well by where Eagle has been drilling and see if they get water. Ludovissie stated that if this company gets water then the City will run into some problems with Eagle. Runyan asked what happens if Thein doesn’t get water. Allen stated that then they would validate what Eagle has been telling them; then they will look at drilling on the South side of the building. Allen stated that the estimated amendment amount is $49,075.00.

A motion was made by Carr to approve Amendment #3 to Task Order 2 in the amount of $49,750, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

Allen stated that the City can move forward with the Water Tower project. Allen stated he would like to see it designed and out for bids about January or February with the foundation being put

in in the Spring.

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**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRECHIEF-** Madsen stated that there were 6 calls for the month; 2 fire and 4 medical calls. Madsen stated that on September 14, 2019 Verndale will be hosting a large-scale drill on a railway accident involving crude oil. Madsen stated that the safety briefing meeting starts at 7 am at the school auditorium and the drill will start around 8 am. Madsen stated that on Sept. 11 there will be a patriot day parade to the City park for the grade school at 10 am. Madsen stated that on Sept. 29 there will be a homecoming parade for the high school. Carr asked about Fire Prevention week. Madsen stated that Fire Prevention week is the third week in October.

**LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT-** Current stated that sales increased $6,230.71 over last year. Current stated that there was a Net Loss of $47.89 for the month. Current stated that there is a Net Loss for the year $14,630.91. Current stated liquor inventory is high. Current stated that Aitas performed Sat August 17 from 8:00 pm – 12 am and it went well. Current stated that the first day of Sunday Sales went well. Current stated that the Liquor Store will be providing a bar at the Community Center for a wedding on September 28.

**POLICE CHIEF-CORY CARR-** Chief Carr swore in Officer Tyler Savaloja. Chief Carr stated that he visited the residents that needed to clean up their yards and there is progress being made. Ackerson expressed concern about the condition of some of the homes in Verndale. Chief Carr asked if the EDA could get investors to build some condos. Chief Carr stated that he would talk with some investors in Wadena. Chief Carr stated that one of the bad things is that Verndale is one of the highest taxed cities in the County. Ludovissie stated that the City doesn’t have anywhere to expand right now. Chief Carr stated that Officer Savaloja is being trained so don’t be surprised to see two officers on.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that it would cost too much money to renovate the well house in the park into a restroom and get sewer to it. Uselman suggested getting the well house removed as originally planned. There was discussion about putting the old water tower where the well house is now. Uselman stated that he wouldn’t mind keeping the pirate that is on the tower. Uselman stated that if the well house is removed there will need to be a place for the electrical to be placed. Uselman stated that the big grill under the big shelter in the park is not used anymore. Uselman stated that he thought that the grill could be removed and the electrical panel would get put in its place. Uselman stated that this would be included in the project. Council agreed to have the grill removed. Uselman stated that sidewalks in the park would be a ballpark figure of $5/sq. ft. Uselman sent around three different options. Council agreed to use the plans that were signed off on last year when they talked about putting sidewalks in. Uselman stated that there were new developments with the electronic sign. Current stated that the council needs to decide if they want to have a double-sided sign since the numbers that she gave at the last meeting were only for a one-sided sign. Current stated that the

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double-sided sign would cost $17,975.00. Council agreed to have a double-sided sign. Carr asked if the City can solicit for the sign. Current stated that the City could ask for a certain dollar amount to use the sign. Ackerson asked about the State Championship sign. Uselman stated that it is 8’ x 8’ and the electronic sign and the Championship sign could get put on the same supports. Uselman stated that the Championship sign needs to be replaced this next year so he will talk to the school and see if the shop class can paint a new one.

A motion was made by Ackerson to commit the DEED MIF Loan one time offer money to sidewalks in the park and a digital sign, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

Uselman stated that the monument in the park has new solar lights on it and has been painted. Uselman stated that the monument in the Cemetery was also painted. Uselman stated that they have been trying to build up the alleys that collect water, unfortunately they have to wait for the ally to be dry to do this. Uselman stated that they will be cleaning sewer main lines in the coming weeks.

**CLERK/TREASURER- BARBARA HOLMES-** Current gave Holmes report. Current requested approval to transfer $20,572.00 from the General Fund Money Market- Streets to the General fund Checking account to cover the paving on 4th Street from Thompson to Brown.

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve transferring $20,572.00 from the General Fund Money Market- Streets to the General fund Checking account to cover the paving on 4th Street from Thompson to Brown, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

Current stated that Holmes submitted her resignation as City Clerk/Treasurer effective October 31, 2019.

A motion was made by Carr to accept the resignation of Barbara Holmes as the City Clerk/Treasurer effective October 31, 2019, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

Current stated that it is time to set the date and time for the TNT Public Hearing regarding the 2020 levy. Holmes stated that usually it is held before the meeting in December; which would make it December 9 this year. The truth and taxation meeting was set for Dec. 9 at 5:30 pm. The end of year meeting was set for Dec. 16. Current stated that a second budget meeting would need to take place before Dec. 9. Carr stated that in November the meeting night lands on Veterans day. The November Council meeting was set for Wed. Nov. 13 at 4 pm with the Budget meeting to follow. Current stated that Joey’s PC has closed so she is looking into new IT coverage for the city and obtaining new computers since the City’s computers are all Windows 7 and need to be upgraded before January. Current stated that the City received a quote to update the City Ordinances in the amount of $7,525.00. Current stated that approval is needed to move forward. Current stated that the quote is a little more than was budgeted for. Ludovissie asked if the City should just keep budgeting until there’s enough money to cover it.

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Holmes stated that $5,000 was budgeted for 2019. Ludovissie stated that the City should budget $5000 again in 2020 and get the Ordinances done in 2021. Council agreed.

**OLD BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution 19-0909 – Tax Levy Collectable in 2020

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve Resolution 19-0909 – A Resolution Approving Proposed 2019 Tax Levy Collectable in 2020, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

1. Resolution 19-0909A – PERA – Police Officer Declaration

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Resolution 19-0909A – A Resolution of Public Employee Retirement Association- Police Officer Declaration for Tyler S. Savaloja, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

1. Resolution 19-0909B – Donation- Green Lawn Cemetery – Laurie Kelly

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve Resolution 19-0909B – A Resolution Accepting a Donation to Green Lawn Cemetery in the amount of $200.00 for perpetual care from Laurie Kelly on behalf of Maurice and Nita Nesset, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Current stated that she received a request to extend the Summer Sewer Credit to the residents on Eastside Drive so that they can try to get grass planted after the road is complete.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve extending the Summer Sewer Credit for Eastside Dr residents through October, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

A motion was made by Carr to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 pm, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, Deputy Clerk Raye Ludovissie, Mayor