**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday February 11, 2018**

**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:** Barbara Holmes, City Clerk/Treasurer; Michael Madsen, Fire Chief; Cory Carr, Police Chief; Matt Uselman, Public Works Manager; Melissa Current, Deputy Clerk

**STAFF ABSENT**: None

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Trinity Gruenberg, Verndale Sun; Joeb Oyster, Moore Engineering; Tahna Rurup, Family Life Church; Amos Self

**OPENING PRAYER:** The opening prayer was led by Tahna Rurup, Family Life Church.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND FEBRUARY PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve the January 14th, 2019 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve the February payables in the amount of $44,773.71 seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS**

**Joeb Oyster - Moore Engineering:** Oyster stated that he needed signatures on the Contract Manual Project No. 19910 Water Supply System Improvements Contract A-Water Treatment Plant and Supply Wells. Oyster stated that this is just the contract with Eagle Construction. Oyster stated that Eagle Construction would still like to start on March 1st. Oyster stated that J & J would like to start as soon as possible as well. Oyster stated that J & J could start as early as April 1st. Oyster stated that a pre-construction meeting would be set up for either the morning of Friday February 15th or Tuesday February 19th at the Verndale City Hall. Oyster stated that he brought an invoice for work that has been done this past year. Oyster stated that it doesn’t need to be paid until the City receives funds from PFA.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRECHIEF-** Madsen stated that there were 5 fire calls and 2 medical calls for the month. Madsen stated that on September 14th, 2019 Verndale

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will be hosting a large-scale drill on a railway accident involving propane. Madsen stated that the next meeting is March 4th at 6 pm at the Verndale Fire Hall. Madsen stated that the Emergency Management Committee is interested in attending ICS (Incident Command) refresher on March 5th in Verndale at 6:30 pm. Ludovissie asked how long the refresher takes. Madsen stated about four hours. Madsen stated that it is a mandatory refresher for the Fire Department. Madsen stated that there will be a township meeting at the Fire Hall on February 19th at 6 pm. Madsen stated that they received a grant from Todd Wadena Electric for $1500 to purchase rope rescue harnesses, an MPD for rope rescue (used for ascending and descending), and safety vests. Madsen stated that he would like approval to make these purchases. Holmes stated that these items would be accepted through Resolution once the funds are received.

**LIQUOR STORE- MELISSA CURRENT-** Current stated that sales decreased $757.69 compared to last year. Current stated that there was a net profit of $2,200.60 for the month. Current stated that the Liquor Store will provide a bar for the Lion’s Prime Rib night at the Community Center on February 16th. Current stated that there will also be a bar provided for the Sheila Finck benefit at the Community Center on March 9th. Current stated that there will be karaoke on March 16th for St. Patrick’s Day. Current stated that the Liquor Store is trying two new kinds of tap beer which are Duck Pond and Castle Danger. Erckenbrack stated that she had talked to an employee that said things were a little slow but going well.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT-CORY CARR-** Chief Carr stated that Officer Lorenzi attended training the last three days in Fergus Falls. Holmes stated that she received a complaint about a semi blocking an alley and mailboxes. Holmes asked Chief Carr to check and see if it is still there. Chief Carr stated that all calls should be directed to the Sheriff’s Office whether there is an officer on duty or not. Erckenbrack asked who calls MNDOT when there is low visibility to get onto the highway because of the snow banks. Chief Carr stated that MNDOT is pretty busy right now. Chief Carr stated that he would call the State Patrol and see if they can have someone come through.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that he has been in contact with 2 paving contractors to pave 4th Ave by the School. Uselman stated that they both have said that if the City does new curb and gutter then the sidewalk would need to be replaced. Uselman stated that he told them to just give him a quote on paving the road and getting it so the water will drain. Uselman stated that if the road is just paved then the City may be able to pave another road as well. Uselman stated that he will also see if they can fix the storm drain, if not the County has a steamer that he could use. Runyan expressed concern about the other storm sewers if more water gets pushed to the east. Uselman stated that it will work, those storm sewers never freeze. Uselman stated that the City needs a new person to be the weekend and holiday lift station and well meter reader. Uselman stated that the person who gets this job will be a City employee and they will get paid $20 per day. Erckenbrack stated that an ad needs to go out and the City will see who applies. Uselman stated that he will be at the MRWA Conference

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in St. Cloud March 5th to the 7th so Fleisher will be covering for him while he is gone. Uselman stated that he was told the remodeling of the Liquor Store bathrooms will begin this month. There was discussion about how the running water credit works. Uselman stated that the main point of the credit is to keep the City’s main from freezing.

**CLERK/TREASURER- BARBARA HOLMES-** Holmes stated that Current completed the pay equity reporting for the City and the City received documentation that the City is in compliance. Holmes stated that 2018 has been enclosed and the Schedule 2 for 2018 is attached in the packet for their review and acceptance.

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve the Schedule 2 for 2018, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

Holmes stated that the first steps in the online USDA loan application for the water tower have been completed, this has to be done online now. Holmes stated that the City also has a new USDA RD representative, Tyler Ray from the Baxter office. Holmes stated that Tri County Hospital may be asking for the City’s assistance again in obtaining funding. Holmes stated that Tom Mayfield approached the City via telephone on Friday. Holmes stated that the City will learn more later this year. Holmes stated that the City has a bond capacity of up to $10 million a year and that is what is used to help obtain funding.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Board of Review Meeting – April 4, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.
2. Deed Money- a letter needs to be sent committing those funds

There was discussion about what to use the money for. Holmes stated the money could be used for anything that would better/benefit the community. Ideas included sidewalks in the park, light poles and digital signage for the City.

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to commit the DEED money to a digital sign fund, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC.

1. Barn Quilts of Central MN

Holmes stated that there is a barn quilt trail and they will give the City a quilt and Verndale will get put in their brochure as a place that has a barn quilt. The colors that were chosen were green,

black, blue, and beige. The barn quilt will be displayed above the garage doors on the maintenance building.

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A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve receiving a barn quilt from Barn Quilts of Central Minnesota with the Right Hand of Friendship design using the colors of green, black, blue and beige seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

1. Resolution 19-0211 – Resolution of Sponsorship

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve Resolution 19-0211 – A Resolution of Sponsorship authorizing participation with the Community Concern for Youth Program with Todd-Wadena Community Corrections, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

1. Proclamation Request – Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve the Proclamation of March 2019 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, seconded by Runyan. Voting in favor were Ludovissie, Runyan and Ackerson. None were opposed. Erckenbrack abstained because of a possible conflict of interest.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to close the meeting at 6:56 pm, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, Deputy Clerk Raye Ludovissie, Mayor