**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday May 9, 2022**

**6:00 pm**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St SW**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**  Ardith Carr, Tony Stanley**,** Jim Runyan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tara Erckenbrack, Daryl Jacobson

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

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

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Clif Allen, Moore Engineering; Terry Taves

**OPENING PRAYER:** The opening prayer was led by Tony Stanley, Verndale Alliance Church.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND MAY PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Stanley to approve the April 11, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve the May payables in the amount of $17,241.01, seconded by Stanley. AIF/MC.

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS:**

1. Terry Taves – Uselman stated that Taves is appealing the denial of his building permit and is asking Council to grant permission to start working on the portion of the permit that doesn’t require a variance (the lean-to and front yard fence). Current stated that his meeting for the Variance is set for May 23.

A motion was made by Stanley to authorize Terry Taves to begin working on items on his building permit that don’t require a variance, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

1. Clif Allen – Moore Engineering: Allen gave project updates. Runyan asked about trying to save the top of the old tower. Allen stated that the tower is covered with lead paint so that would need to be contended with. Allen stated that it would cost thousands of dollars to do what is required to make the top of the tower safe to use as a shelter. Allen stated that a licensed abatement team would be required. Allen stated that the name plate would be saved. Allen stated that demo of the tower is 4-6 weeks away and no credit would be given to the City from the demo bid for keeping part of the tower. Allen presented an invoice for Professional Services.

A motion was made by Stanley to approve the Moore Engineering Invoice for the inspectors for KLM in the amount of $12,125.00, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

Page 2

May 9, 2022

City of Verndale

Regular Council Meeting

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRE CHIEF-** Madsen was absent, but left a report. Carr stated that there were five (5) calls for the month; 1 was fire and 4 were medical. Carr stated that the repairs to the #2 engine were made and came in at $5,352.28 instead of the quoted $11,578.31. Carr stated that the Fire Department will have their pancake feed in conjunction with the flower club sale on May 21 from 8:30 am – 11 am.

**LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT-** Current stated that there was a net profit of $9,542.75 for the month. Current stated that there was an increase in sales in the amount of $9,867.53 from 2021. Current stated that there is a net profit for the year in the amount of $25,387.80. Current stated that eight (8) new banquet chairs were purchased. Current stated that the Liquor Store is planning to have “block parties” once per month during the Summer. Current stated that Aitas is booked for June 25 and The MugWugs are booked for July 30.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that he would like to put an ad out in the paper for the open position. Uselman stated that he’s been in contact with Design Electric to replace the 10 light poles in the downtown area; they will be in town on Wednesday. Uselman stated that once he receives some examples, he will bring them to the Council for viewing and once a choice is made, he will get bids. Uselman asked the Council what to do with the old lights; sell them or scrap them. Council agreed to sell the old streetlights. Uselman stated that he would put an ad in the paper to make an offer through sealed bids. Uselman stated that MN Energy is replacing all the old gas lines in town so they can raise the pressure in their system; they will probably be in town all summer. Uselman stated that he received a quote from MN Backflow in the amount of $1,122.13 for backflow preventors to be rebuilt. Uselman stated that it is recommended to rebuild them every five (5) years. Stanley asked if the backflow is for sewer. Uselman stated no, this is for water lines so nothing gets into the water system.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve the quote from MN Backflow in the amount of $1,122.13, seconded by Stanley. AIF/MC.

Uselman stated that the County is replacing the sidewalk from the corner of Brown Street SW and 1st Ave to the railroad tracks. Carr asked if a date was given for redoing Brown Street SW. Allen stated that it should be completed in July; it will just be mill and overlay. Allen stated that it would take a few weeks to complete.

**POLICE-CHIEF CARR-** Chief Carr stated that a clean-up letter was sent to a property owner. Carr asked if other properties had received letters for cleaning up. Chief Carr stated no, a drive around hadn’t been completed yet. Stanley will ride along with Chief Carr to compile a list.

**CLERK/TREASURER- MELISSA CURRENT**- Current stated that the Auditors plan to come Tuesday and Wednesday this week. Current stated that Election Judge training starts in June so she will start making calls to find Election Judges. Current stated that the copier lease is up in August and she has received some quotes for new leases. Current asked for approval to make a decision on a copier once comparisons have been made.

Page 3

May 9, 2022

City of Verndale

Regular Council Meeting

A motion was made by Stanley to allow Current to pick the best option for a copier lease and bring back selection details to Council, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

Carr asked if Current was planning on attending the League of MN Cities Annual Conference. Current stated yes.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution 22-0509 – Donation from the Verndale Lions

A motion was made by Stanley to approve Resolution 22-0509 – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions in the amount of $10,556.19 to put in their Building Fund, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

Acting Mayor Carr adjourned the meeting at 6:24 pm.

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer Tara Erckenbrack, Mayor