**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday June 13, 2022**

**6:00 pm**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St SW**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tony Stanley

**STAFF PRESENT:**  Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer

**STAFF ABSENT**: Cory Carr, Police Chief; Michael Madsen, Fire Chief; Matt Uselman, Public Works Manager

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Trinity Gruenberg, Verndale Sun; Ryan Wolfenden, Family Life Church; Katherine Riberio, Walter Riberio, Dragonfly-e

**OPENING PRAYER:** The opening prayer was led by Ryan Wolfenden, Family Life Church.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND JUNE PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Carr to approve the May 9, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes and the May 23, 2022 Public Hearing Minutes as written, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve the June payables in the amount of $48,998.17, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS:**

1. Robin Fish - Water/Sewer Bill: Current stated that Fish realized after the last storm that the outside spigot was running. Current stated that Fish is requesting to get credit for the sewer that is above his average as it didn’t go down the sewer. Current stated that the total credit would be $13.00.

A motion was made by Carr to approve a sewer credit in the amount of $13 for Robin Fish, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

1. Walter Riberio – Dragonfly-e: Riberio stated that the partnership with the University of MN is on pause. Riberio stated that their project is a semifinalist in the 2022 MN Cup.

Riberio stated that he is asking the City to review a contract for money for his project that would be coming from Saudi Arabia as it is either a scam or it is real. Riberio stated that he has people in Saudi Arabia looking into the source of funding to confirm if it is real or a scam. Riberio stated that he wanted to proceed as if it’s real. Runyan asked why Saudi Arabia would be interested in funding this project. Riberio stated that the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have an agreement to reduce fossil fuel emissions by 50 % by 2030. Council asked for the contract to have the interest rate fixed at 2.5% per year. Jacobson expressed concerns about the repayment of the $5,500,000 in a six (6) year time frame with a 12-month grace period as this would equate to paying back approximately $1,000,000 per year. Jacobson stated that this is a

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pretty quick turnaround. Riberio stated that they are in the early stages of negotiations with a property with 20 acres on the Route 29 on Ottertail. Riberio stated that this is good for them as it is right on top of the interstate gas line. Riberio stated that they will be able to sell the gas anywhere there is an interstate gas line or they can make the gas into hydrogen. Concerns over the contract were recapped. Carr stated that she would like to see the University of MN get involved with the project again.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRE CHIEF-** Madsen was absent, no report.

**LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT-** Current stated that there was a net profit of $2,221.85 for the month. Current stated that there was an increase in sales in the amount of $7,677.83 from 2021. Current stated that there is a net profit for the year in the amount of $27,609.65. Current stated that the wedding at the Community Center went well. Current stated that Aitas is booked for June 25 and The MugWugs are booked for July 30. Erckenbrack stated that the paving in the back could be paid outright from the profit. Current stated yes, and this was budgeted for; the repairs for the furnace/ac are still outstanding. Current stated that the air conditioning is working now, the duct work just needs to be completed.

**POLICE-CHIEF CARR-** Chief Carr was absent, no report.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman was absent. Current stated that approval was needed to block off the street for the Father’s Day Motor Show on June 19.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve blocking off the street for the Father’s Day Motor Show, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

Current stated that if any of the members would like to be a judge for the City Leader Award for the Motor Show to let Uselman know.

**CLERK/TREASURER- MELISSA CURRENT**- Current stated that elections are coming up; Primary on August 9 and General on Nov. 8. Current stated that election judge training will take place on June 27 and July 14. Current stated that residents have asked for the sewer credit for watering. Current asked if Council wanted to offer this again this year.

A motion was made by Carr to approve the Summer Sewer credit, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution 22-0613 – Donation from the Verndale Lions

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve Resolution 22-0613 – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions in the amount of $4,794.19 to put in their Building Fund, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 22-0613A – Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Verndale Fire Dept.

A motion was made by Carr to approve Resolution 22-0613A – Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Verndale Fire Department in the amount of $150.00 from the Verndale Senior Citizens Club and $250.00 from Duane and Shelly Leonard, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

1. Zoning & Subdivisions Ordinance – Fencing

Current stated that it was suggested to change the 2 ½ foot fence requirement within 10 feet of the right of way to 3 feet as 2 ½ foot fencing is hard to find and 3-foot fencing would be less wasteful when building a fence. Tabled until the next meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

Mayor Erckenbrack adjourned the meeting at 6:46 pm.

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer Tara Erckenbrack, Mayor