**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday June 14, 2021**

**6:00 pm**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St SW**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Michael Madsen, Fire Chief; Tyler Savaloja, Police Officer; Matt Uselman, Public Works Manager; Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer

**STAFF ABSENT**: Cory Carr, Police Chief

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Clif Allen, Moore Engineering; Robin Fish; Brent Hahn; Bruce Schlupp; Gary Van Dam

**OPENING PRAYER:** The opening prayer was led by Daryl Jacobson, Verndale Alliance Church.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND JUNE PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Carr to approve the May 10, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

A motion was made by Carr to approve the June payables in the amount of $39,511.54, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS:**

**Alano Society – Water/Sewer Bill:** Hahn stated that the water bill jumped from 0 usage to 30,000 gallons and wondered how that could happen. Erckenbrack asked if the property was checked over to see if there were any leaks. Uselman stated that there is only a toilet and a sink in the building and the meter wasn’t spinning when he was there. Schlupp stated that he goes into the building every day. Stanley asked if there was an outside spigot. Hahn stated yes., but as far as he knew it wasn’t being used. Runyan asked Council to charge something that is in line with what is average. Jacobson asked about putting the bill at 1,000 gallons usage. There was discussion about what has been done in the past.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve crediting the Alano Society for 29,000 for water and sewer; putting the usage at 1000 gallons instead of 30,000 gallons, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

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**Verndale Alliance Church:** Stanley stated that he had a toilet valve leaking which has now been fixed; he is asking for a 5,000-gallon credit on the sewer side for filling a pool.

A motion was made by Carr to approve a 5,000-gallon sewer credit for the Verndale Alliance Church, seconded by Runyan. Voting in favor were: Carr, Erckenbrack, Jacobson, and Runyan. None were opposed. Stanley abstained as it is his property. MC.

**Gary Van Dam:** Van Dam stated that he would be watering his four-legged lawnmowers so he didn’t want to pay sewer fees on the water used. Uselman stated that he didn’t have a problem with charging the average for sewer and having him pay all the water fees.

**Clif Allen - Moore Engineering:** Allen gave project updates. Allen stated that he has Partial Pay Estimate #4 for Contract C – Water Tower Replacement in the amount of $72,470.75 for Maguire Iron for 80% of the foundation work completed, 3% of shop fabrication and 4% for allowances.

A motion was made by Carr to approve Partial Pay Estimate #4 for Maguire Iron in the amount of $72,470.75, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

Allen stated that the LRIP applications were not successful. Allen stated that the projects scored fairly well; West Service Drive scored higher than East Side Drive.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT –MIKE MADSEN-** Madsen stated that there were 13 calls; 4 were Fire and 9 were Medical. Madsen stated that they will be hosting a golf tournament on July 31. Madsen stated that they received a grant from Todd Wadena Electric for a battery powered vent fan for $1,500.00. Madsen stated that the total price of the fan is $4,986.00 so he needs approval to spend $3,486.00 from the budget.

A motion was made by Stanley to approve spending $3,486.00 on a battery powered vent fan, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

**LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT-** Current stated that there was a net loss of $354.64 for the month. Current stated that there is a net profit for the year in the amount of $10,538.52. Current stated that sales were up from 2019 in the amount of $1,216.83. Current stated that there is a need for bartenders and an assistant manager. Current stated that the Mugwugs will be performing on July 31 from 9 pm to midnight. There was discussion about wages and if the City needed to raise the wages for the assistant manager and bartender positions to be more competitive. Stanley asked what the goal of the Liquor Store is; to make money or to be a public service. Council agreed that the goal is to make money but it is also a public service.

A motion was made by Stanley to approve raising the Bartender wage to $12 per hour base pay and the Assistant Manager pay to $15 per hour base pay, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

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**POLICE-CHIEF CARR-** Chief Carr was not in attendance. Council member Carr stated that the Police had a busy month. Officer Savaloja stated that traffic was crazy with fishing opener. Erckenbrack stated that it looks like properties are being cleaned up. Officer Savaloja stated that he sent out letters at the beginning of May. Erckenbrack stated to keep doing what he’s doing because it’s working.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that the City did not receive any applications for the full time position of Maintenance Worker. Uselman stated that he posted the position all over his building, at the Post Office, Bank and at City Hall. Uselman stated that he will wait a little bit and then post on MN Rural Water’s website and the League of MN Cities website. Runyan asked what this position would start at for pay. Uselman stated $15 to $17 depending on experience. Uselman stated that the Lions added wood chips to the playground; it looks really nice and he sent them a thank you note. Uselman stated that they have been irrigating the baseball field regularly to keep the grass green for the games that are being played. Uselman stated that 6,000 to 10,000 gallons of water is being used per night. Uselman stated that the concrete behind the bar and sidewalks in the park have been delayed until July. Uselman stated that he received a call from a recycling center in Bemidji regarding a military foot stone for Clifford Martin Denny that someone tried to sell for scrap. Uselman stated that it did not come from the Greenlawn Cemetery; his monument is still there. Uselman asked for any family members of Clifford to get ahold of him. Uselman stated that the Father’s Day Motor show will be held on June 20 so 1st Ave between Brown and Farwell will be blocked. Uselman stated that Custom Builders has sold so the City won’t be looking into purchasing it. Uselman stated that he sent out several grass letters. Uselman stated that some pine trees at the Water Tower site (along the alley) will need to be removed.

**CLERK/TREASURER- MELISSA CURRENT**- Current stated that the auditors were here and they are working on finishing up the audit. Current stated that residents have been asking for a summer sewer credit for watering. Current asked if the City wanted to offer this again. Erckenbrack asked if it means that they pay for the average. Current stated yes, they would pay for the average on sewer but pay for all of the water.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve a summer sewer credit, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

Uselman stated that the City isn’t at point yet of monitoring water usage, but it could happen if no rain comes. Current stated that she will be gone June 15 – 18 for the MCFOA Annual Conference that will be held in St. Cloud. Current stated that she will be gone on vacation July 8-9 and July 14-16.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Ordinance No.1 – An Ordinance enacting a Code of Ordinances for the City of Verndale

Erckenbrack asked if this is saying that the City has gone through the Ordinances and now they are being implemented. Current stated yes.

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve Ordinance No.1 – An Ordinance Enacting a Code of Ordinance for the City of Verndale, Minnesota, Amending, Restating, Revising, Updating, Codifying and Compiling Certain Ordinances of the City Dealing with the Subjects Embraced in the Code of Ordinances, and Providing Penalties for the Violation of the Code of Ordinances, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution 21-0614 – Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Verndale Fire Department

A motion was made by Stanley to approve Resolution 21-0614 – Resolution Accepting a Donation of grain rescue tubes and an accessory kit with a total value of $3,350.00 to the Verndale Fire Department, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 21-0614A – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions

A motion was made by Carr to approve Resolution 21-0614A – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions in the amount of $24,038.46 to be put in their Building Fund, seconded by Stanley. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 21-0614B – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Resolution 21-0614B – Resolution Accepting a Donation in the amount of $1,500.00 from the Verndale Lions to be given to the Celebration Committee for the 2021 Verndale Days, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

Mayor Erckenbrack adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer Tara Erckenbrack, Mayor