**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday August 8, 2022**

**6:00 pm**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St SW**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Daryl Jacobson, Tony Stanley

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

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

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Trinity Gruenberg, Verndale Sun; Dan Huebsch, CCY; Jesse Finck, Roberta Schultz

**OPENING PRAYER:** None

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND AUGUST PAYABLES**

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

A motion was made by Runyan to approve the August payables in the amount of $103,645.93, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS:**

1. Dan Huebsch – CCY: Huebsch gave an update on the Community Concern for Youth (CCY) program. Huebsch stated that they started a truancy taskforce.
2. Jesse Finck / Roberta Shultz - Water/Sewer Bill: Finck stated that he didn’t receive timely notice of his renter not paying his bill. Shultz stated that they would have shut the water off sooner if they had known the situation. Shultz requested to be notified anytime a tenant is 30 days late. Erckenbrack stated that the City will notify them in a more timely manner. Schultz asked about making the renter’s deposit more than $100.00. Current stated the City has a flat fee of $100 for renter’s. Schultz asked about setting up automatic withdrawal for the renter’s accounts. Current stated that the City only allows withdrawals from Star Bank accounts. Finck asked what was being done about a property next to him that needed to be cleaned up. Finck stated that kids are scared to go to the park because of the language used by the property owner. Chief Carr stated that when he’s been there, he hasn’t heard anything; he will send them another letter.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRE CHIEF-** Madsen was absent.

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**LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT-** Current stated that there was a net profit of $12,440.01 for the month. Current stated that there was an increase in sales in the amount of $1,654.89 from 2021. Current stated that there is a net profit for the year in the amount of $33,076.65. Current stated that there was a decrease in sales for Verndale Days sales in the amount of $246.76. Current stated that Jonny B Badd will be performing on August 20 from 9 pm – 12 am. Current stated the health inspector came on July 13 and there were a few things that needed to be fixed. Current stated that there is one thing on the list that still needs to be fixed.

**POLICE-CHIEF CARR-** Erckenbrack asked if there was a way to add letters sent to the report. Chief Carr stated yes, he can do that.Runyan asked Chief Carr what was going on with the rental west of the Catholic Church. Erckenbrack stated that there’s a five-foot pile of debris on and off the porch.Chief Carr stated that he would talk to the landlord. Chief Carr stated that the intake manifold on the Dodge was cracked and the dealership is having a hard time getting it; it may take two weeks. Chief Carr stated that no applications for the full time Police Officer position have been received yet. There was discussion about the SRO Contract.

A motion was made by Carr to approve the SRO Agreement with Verndale ISD #818, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve the Joint Powers Agreement for the Verndale Police Department, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that he has two (2) bids for street lights. Uselman stated that they are very different in price as one contractor stated that the whole town would need to be rewired and the other said it wasn’t necessary. Uselman stated that right now the poles are powered by the Public Works Shop and the new poles will be powered from the Park. There was discussion about having shorter and more decorative street lights.

A motion was made by Carr to approve the low bid in the amount of $53,280.00 for 10 new street lights for downtown, seconded by Erckenbrack. Voting in favor were Carr and Erckenbrack, Runyan was opposed. Motion carried.

There was discussion about streetlight colors. It was agreed that if there is a green that matches the water tower than the street lights will be green otherwise, they will be black. Uselman stated that the dugout at the ballpark has been scheduled to be built. Uselman stated that Insurance will cover $500 for the shed at the ballpark so they will shingle that themselves. Uselman stated that he would like to hire a contractor to put steel roofing on City Hall. Uselman stated that he didn’t have an amount that insurance would pay, but most of it would get paid for by his budget and the Building Fund. Uselman stated that he has a bid from JR Construction in the amount of $10,061.00 to reroof City Hall with steel.

A motion was made by Carr to approve the quote from JR Construction in the amount of $10,061.00 for the reroofing of City Hall using steel roofing, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

Uselman stated that the County will be restriping the parking diagonals downtown as they ended up being less than 10’ wide.

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Uselman asked Council if he should go out for bids to raise Eastside Drive with class 5. Uselman stated that the road would need to get raised up anyway if it were to get paved. Erckenbrack stated yes, that would be good. Uselman stated that there are two other roads that are pretty bad that need to be taken care of too that he will get bids for. Uselman stated that there was an MDH inspection this past week and everything went well; he is waiting to hear the results of the samples. Erckenbrack asked Uselman if he saw any issues with paying PPE #12 for Maguire Iron in the amount of $39,900.00. Uselman stated no.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Partial Pay Estimate #12 for Maguire Iron in the amount of $39,900.00, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

Erckenbrack asked Uselman if he agreed with the project being substantially complete. Uselman stated yes.

A motion was made by Carr to approve the Certificate of Substantial Completion to Maguire Iron for Contract C – New Water Tower, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

**CLERK/TREASURER- MELISSA CURRENT**- Current stated that she needed approval to transfer $23,037.16 from the Sewer MM account and $59,703.80 from the Water MM account to the General Fund Checking account to pay the PFA loan.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve transferring $23,037.16 from the Sewer MM account and $59,703.80 from the Water MM account to the General Fund Checking account to pay the PFA loan, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

Current stated that elections are coming up; Primary on August 9 and General on Nov. 8. Current stated that the last day to file for office is August 16. Current stated that a Budget meeting date needed to be set as the proposed budget (levy) needs to get approved at the Sept. 12 meeting. The Budget meeting was set for Aug. 31 at 4:30 pm. Current stated that public comment on the budget will be permitted at the Dec. 12 meeting at 6 pm. Current stated that she will be attending the Advanced Academy in New Ulm Sept. 15-16 and she will be gone Sept. 29. Current stated that she received a phone call about traffic going down and turning around on South Lane. Current stated that the caller wanted there to be signs put up that say dead end or no outlet. Uselman stated that these signs have to be placed on the road that it applies to so by the time you turn it’s too late and you need to go down to turn around to get back out. Current stated that she thought the increase in traffic down this road was due to the roads being resurfaced. Uselman stated that that made sense and suggested waiting to see if the problem persists. Erckenbrack asked Uselman to price out what signs would cost.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution 22-0808 – Donation from the Verndale Lions

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Resolution 22-0808 – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions in the amount of $4,480.69 to put in their Building Fund, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 22-0808A – Resolution Accepting a Grant from Todd-Wadena

A motion was made by Carr to approve Resolution 22-0808A – Resolution Accepting a Grant from Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative in the amount of $2,100.00 for the Fire Department to purchase a gas monitor, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 22-0808B – National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Day

A motion was made by Carr to approve Resolution 22-0808B – Resolution Recognizing Oct. 15, 2022 as National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Day, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

Mayor Erckenbrack adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer Tara Erckenbrack, Mayor