**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday September 13, 2021**

**6:00 pm**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St SW**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jim Runyan, Tony Stanley

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

**STAFF ABSENT**: None

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Wayne Stave, Fire Relief Association; Walter Ribeiro and Katherine Ribeiro, Dragonfly-e; Amos Self, Family Life Church; Garrett Erickson, Angie Erickson

**OPENING PRAYER:** The opening prayer was led by Amos Self, Family Life Church

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND SEPTEMBER PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Carr to approve the August 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes and the August 30, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve the September payables in the amount of $17,670.40, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS:**

**Wayne Stave – Verndale Fire Relief Association:** Stave stated that during the auditing process it was pointed out that the Relief Association has enough assets to cover the cost of changing the pension benefit level from $2,000 per year per member to $2,400 per year per member without changing the contribution from the City, which is $0. Stave asked for approval to change the annual benefit amount to $2,400.00.

A motion was made by Carr to approve increasing the Fire Relief pension from $2,000 per year per member to $2,400 per year per member, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

**Walter and Katherine Ribeiro – Dragonfly-e:** W.Ribeiro stated that they are seeking endorsement from the City to find a suitable site within the city limits to install an Organic Material and Food Waste processing plant which includes an Anaerobic Digester. W. Ribeiro gave an overview of how this project would work. W. Ribeiro stated that the University of MN, MPCA and EPA will be involved with the project and that no action would be taken on the project without the approval of the City.

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A motion was made by Jacobson to approve the request from dragonfly-e to investigate a site for an anaerobic digester in Verndale, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

**Clif Allen - Moore Engineering:** Allen wasn’t in attendance; his report was covered in the Public Works report.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**POLICE-CHIEF CARR-** Council Member Carr asked Chief Carr to talk to a property owner about the mess in their yard. Council Member Carr asked about a business being run out of a home. Chief Carr stated that this would fall under the Zoning Ordinance so that would be up to Uselman to investigate. Chief Carr introduced and swore in new Police Officer Garrett Erickson.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT –MIKE MADSEN-** Madsen stated that there were 14 calls for the month; 9 were medical and 5 were fire. Madsen stated that the Red Cross has a program for getting smoke detectors, however they might only be able to get 50. There was discussion about having residents apply to receive the smoke detector and then schedule a time and date for it/them to get installed. Once details of the program are finalized a flyer will be mailed out to the residents with their water/sewer bills.

**LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT-** Current stated that there was a net profit of $1,168.13 for the month; Net Profit for the year in the amount of $27,252.37. Current stated that sales were down from 2020 in the amount of $529.07. Current stated that she received a quote from Keith Waln in the amount of $12,600.00 to replace the AC unit and the Furnace and have the furnace located downstairs; this is $2,000 more than the estimate to have the furnace upstairs.

A motion was made by Carr to approve the estimate from Keith Waln in the amount of $12,600 to replace the AC and Furnace with the Furnace staying located downstairs, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that the company the City uses to help receive and complete locates (KorTerra) will start charging $2,625.00 per year for their services. Uselman stated that this fee will be added to the 2022 budget, but it won’t affect the levy as it will be split between water and sewer. Uselman stated that the County repaving project is not going to happen this year; they are waiting for an easement from BNSF. Uselman stated that paving of the six (6) patches around town will begin this week. Uselman stated that the project behind the bar has been postponed until he can find someone to do the work. Uselman stated that hydrants have been painted and they look great. Uselman stated that he would like to meet with the Personnel Committee after the meeting. Uselman stated that he was okay with the Council approving PPE #7 for Maguire Iron and the Moore Engineering Invoice.

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve Partial Pay Estimate #7 for Maguire Iron in the amount of $32,062.50, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

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A motion was made by Carr to approve the Moore Engineering Invoice in the amount of $40,135.00, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

**CLERK/TREASURER- MELISSA CURRENT**- Current stated that the Board of Appeal and Equalization training is available; the City needs at least two (2) members trained. Current stated that the Workman’s Comp visit was completed and the letter was attached to the packet. Current stated that DEED is offering another on-time exception for MIF funds with 20% being paid to DEED and 80% being kept for general-purpose aid.

A motion was made by Carr for the City to take the one-time exception from DEED, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

Current stated that the City received $30,157.85 under the American Rescue Plan for water, sewer or broadband infrastructure; this is the first half of the total payment. Current stated that the City has four (4) years to spend the money. Current stated that she will be gone September 23-24 to attend the Clerk’s Academy in St. Cloud.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution 21-0913 – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions

A motion was made by Carr to approve Resolution 21-0913 – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions in the amount of $23,734.21 to be put in their Building Fund, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 21-0913A – Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Verndale Fire Dept.

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve Resolution 21-0913A - Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Verndale Fire Department in the amount of $100.00 from the Verndale Senior Citizen’s Club, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 21-0913B - Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Verndale Fire Dept.

A motion was made by Carr to approve Resolution 21-0913B - Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Verndale Fire Department in the amount of $300.00 from the River Trail Riders, Inc., seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 21-0913C - Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Verndale Fire Dept.

A motion was made by Carr to approve Resolution 21-0913C - Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Verndale Fire Department in the amount of $300.00 from Angel and Jack Heimbuch, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

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1. Resolution 21-0913D - Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Verndale Fire Dept.

There was discussion about if there should have been bills sent for the water used. Current will confirm with Madsen.

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve Resolution 21-0913D - Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Verndale Fire Department in the amount of $250.00 from the Pirate’s Den, LLC, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 21-0913E – Resolution of PERA – Police Officer Declaration

A motion was made by Carr to approve Resolution 21-0913E - Resolution of Public Employee Retirement Association – Police Officer Declaration for Garrett Erickson, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 21-0913F – Resolution Approving Proposed 2021 Tax Levy

A motion was made by Carr to approve Resolution 21-0913F - Resolution Approving Proposed 2021 Tax Levy Collectable in 2022 with a total levy of $193,566.00, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

1. Tax Abatement Policy

Current stated that she received this from Katie Heppner of the Economic Alliance, this is something that the County came up with. Current stated that she wanted to know if the City was interested in adopting this policy. Erckenbrack asked if the City has a policy. Current stated that she is not aware of one. Tabled until the next meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

Mayor Erckenbrack adjourned the meeting at 6:48 pm.

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer Tara Erckenbrack, Mayor