**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday October 8, 2018**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St. SW**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**  James Ackerson, Ardith Carr, Tara Erckenbrack, Raye Ludovissie,

Jim Runyan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Barbara Holmes, City Clerk/Treasurer; Gary Rosenthal, Liquor Store Manager; Michael Madsen, Fire Chief; Cory Carr, Police Chief; Matt Uselman, Public Works Manager; Melissa Current, Deputy Clerk

**STAFF ABSENT**: None

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Trinity Gruenberg, Verndale Sun; Joeb Oyster, Moore Engineering; Amos Self, Family Life Church; Don Weniger, Jared Coffey, Robin Fish, John Rousslang

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND OCTOBER PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve the September 10th, 2018 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve the October payables in the amount of $48,100.46 seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS**

**Joeb Oyster - Moore Engineering:** Oyster stated that he is waiting for a discharge letter from Ryan at Wadena County saying it is okay to dewater in the County ditch. Oyster stated that contractors give the best prices when starting a project in the Spring and ending in December. Oyster stated that he is trying to get the City the best product for the best price. Oyster stated that hopefully there will be a bidding date for the project set before the next meeting date.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT- MICHAEL MADSEN- FIRE CHIEF-** Madsen stated that there were 8 calls for the month, 5 were medical and 3 were fire call. Madsen stated that October 10th

will be fire prevention at the school. Madsen stated that there will be a fire drill at 1 pm and then

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the grade school will go down to the Fire Hall for a presentation on fire prevention. Madsen stated that they will be doing a presentation Tuesday morning at Family Life Church for the daycare. Madsen stated that their annual fish fry with the gun raffle will be on October 20th from 5-8 pm at the Civic Center. Ludovissie asked where gun raffle tickets could be bought. Madsen stated that gun raffle tickets are available at Carr’s Convenience, Verndale Liquor and by firemen. Madsen stated that the Fire Department decided not to buy the side by side. Carr asked Madsen if they will take the Fire Truck up to the daycare. Madsen stated yes.

**LIQUOR STORE- GARY ROSENTHAL-MANAGER**- Rosenthal stated that he doesn’t want to sound to like he is always arguing with the Council. Rosenthal stated that he didn’t know if anyone read the article he put in the paper regarding his pricing. Rosenthal stated that he never received an apology from anybody on the Council. Rosenthal took out a poster board to show the Council and those attending the meeting. Ludovissie stated that Rosenthal could just leave his poster board there. Rosenthal stated no, I’m going to go over this. Ludovissie stated no. Rosenthal stated yes, he was. Ludovissie stated Rosenthal needed to go over what the Council tells him to go over. Rosenthal continued to go over his poster board. Ludovissie stated that Rosenthal could put the poster board down now or he could leave and that would be the last of it. Rosenthal stated here’s what we’re going to do. Ludovissie asked for Chief Carr. Rosenthal stated he was put on probation by these two people, the Liquor Committee, that put this article in the paper and that is why he is so upset. Holmes stated that the Liquor Committee did not put that in the paper, it’s a report of the meeting that was held. Rosenthal stated right, he understands that, but someone got the information to put it into the paper as the meeting was held. Carr stated that Rosenthal’s issue is with the Liquor Committee, which they can meet later. Ludovissie stated that Rosenthal could meet with the Liquor Committee, the Committee meeting was not going to be during the Council meeting. Rosenthal asked if the Council wanted to hear his report. Ludovissie stated that he wanted to hear what he had to say, but if he got off course then his report would be done. Rosenthal stated the Council could have his report, but here is a letter that he was suspended, there are 11 pages to protest his reprimand from the Liquor Committee. Rosenthal stated he suggested that the Council read it. Ludovissie stated that none of the Council members had Rosenthal’s report in the packet. Rosenthal stated that he didn’t have time. Ludovissie stated that then the Council can’t review it before. Rosenthal stated he knows that. Ludovissie asked Rosenthal why he was bringing it to the Council now, this isn’t how this works. Rosenthal stated he understands that. Ludovissie stated that the Council needed time to read it too. Ludovissie stated that Rosenthal wasn’t going to go over that right now. Rosenthal stated ok, he wouldn’t, he would leave then. Rosenthal stated he has a Letter to the Editor, he was going to read. Rosenthal asked Gruenberg to put his Letter to the Editor in the paper. Ludovissie stated that Rosenthal could hand the Letter to the Editor in, make copies of it and the Council can read it then. Ludovissie asked Rosenthal to give the letter to Holmes so copies could be made. Rosenthal stated he would leave it on Holmes’ desk. Ludovissie stated that would be great, thank you. Rosenthal stated that it’s amazing how he has something to say, but if they want to put something in the paper they can do that but if he has something to say by

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god they can’t hear it. Rosenthal re-entered the meeting at 6:15 pm and stated to excuse him one minute. Rosenthal requested that the Liquor Committee read the information in the envelope before they come and see him, thank you.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT – CORY CARR – POLICE CHIEF-** Ludovissie asked if a new police officer was hired. Chief Carr stated no, it’s hard. Chief Car stated he would discuss the next steps with the Police Committee. Chief Carr stated things are going really good at the school. Ludovissie stated that he went to an active shooter training today and they said it would be nice to have a Police Officer around Sunday mornings. Ludovissie asked Chief Carr if there was someone that could cover Sunday mornings. Chief Carr stated that he doesn’t have anyone on duty on Sunday mornings, the County does have guys on. Carr stated that when she talked to Chief Carr about this there was concern about having an officer on the night shift and then having to be up for a morning shift or having to switch shifts. Chief Carr stated that the Police Committee will meet after the meeting.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that both air release valves on the sewer force main will be replaced in the next couple weeks. Uselman stated that the valves were installed in 1986. Uselman stated that the City has completed some of the things that were on the mock OSHA audit. Uselman stated that he has some rough numbers from some paving companies for replacing a couple streets. Uselman stated that to get 4th Ave by the school done it would roughly be $2 per square foot plus $30 per linear foot for curb and gutter for a total estimate of $58,000. Uselman stated that to get 2nd Ave between Farwell and Brown done with curb and gutter it was estimated to cost $45,000. Ludovissie asked how much was budgeted for. Uselman stated none, that’s why he keeps asking for more money for streets. Uselman stated he would talk to the school and see if they will help pay for the street since the buses park on the street. Erckenbrack stated that Uselman should tuck those estimates away for the 2020 budget. Runyan stated that the City should look into some alternative funding to fix the streets. Runyan questioned if there was another alternative than redoing the road. Uselman stated that the street could get an overlay done. Rousslang stated that there was an overlay done on that street about 10 years ago. Uselman stated that there needs to be gutter where there is a curb. Uselman stated he doesn’t like the overlay option. Uselman stated that he has some rough numbers from a concrete contractor for installing handicapped sidewalks into the park. Uselman presented four different options. The Council liked the 440-foot design the best, which is estimated to cost $13,050.00. There was discussion about what the MIF money should be used for. Uselman asked the Council if he should proceed with getting bids for the Liquor Store bathrooms. Ackerson stated that no, no moves should be made until the survey results are in and a decision is made. The Council agreed with Ackerson. Uselman stated that there is safety training on October 10th in Bertha. Uselman stated that all employees and area businesses are invited. Uselman stated that the public bathrooms are shut down when the city employees are not working.

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**CLERK/TREASURER- BARBARA HOLMES-** Holmes stated that the new time clock has been installed. Holmes requested approval to transfer $5,000.00 from the water budget – future projects to the Capital Projects - Water Project for the final Wigen payment.

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve the transfer of $5,000.00 from the water budget- future projects to the Capital Projects - Water Project for the final Wigen payment, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

Holmes stated that the Council could read the rest of her report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Time Clock Policy

A motion was made by Ackerson to adopt the time clock policy, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

B. Verndale Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

1. Resolution 18-1008 Authorizing Verndale EOP

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve the Verndale Emergency Operations Plan, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

A motion was made by Carr to approve Resolution 18-1008 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Verndale Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

1. PAWS Bingo License – 2018

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve the 2018 Bingo License for PAWS, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

1. Resolution 18-1008A Accepting Donation Verndale Relief Assoc. And Historical Society

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve Resolution 18-1008A – A Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Fire Relief Association in the amount of $3,050.00 and from the Verndale Historical Society in the amount of $31,000.00 for the installation of the Historical Society Building in the Park, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

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1. Resolution 18-1008B Accepting Donation to Greenlawn Cemetery

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Resolution 18-1008B – A Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Greenlawn Cemetery in the amount of $30.00 from Lorrie Rach on behalf of Jean Erickson for perpetual care, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to close the meeting at 6:49 pm, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, Deputy Clerk Raye Ludovissie, Mayor