**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday October 10, 2022**

**6:00 pm**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St SW**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jim Runyan

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

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

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Trinity Gruenberg, Verndale Sun; Amos Self, Family Life Church; Roberta Schultz, Jesse Finck

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND OCTOBER PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Carr to approve the September 12, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Stanley. AIF/MC.

A motion was made by Stanley to approve the October payables in the amount of $16,917.22, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS:**

1. Roberta Shultz - Schultz stated that a plan needed to be made with their renter’s bill as he has moved out and the bill is over $500.00. Schultz thought that the City should offer residents the option to have the bill taken from their bank account regardless of where they bank. Current stated that the City only uses Star Bank right now, because the bank writes out a check to the City for payments made at the bank, it’s not an automatic debit credited to the City. Current stated that a new payment option became available last week through Doxo. Current stated that residents can pay their bill online through the City website using a credit card or bank account. There was discussion about what could be done with this bill such as crediting the bill for months with zero usage. Erckenbrack asked for a committee to be set up to review the case.

A motion was made by Jacobson to form a sub-committee to review the case and make a plan to take care of the bill, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

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**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRE CHIEF-** Madsen stated that they decided to repair the engine on the grass rig at a cost of $5,800.00; needs approval.

A motion was made Carr to approve moving forward with the truck repairs in the amount of $5,800.00, seconded by Stanley. AIF/MC.

Madsen stated that this week is Fire Prevention Week; school students will be walking to the Fire Hall on Oct 12 for a demonstration. Madsen stated that they will do Fire Prevention at Family Life Church as well.

**LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT-** Current stated that there was a net profit of $1,840.32 for the month. Current stated that there was a decrease in sales in the amount of $3,905.24 from 2021. Current stated that there is a net profit for the year in the amount of $38,632.81. Current stated that the decrease in sales is from having two (2) events at the Community Center in 2021. Current stated that the Lions will be discussing when to start Meat Raffles; possibly in November. Current stated that there will be Karaoke with Jason Neuerburg on Nov. 19 from 9 pm – 12 am and Jonny B Badd will be performing on Dec. 31 (New Year’s Eve) from 9 pm – 12 am. Carr asked if there would be a Halloween Party. Current stated that there will probably be a costume contest and drink specials but probably not entertainment.

**POLICE-CHIEF CARR-** Chief Carr was absent, he left his report.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that he has a grant writer working on the grant for the wheeled loader as the fee was only $250.00. Uselman stated that Vinco Inc. will be in town starting to do some work for the street lights project. Uselman stated that the street lights will be black as the greens didn’t match. Uselman presented the snow and ice ordinance.

A motion was made by Stanley to approve the Amendment to Chapter 93: Streets, Sidewalks and Trees by adding Section 93.02 Ice and Snow on Streets, Sidewalks and other Public Safety, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

Uselman presented a project priorities list for using County ARPA funds. The priority list order was: Water & Sewer Building, Street Lights, Raising Eastside Drive, Frontend Loader & Snow Pusher, Hydrant Install and Paving Eastside Drive. There was discussion about where the funds would be coming from to pay for these projects. Stanley asked if any fund would be brought down to $0. Uselman stated no, not right now.

A motion was made by Stanley to approve the project priorities list for submission to the County, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

**CLERK/TREASURER- MELISSA CURRENT**- Current stated that public comment on the budget will be permitted at the Dec. 12 meeting at 6 pm. Erckenbrack asked about setting up a second budget meeting. Carr stated that one was already set up for Nov. 14 at 5 pm.

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**OLD BUSINESS:** None – already covered

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution 22-1010 – Donation from the Verndale Lions

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve Resolution 22-1010 – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions in the amount of $25,810.76 to put in their Building Fund, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 22-1010A – Donation to Verndale Fire Department

A motion was made by Stanley to approve Resolution 22-1010A – Resolution Accepting a donation from Coor’s Beverage company in the amount of $244.00 to the Verndale Fire Department, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

Mayor Erckenbrack adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer Tara Erckenbrack, Mayor