**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday November 6, 2017**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St. SW**

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

**STAFF ABSENT**: None

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Marlo Benning, Verndale Sun; Tony Pohl, WSN; Joeb Oyster, Moore Engineering; Andrew Lathe, Family Life Church; Wayne Stave, Fire Relief Association; Ronda Kern, Lake Country Insurance; Robin Fish, Melissa Current, Donald Weniger, Amos Self, Elena Sharma, Janet Kiley

**OPENING PRAYER:** The opening prayer was led by Andrew Lathe, Family Life Church.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND NOVEMBER PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Carr to approve the October 2nd, 2017 Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve the November payables in the amount of $22,835.95 seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS**

**Tony Pohl-WSN-** Pohl stated he was just dropping off the 2018 map and calendar**.**

**Joeb Oyster - Moore Engineering:** Oyster stated that there are a couple sheets in the packet he wanted to discuss. Oyster stated that the important 2 sheets were the third and fourth sheets that show the areas that have potential for deep wells. Oyster stated he’s working with funding agencies right now trying to figure out the best method to proceed. Oyster stated that there’s a

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green area and a yellow area. Oyster stated that those are the best areas, green isn’t as good as yellow, but it is a lot closer to town. Oyster stated Uselman has an MDH matching grant to do some test holes/test wells. Oyster stated that for now the City still needs to talk to landowners. Ludovissie asked if this is what Oyster was looking at. Oyster stated yes. Holmes asked Oyster the green or the yellow. Oyster stated the green area is closer to town the yellow is about 2 miles out of town, out by Brian Richter’s. Holmes asked if this one was Richter. Oyster stated Richter covers part of it. Holmes asked who is the green. Oyster stated that the green is Don Johnson and Ray Ismil. Oyster stated that Johnson is Uselman’s uncle. Holmes stated Johnson didn’t sound real positive if he would want to do that or not. Oyster stated that a lot of the green area covers the school too. Oyster stated obviously there wouldn’t be any work done on the football field or the track. Oyster stated that part of the green is on the cemetery. Oyster stated that the City and Moore Engineering are working with the funding agencies as the project moves forward. Oyster stated he wants the funding agencies to agree with what the City and Moore Engineering are doing so they will fund what is being done, but the City and Moore Engineering do not want to spend to the point that they say no. Ludovissie stated that running pipe two miles out of town would get thrown out. Oyster stated it’s close, those are the options. Ludovissie asked if the City would have to maintain this that far out. Oyster stated yes. Ludovissie stated if there was any issue Uselman would have to go all the way out there. Oyster stated yes. Holmes asked if the City could annex out to there in order to do that then. Oyster stated it’s always a possibility, but it wouldn’t be pretty. Ludovissie asked if there would be a strip annexed all the way out there, because every property that is crossed the City would have to get an easement. Carr asked if the green area by the school, Johnson’s and Ismil’s is closer. Oyster stated yes. Holmes stated but it’s not as good. Oyster stated it doesn’t have the capacity, if you look at the bottom of the page, there’s a lot of sand. Oyster stated they have data on wells that have capacity. Oyster stated there are not very many deep wells around because there’s not tons of capacity. Ludovissie asked where would the building set up have to be. Oyster stated the building could be in town. Ludovissie asked if the City could have the building in town but this is where the well would be pumping from. Oyster stated yes. Holmes asked if it would just be a well house sitting there. Oyster stated he wouldn’t get to involved in that part yet they’re just trying to get approval. Oyster stated if the sewer and water committee wanted to get involved that’s fine. Oyster stated Uselman has the funds to do some test holes. Oyster stated all that is, is a two-inch hole just to drill down and see if there’s a sand layer. Holmes asked Oyster, the map of where the best place is, where does that fall in here. Oyster stated it doesn’t even register very well on here because the line they have cut is a little farther North. Oyster stated one of the pockets was MLS and the other one is BRS, these aren’t representative of what’s down here. Ludovissie asked Oyster if he needed approval to take this in and run with it. Oyster stated it is basically the test holes. Oyster stated Uselman has the Department of Health matching grant and they would still be within those, they just need test holes right up close to town but the biggest thing is how does the City coordinate with the land owners. Oyster asked if he should contact the land owner’s or who should contact them. Oyster stated there should be some form of agreement set up with the land owners prior so that if Moore Engineering finds something they

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will have the ability to purchase instead of finding it and then putting something together. Runyan asked if there were any land owners that weren’t interested in it at all. Oyster stated he hasn’t made any phone calls yet. Ludovissie asked Uselman if he knew how anyone feels about this. Uselman stated he didn’t know. Ludovissie asked if the City could just get some feelers out there and if it’s a no, it’s a no and the City will have to figure something out then. Ludovissie asked Oyster about boring into the ground instead of just dropping it down. Oyster stated no, the hole has to be straight down. Oyster stated there are a lot of options still available that if there is a fair amount of water up close to the City there, the City could look at doing another shallow well with it and they can mix the water to reduce any Nitrate level in there before it hits the treatment plant. Erckenbrack asked if mixing the shallow well would reduce the calcium and some of the minerals. Oyster stated yes, the deeper well will have a lot higher levels of Iron and Manganese. Ludovissie asked for approval to apply for the Small Cities Grant and the WIF grant.

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve applying for the Small Cities Grant and the WIF grant, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

Oyster stated he only needed a signature for the Small Cities Grant, the WIF grant application he doesn’t need a signature, he will email Holmes a copy and as long as it comes from the City, that’s all they need. Oyster stated he would send in the original and a copy and also email Holmes a copy. Oyster stated the City’s attorney needs to write up an agreement for any land owner that is willing to participate in the test wells so that the City has the option to purchase if Moore Engineering finds a good spot for a well. Runyan asked with the land owners would there need to be electricity brought through there. Oyster stated yes, it would be everything to get a functional well going, it would probably be two wells. Oyster stated that if Moore Engineering finds a spot they want to do two wells. Oyster stated the way the process would work would be to do the test holes, probably three test holes close to the City. Oyster stated if it looks like they hit a good sand layer they would take samples of that material and send it in to Johnson’s Screen, they make all the well screens, and they would analyze it and check the material, how good it looks, and if it looks great and the driller says it looks good then Moore Engineering might not even do the test holes in a faraway spot. Oyster stated Moore Engineering would look at do they put in a test well or do they apply for a public water supply well. Oyster stated if it looks really good the City might just want to do a public supply well right away instead of spending $20,000-$30,000 on a test well that cannot be reused for a public well. Oyster stated that right now Moore Engineering wants approval to do those test holes and work with the land owners and see how it’s going, that will take a month. Runyan asked Oyster if permits were needed to do the test holes. Oyster stated that the driller needs a permit. Carr stated Moore Engineering needs the permit not the City. Oyster stated yes. Ludovissie stated the City will get moving on that then and try to get some people locked up. Holmes stated that Uselman will contact landowners and she will send an email to Carlisle to let him know that Oyster will be contacting him. Runyan asked if there would have to be a road onto the land owner’s property. Oyster stated not to do

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test holes, if there’s a well, then he could go through how much area would be needed. Runyan stated that that is the first thing people are going to want to know is how much of their land it is this going to take. Oyster stated he could put that information together. Oyster stated he would work with Uselman and if the City wants him to make any calls he will. Oyster stated he could put together an exhibit for the City to show the landowners the areas where Moore Engineering is looking. Uselman verified the locations of possible test wells with Oyster. Runyan asked Oyster if any of the areas fall into property that the City owns. Oyster stated no. Ludovissie stated the Cemetery. Oyster stated they could do one in the Cemetery if the City wants to. Oyster stated it’s just a test hole, if the City wants to get an idea of what material is there. Runyan stated that wasn’t a bad idea. Runyan asked about the school. Oyster stated he could talk to the school. Runyan stated there are some places there. Ludovissie stated the City could take a look. Oyster asked the Council if they had an estimate of how many people in Verndale have a water softener. Ludovissie stated he thought about 70% of the people. Oyster stated that Moore Engineering could add a softener option, he would let the City know how much extra per month per user that would cost. Ludovissie stated that would be nice to know. Oyster stated that an individual normally spends $5-$10 per month on salt plus the cost of the softener. Oyster stated he would include this cost on his report. Oyster stated that MPCA has been looking at Chlorides, which salt is kind of a Chloride from the softener, in wastewater. Oyster stated he didn’t think that Verndale has an issue since the City has rapid infiltration basins but any time in the future he didn’t know if it would become an issue, they are looking at that. Oyster stated that the softening they use would not add any Chlorides to the water. Oyster stated they are just looking at it so they can present it to the City, whether it be the same costs or lower costs.

**Wadena Humane Society**: Holmes stated she hadn’t heard anything from them. Ludovissie stated let’s table that, as long as everyone is in agreement. Holmes asked does the Council want to table or cancel, this is the third month that they haven’t shown up.

A motion was made by Carr to cancel the Wadena Humane Society from the City Council’s Agenda, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

**Elena Sharma-19 1st Ave SW – Building Removal**: Holmes asked Sharma if she had copies for the Council that she should go and make copies of for the Council and for the paper. Sharma asked for the paper. Holmes stated yes, it goes to the Council Packet. Sharma stated ok, what kind of copies are you talking about. Erckenbrack stated that Sharma was supposed to come to the meeting with the contractor bids to upgrade the building. Sharma stated that before she got to that she wanted to say a few things. Sharma stated that the building in question that brings us all here, has anybody seen it recently. Erckenbrack stated the outside looks very nice. Sharma stated thank you. Carr asked if the building has a bathroom. Ackerson stated he went by there today and if you take a closer look on the outside, the shingles are curling. Ackerson stated that

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when he said at the last meeting that they were horrible, they are. Ackerson stated that within a year or two they will be curling even more, when you get a bad roof, you get a bad structure.

Sharma asked who says that. Erckenbrack stated that Phyllis’sgarage says that. Ackerson stated that the lean to, the tin on that it’s got a deep, you know what it looks like, it’s not right. Carr stated but the code is the bathroom, that is what Sharma was going to do was bring the building up to code. Sharma stated about that, what code is that. Carr stated the City’s Commercial Ordinance. Sharma stated that first of all she had done some research and Commercial Code, for your information does not exist. Holmes stated it does in the City’s Ordinance, which is law. Sharma asked which Ordinance. Holmes asked where Uselman was. Sharma stated she has gone through all the Ordinances. Ludovissie stated let’s do this here. Ludovissie asked Sharma if she had a contractor lined up to fix these things and get a bathroom put in. Sharma stated she wanted to know what gives the city the right. Ludovissie stated the City’s Ordinances are put in place to make sure that we are within how the City wants the buildings to be. Sharma stated she would like to know the number of those Ordinances. Carr stated to chat with Uselman. Ludovissie stated that if the Council and Sharma are at this point, then Sharma hasn’t gotten the Contractor, like she was asked to do. Carr stated that Sharma agreed to come in with that or Sharma was going to remove the building. Holmes asked Uselman which Ordinance states Sharma has to have a bathroom, Sharma says it doesn’t exist. Uselman stated that the City Ordinances he didn’t believe say that the building has to have a bathroom. Elena said thank you to Uselman. Holmes stated yes it does, she knows it does. Uselman stated the State Code requires the bathroom. Ludovissie stated then it’s down to a State issue. Sharma stated she has talked to Gary Toft who happens to be the State of MN Department of Labor and Industry Plumbing Code Official and Inspector and he told her she had no right talking to him because the Plumbing Code does not apply to this property. Ludovissie stated that may be true, it might be a whole different animal, it’s hard to say. Sharma stated she wants to find the right animal and go from there. Ackerson stated that basically the improvements he noticed that Sharma did are basically cosmetic. Sharma stated ok, let’s go back to the issue which all started this, why was this property ever in question. Ackerson stated he wasn’t on the Council when this started. Ludovissie stated the whole issue here is that when Sharma came to the Council she was going to remove the building, it was going to be torn down, that was the agreement and it’s in the minutes, it’s been recorded, Sharma agreed to tear it down. Sharma asked when. Carr stated in December, to make that lot one lot, that was the reason the council agreed to make that one complete lot. Sharma asked if the only time when people can combine two parcels is when they remove one structure on one of their existing parcels. Ludovissie stated no, but when you make an agreement with someone and you say you’re going to do something, that is what the Council expects to have done. Ludovissie stated that the Council has been postponing this for a year and at the last meeting Sharma was told to come in with the bids or the Council was not going to do anything. Ludovissie stated he thought the Council was pretty specific on that. Sharma stated ya. Carr stated that the Council is just re-hashing over things, this is the fourth meeting and the Council is not seeing anything different. Sharma stated that at the last meeting the Council

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pretty much tore her apart saying there is an order against this property, when she said there was none recorded with the Courthouse. Holmes stated which it would not be because it hasn’t gone through the Court System. Sharma stated that means it has no validity. Holmes stated no it does not. Ludovissie stated that he didn’t think Sharma understood certain things and that she is misunderstanding. Ludovissie stated the Council is not trying to be hard on her, and he didn’t feel the Council came at her very hard at the last meeting. Sharma stated mm, ok. Ludovissie stated that the Council has been very patient with her, three times Council has allowed Sharma to come back with a different idea and now it’s to the point where the Council is just going to keep circling the way. Ludovissie asked Sharma what she wants to do here, does she want to keep the building. Sharma stated yes. Ludovissie stated that the Council asked her to bring forth a bid to get it fixed to get it done. Sharma stated she has a bid to get it fixed to get it done. Carr stated that that is what the Council needs to see, that’s what you were going to bring the Council. Ludovissie stated that then the next meeting was going to be if it’s not done by this time, then the Council will continue again, it’s a constant here. Erckenbrack asked Uselman if he found the Ordinance. Uselman stated he found in Ordinance 61 section 6, e states that all sewer and water facilities shall be hooked up and operational before occupancy. Holmes asked Sharma if she has copies for the packet then. Erckenbrack stated of the contractor bid and the timeline to when the work will be done. Kiley asked Uselman what Ordinance that was. Sharma stated 61, e. Uselman stated Ordinance 61, section 6, e. Sharma stated she would like to go back to where she absolutely has to do this, what makes her have to follow that. Ludovissie stated it’s an Ordinance. Sharma stated no, no, no, not that. Carr stated at the December meeting, didn’t Sharma come in with this needs to be done, if the Council is going to make this one whole piece of lot. Ludovissie stated yes, Sharma was going to tear it down then she was going to sell it, now she’s going to keep it. Holmes stated why doesn’t the City just turn this over to the attorney, so the City can take it to court and get it done. Sharma stated none of the above actually, she came to the Council to combine the two parcels. Carr stated with these stipulations the council agreed, but now we are arguing over those stipulations. Sharma stated one person at a time please. Erckenbrack stated that when Sharma purchased the property it was purchased with the intent to be torn down. Sharma asked who agreed to that. Erckenbrack stated you did. Sharma stated she did not know there was an option to have it fixed up. Carr stated but that’s not how Sharma presented it to the Council. Carr stated that Sharma said she would tear the building down if the Council combined the parcels. Sharma stated no, that wasn’t part of it, she was combining the parcels no matter what. Holmes stated not if Sharma didn’t get approval. Carr stated not if the Council didn’t ok it. Ludovissie stated it’s a lot of legal, it’s a lot of property, it’s a lot of stuff. Ludovissie stated it is probably outside of the Council’s spectrum and it is outside of Sharma’s spectrum. Ludovissie stated he really thought. Sharma stated actually she had spoken to officials who say this does not apply to her. Ludovissie stated as he stated before it’s going to become a legal matter, so it’s a legal matter now, the City’s attorney’s will be in contact with you. Ludovissie apologized that we had to go down this way, but that’s where we are at. Kiley stated hold it, there’s a change, you need to give her her time. Ludovissie stated excuse me, now you can just wait too. Kiley stated that Uselman just said he read the wrong one. Ludovissie

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stated don’t tell us about giving time when we’ve given her three different times, a year and a half or so, we’ve given her time for this. Sharma stated correction. Kiley stated Sharma hasn’t even owned the property for a year. Carr stated it is December next month. Holmes stated as she already stated her recommendation is to just turn it over to the City’s attorney, we’ve gone long enough. Ludovissie stated obviously we can’t help you guys. Kiley asked can’t you just let her read the letter she has with the research that she’s done. Ludovissie stated no, he thought we were fine with where we’re at, it doesn’t matter, research is research, you could be in a whole different spectrum then where you are at. Kiley stated don’t speculate. Sharma asked does the Building Code apply to properties. Ludovissie stated we are done, this is where we’re at right now, ok. Carr stated yep, so thanks. Sharma stated how about the order that you say there is none, the order is what holds the power for her to comply with the Resolution that was made for the other owner. Holmes stated which passed with the sale of the property. Sharma stated how. Holmes stated she knew Sharma had knowledge of it. Sharma stated she had knowledge that the building was on the condemned list. Sharma stated that’s ok, a Resolution is just a firm intention of an action. Sharma stated a lot of people make Resolutions, the cities do too. Ludovissie stated that when we made that Resolution we put the term that you were going to tear the building down or remove the building, which we have gone round and round with here and we have that, you said that, you stated that a year ago. Sharma asked can you show it to me. Ludovissie stated we’re not going to. Carr stated not tonight, it’s in the minutes. Sharma stated she has the minutes and she doesn’t remember saying that. Ludovissie stated he thought they were moving on from here though so thank you for coming in, but we’re going to move on now, ok. Sharma asked Kiley if she found anything. Kiley stated that Uselman was looking for where the building code is. Sharma stated that she couldn’t find the Resolution and by the way, there’s only 71 Resolutions on the website. Ludovissie stated we’re done right now though, so it’s a legal matter now, ok, so thank you. Sharma stated all right. Holmes asked Sharma if she wanted to submit to the Council her information from her contractor for tonight or not. Sharma stated she didn’t think they were interested anymore. Sharma stated that she does have both contracts and by the way there’s a lot more that needs to be, for example does she even go over the sewer thing, Uselman, you’ve seen what a mess it is. Uselman stated the sewer, ya, their neighboring sewer goes under Sharma’s property through the alley. Sharma stated right and not only, there should be an easement. Uselman stated it’s been there since the 1960’s. Ludovissie stated so that’s not something we’re going to be able to do. Sharma stated but that makes your requirement even way more difficult to comply with so what’s wrong with keeping the building the way it is. Sharma stated that the occupancy doesn’t change, the plumbing code does not apply. Holmes stated yes, it does. Ludovissie stated, like he's stated we’re done with this situation. Erckenbrack stated just like when she bought her lake home when the sale changes hands that’s when the old falls away, it is no longer grandfathered in. Erckenbrack stated she had to replace a perfectly good sewer because the building was sold, that’s the law, that’s the way it works. Kiley replied that’s septic, that’s completely different from all others. Sharma asked where does it say that it changes, when the ownership changes things change. Carr stated that she seriously thought that Sharma should check with the City’s lawyer, they will tell you

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where all this stuff is. Sharma stated she had spoken to the lawyer, the attorney for the revisory, reviser office. Holmes stated Sharma could refer them to Dan Carlisle. Carr stated yep, Dan Carlisle, he can take care of that. Ludovissie stated thank you. Holmes stated she would be updating Carlisle tomorrow, sorry. Sharma stated that’s fine. Ludovissie stated thank you for coming in, but we’re going to move on now, ok. Sharma stated all right, thank you for your time. Holmes stated that if Sharma and Kiley wanted to meet with Uselman they could meet with him tomorrow after the meeting. Sharma stated she had one more comment, when she came and asked for the Ordinances, whichever ones applied to her property, she was told the research would cost $50 an hour. Holmes stated yes. Sharma stated that obviously her as a single parent could not afford, she found in the Ordinances that it is actually $9 Statutes, $9.16 an hour. Holmes stated that if Sharma looked at the Resolutions. Sharma stated yes. Holmes stated from January, there’s a Resolution that says research. Sharma stated where do I find those Resolutions. Holmes stated in the book, you were in here looking at it. Sharma stated that her work hours do not fit into the office hours. Ludovissie stated that is just the way it is. Sharma asked so it’s ok for the City to withhold information. Carr stated that Sharma had been in the City office several times. Sharma stated no, she’s talking about the Ordinances and Resolutions on the website all there is, is up to 71. Carr stated it was all offered to you, twice and you even made that comment at both meetings, when you came in. Ludovissie stated to Chief Carr there you are, we’re done, so could you please escort these two individuals out. Sharma stated excuse me. Ludovissie stated that we’ve asked them politely a couple of times to leave. Sharma stated no you haven’t you said you were done with me. Sharma stated she could walk on her own, thank you.

**Wayne Stave – Fire Relief Assoc. – Request Benefit Increase:** Stave stated that this year’s audit came up with a match so the benefit level for the state of MN says the Relief Association can go up to $2000. Stave stated he was here last year and went with the Council’s recommendation not to raise it, they were going to raise it to $1800 last year. Ludovissie stated that he recommended to wait until this year and raise it to $2000 because they weren’t raising it last year, he did say that. Erckenbrack asked if this was in their budget. Holmes stated it had nothing to do with their budget. Erckenbrack stated that this does have something to do with the City’s budget so it should have been brought up during the budget meeting. Holmes stated actually it doesn’t affect the budget at all unless their investments go south. Erckenbrack stated ok. Holmes stated if their investments go south then the City has to cover to bring it back up to whatever level it was at. Holmes stated as long as their funding stays stable and is good, which it looks to be right now. Stave stated that in the packet he gave them, on page 5 is where they come up with all their equations. Stave stated that if they raise it to $2000 they have over $17,000 as a surplus. Holmes asked if $17,000 would cover one year. Stave stated the thing is, he was talking to their investment person, Ron Meyer about this, and he made these up and on the first page it shows what they are invested in. Stave stated they’ve been doing this for quite a few years and legally they have to have a license to invest. Stave stated that he always hears if everything goes south, quite a bit of ours, 30% is in bonds. Holmes stated that is safe money.

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Stave stated that’s safe money, yep. Stave stated that bonds are locked in and actually do better when inflation goes up. Stave stated Ludovissie is a banker, he knows. Ludovissie stated it’s a reversal yes, you do bad on one end you make up for it on another. Stave stated the orange part on the graph is domestic equity and that’s mutual funds. Holmes stated and that’s relatively safe. Stave stated ya, it’s relatively safe and we have big companies, Oppenheimer, Capital World, Hartford, that’s a huge chunk and there’s international. Stave stated they are actually predicting to be a good year, just with what’s going on. Stave stated he kind of looked at what the State of MN sends out because they have a little bit invested with the state fund and their funds basically follow what the Association does. Carr stated she only had one question, what’s the City’s liability if you go up to $2000. Holmes stated if they lose money the City has to cover it, right now it looks good. Ludovissie stated right. Stave stated it looks very good. Holmes stated if four or five years from now, the market drops, their investments drop. Ludovissie stated but that could happen now. Holmes stated it could, it could happen at any point. Holmes stated that whatever the shortfall is, the city is liable for. Carr stated shortfall from what. Holmes stated from their investments to cover. Stave stated they could have a 10% deficit and it doesn’t affect anything once it gets over that then the City is liable, but they have the option of dropping it too. Holmes stated it’s a their option not a yours. Ludovissie asked what the number is at right now. Stave stated $1600 a year and they asked for $1800 last year and they listened to the Council to wait a year and the economy boomed. Stave stated that the State says they can go to $2000 and they would like to have the Council’s blessing to do that. Ludovissie stated he remembered saying that $2000 was the number they should come in with next year, so he’s going to back this. Holmes stated that since she’s been here there was one year the City had to cover and it was almost $5,000, but other than that the City has never had to pay anything. Carr stated that she truly believed with the leadership there is on the Fire Department if it went south fast, the department would back down. Ludovissie stated they’d take it. Stave stated that the guy that does the investings though, he’s a licensed investor, he’s approved by the State of MN, the Association has a protocol with him that if there is major drops, he is to pull it out, that’s a given. Stave stated that the Association has bonds, safe investments. Carr asked so it’s not risky. Madsen stated that if it gets to a certain level of dropping, then they start pulling money. Holmes stated that for what the Fire Department does for the City, and they did wait a year, they definitely do need an increase. Stave stated that the state says they can do it, they have the backing for it, they have safe investments, he went through the State of MN one and theirs follows it. Stave stated the Department has $20,000 with the State. Ludovissie stated if the Association was doing this on their own, he would be a little leery of it. Stave stated they couldn’t. Holmes stated that they can’t, legally, they can’t. Ludovissie stated that they have someone backing them, they have a licensed person, honestly, it’s up and downs, but he didn’t think the Council would see issues for another year. Holmes stated its just long term she is concerned about. Ludovissie stated that long term, there’s only been one incident in the time he’s been in. Stave stated he’s been on the department 37 years and this is the only incident they’ve ever had. Holmes asked that was the only year the City ever, she though back a few years ago there was a big one the City had to cover. Stave stated that was the one. Holmes

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stated no, no this one was only like $5,000. Ludovissie stated but give or take. Holmes stated that she thought there was a bigger one before but she didn’t research it.

A motion was made by Ackerson to increase the benefit amount to $2,000, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

Ludovissie stated that the Council can’t get them to say what their going to do if things go south. Holmes stated the Council can’t force them to do that in the deal. Stave stated that there are 22 people on this Fire department and they’re all from Verndale, they’re not going to put the City in a bind. Ludovissie stated no, look at the names, it’s kids that are coming in for future Fire Department and everybody’s attached to this. Runyan stated keep that in mind. Stave stated definitely, they have protocols with their investor to pull money out, they are in safe stuff. Stave stated they are not going to see a wipeout of this. Erckenbrack stated as long as everyone doesn’t retire at once. Ludovissie asked if there were only 3-4 people in retirement age right now. Stave stated there are 3 right now and there would be 2 more in a year of two. Stave stated they just got two new guys on and they are going through schooling.

**Ronda Kern – Lake Country Insurance - Waiver:** Kern stated that she needed the form signed for the waiver for the liability that the Council does every year.

A motion was by Erckenbrack to accept the liability waiver, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

Kern asked when the building was going to be done. Holmes stated she hadn’t heard. Holmes asked Madsen if he knew more about when the historical building is going to be done. Madsen stated he hadn’t heard anything on it yet. Uselman stated that they were going to start building it over the Winter. Holmes stated it should be done in Spring. Kern stated she was going to wait until there is something up, there is no use in paying for something when all the City has is a foundation, so she will just watch it. Holmes asked Kern so the City won’t see anything on their insurance until next year then. Kern stated right.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**LIQUOR STORE- GARY ROSENTHAL-MANAGER**- Rosenthal stated that the net profit for the month was $4,927. Rosenthal stated that Pizza sales were $1,647. Ackerson asked is that really good. Rosenthal stated yes, they averaged 55 a week. Holmes stated that maybe the Liquor Store should mark those up a little to make some better profit, the pizzas aren’t very expensive. Rosenthal stated he had thought about that, but that is what brings people into the bar. Carr stated if the Liquor Store marks them up then the Liquor Store won’t sell as many. Rosenthal stated then he’s back to square one. Rosenthal stated the Liquor Store will run an all-day Pizza Special of a Large Pizza and a pitcher of Beer for $12.50 from 11/6- 11/10 for the customers that come in wearing Orange or Pink. Rosenthal stated that brings a lot of people in

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through the day. Rosenthal stated that Texas Hold-Em is having a good turn out with 17,14,15, 17 and 15 players in the 5 weeks of October. Rosenthal stated he did bring the cans in, 173 pounds. Holmes asked where her check was for those, she hasn’t seen it deposited. Rosenthal stated he deposited it, it’s on his deposit slip there. Rosenthal stated that where it says pop can, 05popc. Rosenthal stated the Liquor Store is sponsoring a pool team for the pool league this year on Wednesday nights. Rosenthal stated there needs to be 4 players on a team or 8 patrons when the team plays at home. Rosenthal stated that the cost to the bar is $50. Carr asked if the Liquor Store is covering the cost of the pool team. Rosenthal stated yes. Carr asked about Texas Holm-Em if the Liquor Store is covering. Rosenthal stated it’s costing $35 a week. Rosenthal stated that people are making an effort to spend money in the Liquor Store because the customers know he will cut it out again otherwise. Rosenthal stated an employee gave notice of terminating employment on 11/17/17. Rosenthal stated his new employee, who is going to school and working two jobs, has a primary job that she will make her secondary job so that the Liquor Store is the primary job. Rosenthal stated she is done with her classes Dec. 14th and she starts again on Jan. 15th but she only has two classes she needs to take that last quarter before she graduates. Rosenthal stated she has classes on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday only for the whole semester so she’s looking for hours. Rosenthal stated that she is doing a good job as well. Rosenthal stated he would like to wait to do any advertising until he has some candidates that would like to help. Rosenthal stated the Halloween party had a good turn out with till totals almost $1,900. Rosenthal stated that on Nov. 18th there is a Big Buck/Big Doe contest dinner at the community center and they will be doing a bar over there. Rosenthal stated that he would need council approval but, it would be nice to have that weigh-in right behind the bar. Rosenthal stated that right now it’s at the community center. Carr stated that it is the Lions that run the contest. Ludovissie stated Rosenthal could approach the Lions and ask. Rosenthal stated that it was a Lion that approached him. Rosenthal stated that they used to do it at Bullseye and over there people would wait in the bar to see the deer come through. Carr stated that the Lions have to have people sitting down at the building. Rosenthal stated there are two and they could just as well sit in the bar. Rosenthal stated he could do some incentives, there are a lot of possibilities. Rosenthal stated he would have to talk to the neighbors too, he’d have to set up some cones and rope. Rosenthal stated he thought it was something the Liquor Store and the Council should look into.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT- MICHAEL MADSEN- FIRE CHIEF-** Madsen stated that there were 3 medical and 1 fire calls, mutual aid to Staples for the month. Madsen stated he needed approval to accept the resignation of Dan Kern from the Fire Department.

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to accept the resignation of Dan Kern from the Fire Department, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

Madsen stated that at their last meeting they voted in favor of recommending Cory Stave to be accepted to join the department.

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A motion was made by Erckenbrack to accept Cory Stave as a member of the Fire Department, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

Madsen stated he had talked to Ludovissie about whether to lock in the interest rate right away for the financing of the rescue van or wait until February. Madsen stated that Ludovissie stated that interest rates shouldn’t move a whole lot. Ludovissie stated that there is talk about interest rates going up in February, but a decision could be made in January. Ludovissie asked Madsen if the financing would be for $70,000. Madsen stated it would be for $50,000. Ludovissie stated it probably wouldn’t be that much more interest if it did go up. Erckenbrack asked about tabling the decision. Ludovissie asked if it could wait until next month. Holmes stated that the interest rate either needs to be looked in now or wait, the leasing company needs to know. Holmes stated there is one more decision to make too, is the Council going to go with 6 years with a partial payment the first year and then full payments. Ludovissie asked if it was balloon payments. Holmes stated no, the Council could go with 5 years at $11,677.33 but the Fire Department budget for next year doesn’t have enough left to make a full payment. Madsen stated there was going to be a little bit that would have to be made up somewhere. Holmes stated the other option is to go the first year at $ 2,782.56 but then 5 more years at $11,158.59. Holmes stated she thought it would be more prudent for the Council to figure out someplace to come up with the extra money that the Fire Department needs for next year. Holmes stated by shuffling or there is money in the City’s money market under general funds for capital improvements, the Council could move some of that. Runyan asked Madsen how much they are short. Holmes stated about $6,000. Madsen stated ya, about $6,000. Holmes stated that possibly the Relief could put in some of that. Madsen stated he wanted to make a full payment to stay at the 5-year window. Stave stated that the Relief could talk about that. Ludovissie stated let’s talk about that because maybe the Council could match on that. Madsen stated he didn’t want to go more than 5 years on this. Holmes stated that otherwise it will cost the City a whole lot more money. Ludovissie stated why doesn’t the Fire Department and the Relief Association discuss that and come back with options. Holmes stated that the National Capital Leasing needs an answer as to if the rescue van will be financed for 5 years or 6 years. Ludovissie stated that then the 5 years is where the City will come up with the money. Holmes stated it saves the City several thousands of dollars to do it in 5. Erckenbrack asked if there was money in the general fund to cover that without increasing the budget. Holmes stated yes, because there’s money in the money market general fund, not Fire Department, but in her money, there is a considerable amount that the Council could move those few thousand dollars from there too to cover this, if the Council had to. Ludovissie stated let’s go with the 5-year plan and the Council and Fire Department will have to meet somewhere in the middle on the extra money. Holmes stated she would let the leasing company know that the City is going with a 5-year payment plan but the Council is not positive when they are going to lock in.

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A motion was made by Erckenbrack to go with a 5-year payment plan for the rescue van with no lock in until the council decides they are going to lock in, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

**POLICE DEPARTMENT- CORY CARR- POLICE CHIEF-**  Chief Carr stated he put new tires on the squad car, Heartland Tire had the State bid. Chief Carr asked if he gave Holmes the bill on that yet. Holmes stated no he hasn’t, so it didn’t get paid. Current stated actually yes, it did she put it in the Claims. Chief Carr stated he couldn’t remember exactly what it came to. Erckenbrack stated that she saw it, but she didn’t remember off hand. Holmes asked Current if she remembered. Current stated she thought it was about $675. Carr stated that that was a good price. Chief Carr stated that on State bids you get better pricing on tires. Carr asked Chief Carr how old his car is. Chief Carr stated he’s had it a couple years. Holmes stated that this is the third year. Carr thought that the Council might have to be looking at getting a new car, she didn’t realize the car wasn’t that old. Carr asked if it was a busy weekend. Chief Carr stated that with the snow and everything he kind of told his officer not to hit the traffic that much. Chief Carr stated that his officer said that she made a couple traffic stops and she looked behind her and cars were fish tailing towards her. Chief Carr stated he knew that there was an accident rollover just North of town here about three miles. Chief Carr stated that deer hunting is almost like a major holiday up here, when he went to Wadena traffic was backed up all the way to the energy place, Todd- Wadena. Chief Carr stated that he thought the only other time he’s seen that is during the 4th of July. Ackerson stated they’re supposed to complete Highway 10, are they going to start that this year. Chief Carr stated he’s been hearing that for the last 20 years. Erckenbrack stated that they actually had a plan for 2018, she thought. Holmes stated it was supposed to happen in 17 but it got delayed a year. Ackerson stated the bulk of it is 2018 and 2019. Erckenbrack stated that that is what she remembers, but like Chief Carr said, the City’s been hearing about it for 20 years so the City will believe it when it happens.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that the Baseball Park looks really good. Ludovissie stated there was a lot of volunteer work on that. Uselman stated that the school, he has told them no, but they told him to ask if the City can help them with sanding the parking lot when it is needed. Holmes stated that on the Clerk’s list a similar subject has come through. Uselman asked if that was the email stating that it would be taking away business from somebody else. Holmes stated yes. Carr stated there is no business, that’s why the school is looking right. Uselman stated he didn’t know who put bids in for the school, all he knows is the contractor they have doesn’t have sanding equipment. Holmes stated that if someone who put a bid in that wasn’t awarded has sanding equipment, then the City would be taking money away. Carr stated the way she understands it is the school doesn’t have anybody, so they wondered if the City would be interested in doing it. Erckenbrack asked if the other guy with the higher bid also sands and they chose not to take their business. Ludovissie stated that at which point the City just stepped in a land mine. Carr stated that if they received a bid from someone then that is where they should look. Ludovissie stated they should ask that individual. Carr stated that if that doesn’t work then we’re back to. Ludovissie stated that the individual can

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come to the Council. Carr stated no, the Council doesn’t need to do anything with it, if the school had a bid for sanding then that’s where they need to go. Carr stated that if the reason the school asked the City is because there is nobody, and you know how hard it was to get bids, then how is the City going to react to that. Holmes stated that if the people that she thought would have bid bid then they plowed for the City last year and they provided sanding. Carr stated then the City is off the hook. Holmes stated that that is probably not who they chose for their bid because it wasn’t the low bid. Carr stated but they could hire them to sand. Runyan stated that the school should ask those people to sand and if those people won’t sand then the City could. Carr stated that that is what she is saying. Holmes stated that the City has to be careful not to take business away from other places. Uselman stated that when he talked to Brownlow he told him if the City were to do it that it wouldn’t be on their time. Uselman stated that when he gets the call that doesn’t mean he is coming over to do it, it’s when he has time, the City comes first. Uselman stated that he would sand, salt, plow, clean up downtown, do everything in downtown, the City is done and then maybe he’ll come over and do it. Holmes stated that if that’s the case to though, the City will have to check with their liability, if the City has consented to do this for them, what the City’s liability is if the City hasn’t gotten there and sanded and a kid falls and hurts themselves. Holmes asked is it going on their liability insurance or is it falling back on the City because the City hasn’t completed. Uselman stated the City wouldn’t have a contract with them, so the City doesn’t have an agreement, it would all be on them. Carr asked so the City gets a call and sands the parking lot and charges $50 a half hour. Holmes stated that’s a slippery slope. Ludovissie stated it is a slippery slope and he wasn’t sure he was all on on this one, he feels like if they got bids and they didn’t take the guy that was doing the sanding that was their fault. Erckenbrack stated that’s all on them. Carr stated right. Ludovissie stated he felt like they took the low bid thinking the City could do the sanding and once again the City would be getting in the way of someone’s business. Carr stated the City has that to fall back on, not that the City doesn’t want to help out. Erckenbrack stated that unfortunately if the City does it for one business, the City would get asked to do it for all of the businesses. Ludovissie stated he was not for this, one because of the Clerk’s list and two what the City could be getting itself into. Carr stated ya, because then would the City sand the church parking lots. Uselman stated he can guarantee that he will be getting phone calls asking. Ludovissie stated and you will get phone calls. Uselman stated he knew he would. Ludovissie stated he would recommend getting the number of the guy who can sand and give that to them saying this is the person you need to call. Uselman stated he is going to tell the school if there is someone who bid it, call them. Uselman stated that Brownlow told him if the Council said no, he would be back because he wasn’t taking no for an answer. Uselman asked if they didn’t have a bid. Erckenbrack stated if there is nobody out there that can do the job. Ludovissie stated that if you leave that open they will just say there’s nobody out there. Erckenbrack stated no, that there is absolutely nobody out there that does it. Holmes stated that the City knows there is a person out there that does it because he plowed for the City last year and he sands. Runyan stated it sounds like the school had a bidder that does it, but he may not want to come up there to just sand. Erckenbrack stated exactly but he in his bid had sanding so they should have taken somebody that does sanding if they wanted

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their property sanded. Erckenbrack stated that if they hired the guy that doesn’t do sanding that was their choice now they have decided not to do sanding. Runyan stated he thought they could go back to that guy and ask will you sand and if he says no. Ludovissie stated he thought they needed to go back to their guy. Carr stated that it states it pretty well there that the City shouldn’t be taking business away from Commercial. Ludovissie stated if something goes south they can come back to the City. Ludovissie asked Uselman if he has room in his budget for a sewer camera. Uselman stated yep. Ludovissie asked Uselman if he had picked one out yet. Uselman stated he had a company come in and there are two different cameras, one is more top of the line, convertible, a different pan and tilt head can be put on it. Holmes asked Uselman if it fit in his budget. Uselman stated he wouldn’t be getting the head yet, but it is convertible to that. Holmes asked if he would be budgeting for that for next year. Uselman stated he has enough money to do it now, but he doesn’t see the need yet. Uselman stated he would be able to send it down the mainline and look up the service. Uselman stated that with just a flat camera you’re looking just straight forward you can see the pipe but you can’t look up into it. Ludovissie stated that Uselman will want that especially with what the City has. Uselman stated the other camera is top of the line. Ludovissie stated it’s more like the Cadillac of sewer cameras. Uselman stated this one is $9500, the head by itself he has at $12,000. Holmes asked Uselman if the $9500 is with the head or without the head. Uselman stated just the regular head, $12,000 is the pan and tilt head. Ludovissie stated which Uselman could get later on, so it’s a $3000 head. Uselman stated no. Erckenbrack stated it’s a $12,000 head. Carr stated that the head is more than the camera, but the head doesn’t do any good without the camera. Uselman stated right. Holmes stated so it’s $9,500 plus $12,000. Uselman stated yes. Ludovissie stated that’s more than his cars. Uselman stated he’s not asking for the pan and tilt head right now. Ludovissie asked if Uselman was asking for the $9,500. Holmes stated it’s no good without the other. Ludovissie stated no it works just fine. Uselman stated he would see what the camera does, it might be just fine. Ludovissie stated that Uselman might have to go to the clean out and pull it out. Uselman stated well there’s other options. Uselman stated that the other camera option is not as convertible as the other one is, it’s total would be about $6,500. Ludovissie asked Uselman if he wanted the $9,500 camera. Uselman stated that the camera is all digital so if there’s upgrades. Ludovissie stated so instead of paying someone to do this anymore, the City can do it on its own. Uselman stated ya. Uselman stated it might work like that but main lines are, these push cameras they push easy for about 130 feet after that it’s not real easy to do. Holmes asked Uselman what his average span is. Ackerson asked about the other camera. Uselman stated the other camera is a main line rover, that jet line brings in and goes and televises. Ludovissie asked how much is that bad boy. Uselman stated $32,000. Ludovissie stated that the City was going to put that one on the table for now. Carr asked Uselman if he had to hire someone to come in and video the line anyway what is the purpose of having the camera, what would you need it for. Holmes stated he wouldn’t have to then. Uselman stated this would cover all the services, he’d be able to do every service there is. Holmes stated but not the main. Carr stated that Uselman wouldn’t need anyone to come then. Erckenbrack asked Uselman so no matter who called him in the City, he could get to their house to see whether it was the City’s issue or their issue with

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this. Uselman stated usually he can tell just by opening the manhole. Holmes stated this is going into their private services, which they should be paying for to have done. Uselman stated they will pay. Ludovissie stated that’s the next question, the City will have to build a policy to do this. Uselman stated there would just be a fee schedule, right. Ludovissie stated he would probably want to see some policy work on it. Uselman stated remember the discussion the City had with a resident that during the sewer project the ones that were lined didn’t get televised services. Ludovissie stated some of them didn’t ya. Holmes stated because they didn’t get a second service. Uselman stated he has been approached a couple times on that, that they want their sewer service serviced or televised because they’re paying the same amount. Ludovissie stated that in that case, the ones that didn’t get done, the City would do it for them. Uselman stated he was thinking that he would do that for them. Ludovissie stated ya, for them, but on the other spectrum when the City is past all this, when the people that didn’t get taken care get taken care of then from there on they will get billed for it, the City will let them know how much it will cost. Holmes stated so the City will just have to add that into the fee schedule in January then. Uselman stated yep, and it should probably be more than $50. Erckenbrack asked if the City could bill the going rate, whether they call Uselman or a plumber. Uselman stated a plumber charges $150 per service. Ludovissie stated that the next question was liability, is the city liable if anything goes wrong. Erckenbrack stated so if Uselman is running that down there and he punctures a hole in their old nasty pipe, now the City is liable for that isn’t it. Holmes stated that if a hole is punctured in their old nasty pipe then their old nasty pipe must not have been any good, because a camera can’t go through a good pipe, now if there is crack in the pipe then there’s a crack in the pipe. Ludovissie stated ya, so it’s a technicality, he’s good with that. Uselman stated he didn’t see an issue with braking the pipe. Ludovissie stated that he didn’t think a camera could be forced through a good pipe. Holmes stated that a camera could not break a PVC pipe. Holmes asked Uselman how far it was from manhole to manhole. Uselman stated he would get the 200-foot cord, it is less than 400 feet manhole to manhole. Holmes stated so he could go both ways and do the whole main then. Uselman stated yes. Carr asked if this was something he could get through NJPA. Uselman stated that this is State pricing and the City won’t get better pricing. Runyan asked Uselman where he was at on that one now. Uselman stated $9,500. Erckenbrack stated it is already in his budget, he just needs approval to buy that.

A motion was made by Ackerson to approve the purchase of the $9,500 sewer camera, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

Runyan asked if the camera is good enough. Uselman stated this one. Holmes stated no, next year he’ll be asking for the $12,000. Ludovissie stated how about he gets this and tries it out and see if he needs the head. Runyan stated that’s what he means, a while back the City bought a tractor with a loader on it and now the City has a bobcat. Ludovissie stated he sees a need for this. Erckenbrack stated that the City doesn’t want to buy the Pinto if the City has to buy the Cadillac later. Holmes stated ya, she agrees. Runyan asked is there no place to rent these things. Ludovissie stated no, it is either bought for a business or there isn’t one. Uselman stated there is

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only one guy he knows locally that has anything like this and it’s ancient. Runyan stated he was thinking about other cities. Uselman stated Little Falls just bought the $73,000 camera and they are considered contractors now. Carr asked Uselman how much it would cost to have Little Falls come over. Uselman stated he didn’t know and they would do main lines. Ludovissie stated that that’s a bigger piece of equipment. Carr stated that Uselman wouldn’t have them come over because somebody has a sewer backup. Uselman stated no. Runyan asked if the City was spending too little on the camera. Uselman stated that the rover will not do services, the $9,500 camera is the only one that will. Erckenbrack stated and the City can get it to do the main lines. Ludovissie stated it is what the City needs. Holmes stated it is workable. Ludovissie stated that Uselman will have to work with this camera to see if he even needs the $12,000 head. Uselman stated that there is training on it and it is $135 an hour and it will probably be two hours. Erckenbrack asked if it was still in his budget. Uselman stated ya, it is. Ludovissie stated that Uselman could end up playing with this for a month or two and then if he decides to do training, there are so many options on the table with this thing right now. Ludovissie stated that the City should go with the $9,500 camera for now and if Uselman needs the head, then get the head. Uselman stated that he would get three different size skids with the camera, there are other roller skids that might help push down the main line easier for $600-$700. Uselman stated that there are different ways to get it down the main line too. Uselman stated he went to the R5 Summit at NJPA. Ludovissie asked Uselman if he got the $500 voucher. Holmes stated the City got six hundred and something and it was given as a check this time, the City doesn’t even have to spend it, they just gave the City money. Uselman stated that the Council should attend next year. Uselman stated that on Saturday the 28th he received a call from a business owner in town and their sewer had backed up. Uselman stated he checked the mainline and it was clear and flowing. Uselman stated that the business has two cleanouts outside and he checked to see if he could clear them with the City sewer snake. Uselman stated he was able to clear it with no problems. Uselman asked the council if he should charge the business. Ludovissie asked what a plumber would do. Erckenbrack stated that if Uselman did something then yes, they should be charged, because the City has to cover his time. Erckenbrack stated if Uselman just walked in and opened up the man hole cover and said it isn’t the City’s job. Uselman asked the Council if they want him to come in and look at a manhole and say it’s not the City’s problem and tell them they need to contact a plumber and go home. Ludovissie stated that he didn’t feel like that is the City. Erckenbrack stated that Uselman is there, he can do the job, he’s helpful but the City needs to cover the cost. Ludovissie stated that there should be a $50 charge, which is less than it would cost for a plumber and there should be no complaint to that. Ackerson asked what Ludovissie said. Ludovissie stated that it is $50 for the City to do anything for a half an hour, so it’s a $50 charge. Ackerson stated that they would be getting by cheap. Holmes stated that the City needs to tell them that before the work is done. Carr stated that she didn’t think that the City wants to treat its businesses like that, too bad, so sad. Uselman stated no, he has a problem even telling residents, no it’s their problem. Uselman stated that if the City is paying him for two hours he might as well try to help them for two hours. Ludovissie stated that on top of that there would be a $50 charge, the City will take a look and see what it can do, the City will not work on it for

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more than a half an hour and if it doesn’t get fixed then they will need to call a plumber. Ludovissie stated that if he lived in a town where someone would do that he would be happy with where he lived. Holmes stated in this instance, since the City didn’t tell them that, the City probably can’t charge them. Ludovissie stated that the City could discuss that with them. Holmes stated that her first response is how long does the City bill them for because it’s not Uselman’s responsibility to clean out a private service. Ludovissie stated for Uselman to approach the business and see what they say, if they’re going to buck the system that’s fine, there’s nothing the City can do. Erckenbrack stated moving forward, let them now it was discussed that the City would like to charge for this. Holmes stated that if they want the City to do it it will be a minimum charge of this much money. Ludovissie stated that the City would put this much time into it and after that they will have to get a plumber. Erckenbrack stated especially since the City has a lot of elderly residents and Uselman is the only one there and he thinks he can handle the job in a half an hour it’s nice to do it. Holmes stated the point is too, the City has a lot of elderly residents and how much time is Uselman supposed to be putting in. Ludovissie stated like he said half an hour is what the City charges $50 for, after that they will have to call someone who can do it. Holmes stated that it’s opening the door for a lot of calls. Carr stated that Uselman was getting paid for two hours anyway. Uselman stated that he’d get the call anyway and he has to come in and make sure it’s not the City’s problem, so he’s there anyway. Ludovissie stated that the City can try it and if turns into something where everybody’s calling him, then ya, the City can’t do that anymore. Runyan stated that if Uselman has to come in for two hours why doesn’t the City charge them whatever two hours of his time is worth. Holmes stated he gets paid for two hours if he’s in for 5 minutes. Runyan stated that’s right but if Uselman has to come in and the City has to pay him for two hours the basic fee should be two hours’ worth of pay. Ludovissie stated it would be relatively close to that. Uselman stated it would be less than that. Ludovissie stated he thought this is what the City should try and do. Holmes stated she didn’t feel the City could go backwards on this one, if it isn’t presented at the time. Ludovissie stated maybe they would make a donation of this certain amount for the help the City brought to them. Erckenbrack stated that at least they would know in the future that this would be the charge.

**CLERK/TREASURER- BARBARA HOLMES-** Holmes stated that Julie Nelson attended training on the new Other Post-Employment Benefits other than pensions and would like the City to have an actuary completed regarding the City’s health insurance. Holmes stated that employees are allowed to remain on the insurance after retirement if they pay the premiums themselves. Holmes stated that Nelson didn’t know if the impact would be minor ($1,000) or major ($50,000) for the City. Holmes stated this is another addition to the GASB requirements. Holmes stated that the League of MN Cities said the City could have this completed by Gallagher for a $3,500 fee. Holmes stated that Nelson received a quote from an actuary firm she has used before for $2,000 - $2,200. Holmes stated that Nelson also received a quote from the company that had done the training session that started all this for $700 for the liability estimate letter, however if the liability is deemed material they would want to do a full GASB 75 report

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but they did not give an estimate for that. Holmes stated that Nelson really wants this done. Ludovissie asked why. Carr asked ya, why does she want this done. Erckenbrack stated that they wanted the Fire Department to do it but they opted out. Holmes stated that on the PERA the City opted no, the City wouldn’t do it too. Holmes stated that she thought Nelson was feeling like the City just wasn’t taking care of these things and yet she has to report on them and she is not an actuary. Holmes stated that in her opinion the actuary is going to be immaterial because the post-employment all that is benefits ok, it’s on the City’s health insurance, employees can stay on the health insurance when they retire, the employee has to pay it, it doesn’t cost the City anything, so how is it affecting the City plus once someone reaches Medicare age, they will go onto Medicare they aren’t going to stay on a Cobra on their insurance anymore so it is not affecting the City so she can’t see how Nelson is coming up with how this could possibly be material. Ludovissie stated that it’s a fear factor. Holmes stated when the City has 4 employees who are getting insurance at $368 a month, how can this become material. Erckenbrack stated she thought this would apply to bigger cities not to Verndale. Carr asked if PERA was a state-wide program. Holmes stated ya, but this is only on the other benefits. Ludovissie stated that Nelson wants this to make herself feel comfortable with what’s going one. Ludovissie stated that Nelson could state in her examination that the City doesn’t do this, that could be her out if she wanted it, but he is not interested in paying $700 for a letter and then to go in and do a GSAB 75 report just in case things go wrong, this is a fear factor thing that they do, this is a just in case thing, so if they find that the City is in compliance then the City just paid $3,500 for nothing. Ludovissie stated that if everybody was in agreeance then the City would just proceed the way it usually does. Holmes asked if she should tell Nelson that the City is not going to do an actuary. Ludovissie stated the City is not interested, is everybody ok with that. Everyone agreed.

Holmes stated that the USDA loan closing is scheduled for November 21st in Alexandria. Holmes stated that she has been working with the attorney, the bond council and the USDA on getting everything ready for closing. Holmes stated the City will be paying off the loan from Rural Development. Holmes stated that the loan will be covered by grant funds from the USDA. Holmes stated that she will come back here and do a wire transfer to pay off the other loan. Holmes stated that one snafu is that in 2015 she gave the attorney the City’s abstract and she said she mailed them back in 2016, and Holmes didn’t receive them so they are gone. Ludovissie stated that the City needs those back. Homes stated that the attorney shows that she sent them out, Homes did not get them so they are lost in the mail somewhere. Ludovissie stated that in doing that through policies people sign off on the abstract and pick them up, so if the City did not sign off on that. Holmes stated that the attorney signed off that she has them, Holmes still has that attached to the envelope that they came out of. Ludovissie stated that then the City needs to get them back and if the City doesn’t get them back she needs to give them back to the City. Holmes stated that the attorney said she mailed them back, but Holmes hand delivered them, why did she mail them. Holmes stated that the attorney stated she had proof that she mailed them. Ludovissie asked this is who. Holmes stated it’s Beth at Dan Carlisle’s office. Ludovissie stated that Holmes needs to talk to Carlisle about this and get it figured out. Holmes stated that the attorney was supposed to be giving her an estimate to replace these and Jeff has

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said that for the closing they can do it with the o and something or other instead of the actual documents. Ludovissie stated o and e. Holmes stated ya, but then if in an audit it is found that that is not sufficient then the City will have to do something to comply again. Carr stated that it should have been a certified mailing right. Holmes stated well, or she could call her and ask her to pick them or bring them back. Erckenbrack stated that if it’s signed that it is still in her possession, then that’s on their end. Ludovissie stated to talk to Dan Carlisle. Holmes stated that the City has received $165,432.13 in prepaid assessments. Holmes stated that there were overpayments made on some accounts that paid the interest for 2017 and refunds will need to be made in the amount of $305.18 for these overpayments. Holmes stated the annual amount of principle and interest the City will be receiving from the remaining assessments will be $51, 497.42 each year for 20 years as long as everybody makes their whole payment. Holmes stated that the assessments were brought to the County for processing on November 2nd, so they are filed with the County. Ackerson stated he would like to make a suggestion, at the last budget meeting where the Council tried to finalize it, he thought the Council should relook at the wage of Holmes, but that would mean another budget meeting. Ackerson stated that he just isn’t real comfortable about how the Council decided that. Ludovissie stated that’s fine, he’s in agreeance, the Council can go over that again. Ludovissie stated that the Council will need to set a time for that. Carr stated that it needed to be done before the first December meeting. Holmes stated that’s the truth and taxation meeting. There was discussion about a date and time. The budget meeting was set for November 14th at 5:00 pm. Ludovissie stated that he would like the Council to come in with somewhat of an idea of how to handle this, it should be handled. Runyan asked what the Council was trying to handle. Ludovissie stated the on-call time for Holmes, and he thought it was going to come down to a phone call per is his thinking and he will come up with a plan and see if it sounds good to anybody. Carr stated and part of that is the huge discrepancy in wages. Runyan stated he thought Holmes’ number got erased off the machine. Ludovissie stated it did, but her number still has to be posted on the door and there’s going to be times where Current may have to call Holmes too and the Council will have to figure out, because if someone is gone and on vacation then, you know what he doesn’t like to be called. Runyan stated he knew he didn’t like being called, but it happens all the time at work. There was discussion about being paid for phone calls. Uselman stated he didn’t get paid for phone calls, only if he had to come in. Ackerson stated why doesn’t the Council address this stuff at the meeting. Carr stated she thought so too, come with their arguments.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Fair Oaks Lodge, Inc.- Request for Emergency Water Service

Erckenbrack stated that this was something that came up years ago. Holmes stated that they wanted it updated. Erckenbrack stated so they are still wanting this. Holmes stated yes, and she couldn’t find anything in her computer. Erckenbrack stated that the City has never done this

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or given it, this is just for emergency purposes. Holmes stated ya, Fair Oaks sent the City what they had from 2005, Holmes couldn’t find this in her computer anywhere. Erckenbrack stated that for some reason she wanted to say that she had heard this or read this at some point in her Council time that Verndale was the emergency water source. Holmes stated that as long as Council agrees to this she will send it, but she needs Council approval. Holmes asked if this facility was connected to Tri County Hospital. Erckenbrack stated no it’s not, they sold it, it used to be. Holmes stated ok.

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to accept the emergency water plan agreement between the City of Verndale and Fair Oaks Lodge, Inc., seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

1. Wastewater System Improvements- Year 3- Assessment Deferment
2. Resolution 17-1106-Weniger

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to accept Resolution 17-1106- A Resolution Approving a Special Assessment Deferment for Wastewater System Improvements- Year 3 for Donald and Brenda Weniger, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC

1. Resolution 17-1106A- Vining

A motion was made by Carr to accept Resolution 17-1106A- A Resolution Approving a Special Assessment Deferment for Wastewater System Improvements- Year 3 for Veta Vining, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

1. Resolution 17-1106B- Tieman

A motion was made by Ackerson to accept Resolution 17-1106B- A Resolution Approving a Special Assessment Deferment for Wastewater System Improvements- Year 3 for Robert and Deette Tieman, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

1. Aldrich Lions- Raffle Request - Resolution 17-1106D

Carr asked why the City was doing this. Ludovissie asked if it was in Verndale. Holmes stated that the Aldrich Lions are holding the raffle at Yesteryears.

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to accept Resolution 17-1106D-A Resolution approving the Lion’s Raffle, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 17-1106E- Re-establishing a Polling Precinct and Precinct Location

Holmes stated that this is something the City will have to do every year from now on.

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A motion was made by Erckenbrack to accept Resolution 17-1106E-A Resolution Re-Establishing the Polling Precinct and Precinct Location for the City of Verndale as the Verndale Civic Center, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

1. Resolution 17-1106F- Authorizing the Issuance, Sale, and Delivery of a $1,369,000 General Obligation Sewer Utility Revenue Bond, Series 2017, to Pay a Part of the Cost of Sewer System Improvements; Establishing the Terms and Conditions Therefor; and Awarding the Sale Thereof

Holmes stated this is for the loan closing.

A Motion was made by Carr to accept Resolution 17-1106F- A ResolutionAuthorizing the Issuance, Sale, and Delivery of a $1,369,000 General Obligation Sewer Utility Revenue Bond, Series 2017, to Pay a Part of the Cost of Sewer System Improvements; Establishing the Terms and Conditions Therefor; and Awarding the Sale Thereof, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

1. NJPA-Board of Directors Election Nomination

Holmes asked if anyone wanted to recommend anyone or is the Council just going to ignore this and let it go away. Ludovissie stated the Council will ignore it.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Region Five- Elected Official’s Summit - November 21st

Holmes stated that is just in case anyone wants to attend.

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm, seconded by Ackerson. AIF/MC

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, Deputy Clerk Raye Ludovissie, Mayor