**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday November 14, 2022**

**6:00 pm**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St SW**

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

Tony Stanley

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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

**STAFF ABSENT**: None

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Trinity Gruenberg, Verndale Sun; Tillman Phagen, Family Life Church; Lynn Crawley, Terry Taves, Amos Self

**OPENING PRAYER:** The opening prayer was led by Tillman Phagen, Family Life Church.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND NOVEMBER PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve the October 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Stanley. AIF/MC.

A motion was made by Stanley to approve the November payables in the amount of $26,973.52, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS:**

1. Lynn Crawley – Snow and Ice Ordinance – Crawley asked for clarification on being charged for removing snow from the sidewalks. Stanley stated that if the City doesn’t move the snow then she wouldn’t get a bill. Stanley stated that homeowners are responsible for removing the snow and ice from the sidewalks, if they aren’t able to then they are free to hire somebody to do it. Stanley stated that the City is not responsible to find a contractor for the homeowners. Stanley stated that if someone isn’t able to clear the sidewalks themselves or they don’t want to hire someone to do it then the City will do it and charge $25.00. Crawley expressed concern about the possibility of a civil suit (section D of the Ordinance). Stanley stated that this a last resort for the City; the City legally has to state this as a possibility. Crawley gave suggestions to enhance the safety of children other than using this ordinance. Crawley asked for notices to be put on the bottom of the water bills when something such as an Ordinance will be discussed.
2. Ronda Kern – Liability Waiver

A motion was made by Runyan to not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability, seconded by Stanley. AIF/MC.

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**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRE CHIEF-** Madsen stated that there were eleven (11) calls for the month; 6 were fire and 5 were medical. Madsen stated that the GMC Grass Rig is back in service. Madsen stated that he would like to purchase hose from Great Plains Fire in the amount of $1,666.00 as their hoses have been getting damaged in fires.

A motion was made Carr to approve purchasing hose from Great Plains Fire in the amount of $1,666.00, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

**LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT-** Current stated that there was a net profit of $1,378.75 for the month. Current stated that there was an increase in sales in the amount of $1,780.03 from 2021. Current stated that there is a net profit for the year in the amount of $40,011.56. Current stated that Meat Raffles started on November 4 and they will continue on Fridays at 6:30 pm. 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.

**POLICE-CHIEF CARR-** Chief Carr stated that he received two quotes from SHI to purchase a new mobile computer for the squad car; he needs approval.

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve the purchase of a new mobile computer in the amount up to $6,000.00, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

Chief Carr stated that he purchased a taser for $180.00.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that the fire hydrants have been replaced and a curb stop was replaced as well. Uselman stated that some work has been completed on the new light poles; all that’s left is to install them when they come in and the weather is good. Uselman stated that the project to reroof City Hall has not been scheduled yet, however it could take place in the winter. Uselman stated that the County ARPA grant has been sent to the County for their approval. Uselman stated that he received a call from someone interested in purchasing the mobile home park asking if the water and sewer billing could go to each individual home instead of the owner paying the bill. Uselman stated that the interested buyer is interested in purchasing new meters that have an actuating valve; the City could just drive by and push a button to shut them off. Uselman stated that he hasn’t heard back from the City’s supplier (DSG) about whether Kamstrup makes this kind of meter. Uselman stated that he knows Sensus does, but he doesn’t know if Sensus meters would work with the current reading system. Erckenbrack started that the interested buyer would need to purchase the meters from DSG, if they are compatible with the reading system, in order to consider doing the billing differently. Council agreed that there isn’t an upside to the City to do this. Uselman stated that the lawn mower trailer was stolen from the treatment plant. Uselman asked if the City should auction off the Pirate logos from the old tower. Council agreed to do so using sealed bids. Uselman asked what constitutes needing to clear snow off of the sidewalks. Uselman stated that his idea is that if there is snow on the sidewalk, it needs to cleared off. Council agreed.

**CLERK/TREASURER- MELISSA CURRENT**- Current stated that public comment on the budget will be permitted at the Dec. 12 meeting at 6 pm. Current stated that a new copier was installed on November 10. Current stated that a public hearing needed to be set up for the DEED grant for the

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Water Tower Project as the City has had two annual DEED reports. The public hearing was set for Dec. 12 at 5:45 pm. Erckenbrack asked to have the agendas posted on the City website and to check the website to make sure things are being posted in a timely manner.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution 22-1114 – 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 $8,429.09 to put in their Building Fund, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 22-1114A – Donation from the Verndale Lions

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Resolution 22-1114A – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions to the City of Verndale to purchase supplies, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 22-1114B – Donation to Verndale Fire Department

A motion was made by Carr to approve Resolution 22-1114B – Resolution Accepting a donation from The Pirates Den, LLC in the amount of $140.00 to the Verndale Fire Department, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 22-1114C – Certify Election Results

A motion was made by Stanley to approve Resolution 22-1114C – Resolution to Certify Results of the Tuesday, November 8, 2022 Municipal Election, where Tara Erckenbrack was voted in as Mayor and Brad Cottrell and Jim Runyan were voted in as Council Members, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

1. Resolution 22-1114D – Declaring a Vacancy

A motion was made by Carr to approve Resolution 22-1114D – Resolution Accepting Resignation of Tony Stanley and Declaring a Council Vacancy, seconded by Jacobson. Voting in favor were Carr, Erckenbrack, Jacobson and Stanley. None were opposed. Runyan abstained. MC.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

Mayor Erckenbrack adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm.

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer Tara Erckenbrack, Mayor