**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**FINAL BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**Wednesday November 28, 2018**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Verndale City Office**

**101 Brown St. SW**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ludovissie at 5:00 p.m.

Madsen didn’t change anything in his budget. The Council was okay with where his budget was at.

Holmes stated that she would like Current to be increased to $15 per hour immediately instead of waiting until January due to the extra responsibilities she has received at the Liquor Store. Ludovissie asked about pulling out the Liquor Store budget. Holmes stated that the Liquor Store budget doesn’t impact the levy. Current stated that Liquor Store budget had recycling bins added to the budget. Ludovissie stated that overall the Liquor Store budget will go down because the management costs will not be that high. Holmes asked is she could due the increase to $15 per hour. Council agreed. Holmes stated that Current is also using her cell phone a lot for things at the Liquor Store. Ludovissie asked if Current could get on a City plan. Holmes stated that the City gives her a stipend of $50 per month for phone usage. Holmes stated that it would cost the City a little bit more to provide a phone for Current. Holmes stated that Current would get one of the free phones. Ludovissie stated he would be okay with that. Carr asked if this could be done right away. Holmes stated that it would take a month to get a phone.

Ludovissie stated he wanted to look at the Government buildings budget. Ludovissie stated that he would like the $6,000 in Building Repair and Maintenance to go back down to $4,000. Uselman stated that it was up at $10,000 and he dropped it to $6,000. Uselman stated that this money would be used to move Chief Carr out of his office and into a new office. Holmes stated that the City Office portion would not be able to get done this year with dropping it down to $6,000.

Ludovissie stated he was okay with the Police budget because the school pays their portion. Council agreed.

Ludovissie stated that the City needs to start repairing some streets which will need to be budgeted for in the future in the Highway and Streets budget.

Ludovissie stated that the other budgets have small increases so he was okay with those budgets. Council agreed. Runyan asked what Holmes changed on her budget. Holmes stated Professional Services were dropped down since the City hasn’t had to take down any buildings but the City needs to have the Ordinances done so there is still an increase. Ludovissie stated that as long as our budget is comparable to other city’s he is okay with the budget. Chief Carr stated that Officer Lorenzi will also need a stipend for his phone so that will increase his budget by $600.

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The Council agreed to go in with a 5% Levy increase.

Runyan stated that he would like to be updated about what is going on with the Liquor Store. Runyan asked why Rosenthal was terminated. Ludovissie stated that was discussed during a closed meeting so Runyan could come in and listen to that portion of the meeting.

Holmes stated that if any of the Council members wanted to be payed for any committee meetings, she needs the meeting dates and which committee met to be submitted.

There was discussion about changes needing to be done at the bar and the excitement and new ideas that are being discussed. Runyan asked if Mayo was doing the managerial duties. Erckenbrack stated no, Current is. Erckenbrack stated that Schmitz will be employed with the City until December 22nd. Erckenbrack stated that the plan for the Liquor Store is to have a Shift Supervisor. Erckenbrack stated what the duties of this position would be. Erckenbrack stated this position would be payed less than what a manager would. Erckenbrack stated that the Liquor Committee is recommending to table any discussion about possibly selling the Liquor Store for at least six months.

Runyan asked if the Council was interesting in putting money into PERA. The Council agreed that it is each individual’s decision on whether they want to be enrolled in PERA. Holmes stated that the City does have to match what is put into PERA. Runyan stated that he figured out how much it would cost the City. The Council agreed that as long as Runyan didn’t put in for any extra meetings that he could enroll in PERA. Runyan agreed. Holmes asked if any other Council member wanted to be enrolled in PERA. Council replied no.

Mayor Ludovissie closed the meeting at 5:25 pm.