**CITY OF VERNDALE**

**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday March 9, 2020**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Verndale City Hall**

**101 Brown St. SW**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**  Tara Erckenbrack, Raye Ludovissie, Jim Runyan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** James Ackerson, Ardith Carr

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

**STAFF ABSENT**: None

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Amos Self, Family Life Church; Clif Allen, Moore Engineering; Trinity Gruenberg, Verndale Sun; Robin Fish, Mike Sickels, Michelle Schluttner

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND FEBRUARY PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve the February 10, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

A motion was made by Runyan to approve the March payables in the amount of $18,899.98, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS**

**Mike Sickels and Michelle Schluttner – Water Bill:** Ludovissie asked if anything was found to be leaking. Uselman stated that he was unable to find any leaks. Ludovissie stated that since Sickels and Schluttner have not asked the Council to credit any other bills he was willing to just bill their average monthly usage instead of the 36,000 and 15,000 gals that went through the meter. Ludovissie stated that if there is another high bill then they will have to pay it. Runyan asked if the meters could read wrong. Uselman stated that water has to go through the meter in order for the meter to move. Erckenbrack expressed concerns about writing off their water bills.

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve crediting the water and sewer bill for Mike Sickels and Michelle Schluttner (Mane Hair Design) so that the average usage is what is due, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

**Clif Allen - Moore Engineering:** Allen stated that there is no contractor payment this month as they are close to the end of their contract. Allen stated that startup has been done on the filters and R.O. units. Allen stated that startup of the Water Treatment Plant is scheduled for tomorrow

Page 2

March 9, 2020

City of Verndale

Regular Council Meeting

(March 10) with the pump supplier and contractor on site. Allen gave an update on the water tower project. Allen stated that there have been some challenges working with DEED and Rural Development as they are both funding agencies and it gets confusing which is the lead agency. Allen stated that they both have requirements for SHPO reviews and they both interpret them differently. Allen sated that DEED wants to review a broader area for historical impacts. Allen stated that they have asked SHPO for a price to get this done. Allen stated that it still looks like a late Spring early Summer bid.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve paying the Moore Engineering Invoice in the amount of $15,012.60, seconded by Erckenbrack. AIF/MC

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRE CHIEF-** Madsen stated that there were 2 medical and 4 fire calls for the month. Madsen stated that the yearly township meeting went well and he discussed increasing the 2021 budget $1500 for wages and $1500 to purchase a set of turn-out gear every other year. Madsen stated that they will be doing a mock car accident for prom this year on April 24 in the afternoon. Madsen stated that the Fireman’s Action will be on April 11 at 9 am. Madsen stated that they will have a pancake feed along with the flower sale on May 16 from 8:30 am – 11:00 am.

**LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT-** Current stated that Mitch Gerard played on Feb 15 and that went well. Current stated that Horizon Lights Entertainment will be doing a DJ Service with prizes on March 14 from 8:30 pm – 12:30 pm. Current stated that they are only charging $250 for the first show. Current stated that on April 1 Granite City will have their buying show and that’s who provides the bar with cigarettes and snacks. Current stated that it will be in St. Cloud from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm. Current stated that she would like to go and will ask Dawn Mayo if she wants to go. Current stated that the Liquor Store is looking into buying an auto fryer that would sit on the counter at the bar for $440.00. Ludovissie asked to make sure if this uses grease or not. Erckenbrack stated to get approval from the Liquor Committee once this is known. Current stated that new chairs have been ordered and should be arriving within a week.

**POLICE-CORY CARR-POLICE CHIEF-** Chief Carr stated that the Durango will be coming on March 23.

**PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER-** Uselman stated that MacQueen Equipment has found a sweeper for the City; the cost of the sweeper is $115,000. Uselman stated that MacQueen will inspect the sweeper and make sure everything is up to code before it sells it to the City. Uselman asked if the City was going to purchase the sweeper or finance it.

A motion was made by Erckenbrack to approve purchasing the street sweeper from MacQueen Equipment in the amount of $115,000.00, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC

Page 3

March 9, 2020

City of Verndale

Regular Council Meeting

Uselman showed the Council two plans from JR Construction for the Liquor Store roof. Uselman stated that one plan is to keep the roof the way it is and put the handicapped entrance on the South side of the building. Uselman stated that the City doesn’t own enough of the lot to put the entrance on that side without approval from the owners of the Insurance building. Uselman stated that the other plan would put the door on the West side of the building and an awning would be built above the door. Uselman stated that a wall would be built where the entrance is now and a new roof would be put on. Ludovissie asked about the cost of each plan. Uselman stated that he wanted to have a plan before he got numbers. Runyan asked if the plan would allow for outdoor seating. Erckenbrack stated that she likes the idea of outdoor seating but there is no place to put it. Uselman stated that the City needs to be careful not to build over any sewer lines. Council decided to go with the design with the door on the west side of the building and an awning above the door and a new roof. Current was asked to come with a plan to get some seating in front of the Liquor Store and to get dates set to have an event outside once per month during the summer.

**CLERK/TREASURER- MELISSA CURRENT**- Current stated that she will be gone March 16 – 19 to attend the MCFOA Clerk’s Conference in St. Cloud. Current stated that she will be attending the League of MN Cities Safety & Loss Control Workshop on March 26 in Fergus Falls.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Board of Review- April 7 at 3:00 pm.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Post Prom – Donation
2. Wadena County Fair - Donation

Ludovissie stated that City funds cannot be used to donate to these. Uselman asked if funds could be used from the water or sewer account since they are a proprietary fund like the Liquor Store is. Current stated that she will ask Julie Nelson (City Auditor).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 pm.

**Submitted by: Attest:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer Raye Ludovissie, Mayor