

**CITY OF VERNDALE
WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday February 14, 2022
6:00 pm**

**Verndale City Hall
101 Brown St SW**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tara Erckenbrack, Daryl Jacobson, Jim Runyan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ardith Carr, Tony Stanley

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

STAFF ABSENT: Michael Madsen, Fire Chief

VISITORS PRESENT: Trinity Gruenberg, Verndale Sun; Stacey Dahlvang, Tasha Grangruth, Mark Wolert

OPENING PRAYER: The opening prayer was led by Daryl Jacobson, Verndale Alliance Church.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND FEBRUARY PAYABLES

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

A motion was made by Runyan to approve the February payables in the amount of \$52,655.61, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS:

A. Verndale Sun – Gruenberg stated that they are looking for a cheaper place to rent for their office. Gruenberg asked if the City would have space available that has internet access. Erckenbrack asked what days/hours she was looking for. Gruenberg stated that she currently works on Tuesdays. Erckenbrack stated that she could see there being a concern with having access to the whole building. Erckenbrack asked for this to be tabled so there could be time for discussion.

B. Stacey Dahlvang – NU Look - Dahlvang stated that she is having issues keeping her sewer from freezing. Dahlvang stated that she is running her water the recommended amount but in 4 weeks her sewer was froze again. Dahlvang asked the Council for some relief for having to run her water more to prevent her sewer from freezing. There was discussion about how the sewer line runs and what could be done to correct the problem in the future. Grangruth stated that she was having issues with her water pipes freezing as well. There was discussion about how her line runs into the building and what could be done to fix the problem. There was nothing the Council could do to help Grangruth. Council asked Uselman for his thoughts on what a good number would be to help Nu Look. Uselman stated that City Ordinance states that property owners are responsible for keeping their lines open. Uselman stated that running water at a pencil size stream to keep from freezing probably uses about 5,000 gallons.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve a \$28.00 credit to NU Look for two months on top of the running water credit to help with the cost of keeping her sewer line open, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRE CHIEF- Madsen was absent; no report.

LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT- Current stated that there was a net profit of \$7,541.91 for the month. Current stated that there was a net profit for the year in the amount of \$14,101.05. Current stated that the Liquor Store will be providing a bar for the Lion's Prime Rib and Comedian Night on Feb. 19. Current stated that there will be Karaoke on March 12 from 9 pm – 12 am for St. Patrick's Day.

PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER- Uselman stated that there was a water main break in January that came to the surface after about a week of leaking underground. Uselman stated that it was fixed a few days after it came to the surface. Uselman stated that he received a quote for renting a loader. Uselman stated that there is a minimum fee of \$3,000 per month which would equate to \$15,000 needing to be added to the budget as it would be used at least five (5) months. Uselman stated that after five (5) years the City could have bought one and it would have paid for itself. Uselman stated that if the City hires someone to remove the snow from downtown, they would need insurance because they would be considered a contractor. Runyan asked if the City could own a payloader and then rent it out when not in use. Current stated that she would look into this. Uselman stated that the minerals that are removed from the water through reverse osmosis process are causing some problems in the sewer system; they are settling out and building up and causing partial blockages. Uselman stated that the sewers that were the worst have been cleaned and he is working with the engineers to figure out what can be done to prevent buildup. Erckenbrack asked if this is something that would also build up in residents' lines. Uselman stated no; it's just in the main line. Uselman stated that they are looking at upping the dosage of antiscalant that is already being used to prevent the buildup. Erckenbrack asked if this would change the quality/taste of the drinking water. Uselman stated no; this is the waste from the RO units; it comes out in the Reverse Osmosis process. Runyan asked what happens when the minerals get to the ponds. Uselman stated that it shouldn't be a problem because it should be really diluted by then. Uselman stated that he would like approval to purchase a magnetic manhole lid lifter that cost \$975.00.

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve purchasing a magnetic manhole lid lifter in the amount of \$975.00, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

Uselman stated that he will be at the MN Rural Water Conference March 1-3. Uselman stated that Core and Main is putting in an order for hydrants and he would like to purchase three (3) hydrants which would cost \$12,808.80. Uselman stated that there are three (3) hydrants from 1948 that should get replaced. Uselman stated that he thought the money could come from the American Rescue Plan money that the City received.

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve the purchase of three (3) hydrants at a cost of \$12,808.80 on the condition that the money comes from the American Rescue Plan, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

POLICE-CHIEF CARR- Chief Carr stated that it was a busy month; there was a pursuit which resulted in ¼ pound of meth being taken off the street. Chief Carr stated that there is a forfeiture in the garage as well. Erckenbrack stated that she took a complaint about how fast traffic is moving on S Brown Street and Farwell Street S running out of town. Erckenbrack stated that they asked for more of a presence. Chief Carr stated that having a time frame would make it easier to patrol; they will do what they can.

CLERK/TREASURER- MELISSA CURRENT- Current stated that the Board of Review meeting has been set for Tuesday April 5 at 3 pm; does this date/time work. Council stated they would make it work. Current stated that she needed approval to transfer \$1,037.16 from the Sewer Money Market and \$4,703.80 from the Water Money Market to the General Fund Checking Account for a total of \$5,740.96 to pay the PFA loans.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve transferring \$1,037.16 from the Sewer Money market and \$4,703.80 from the Water Money Market to the General Fund Checking Account for a total of \$5,740.96 to pay the PFA loans, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

Current stated that she needed approval of the Schedule 2 for 2021

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve Schedule 2 for 2021, seconded by Runyan. AIF/MC.

Current stated that there is a City and EDA Summit over Zoom on Feb. 17 from 3 pm – 4:30 pm. Current stated that she plans to attend the MCFOA Conference March 23-25 in St. Cloud. Current stated that she plans to attend the League of MN Cities Safety Loss and Control Workshop in Alexandria on March 30. Current stated that garbage rates increased by about \$10 per month. Current stated that the City received thank you notes from Hilltop Kitchen and The Initiative Foundation. Erckenbrack stated that when residents have been hospitalized and are homebound, they get meals from Mom’s Kitchen. Erckenbrack stated that these meals are mailed to them in a package. The City may want to consider donating to them next year.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Snow and Ice Ordinance – Amendment to Chapter 93: Streets, Sidewalks and Trees – Tabled until the next meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Resolution 22-0214 – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Resolution 22-0214 – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions in the amount of \$16,218.90 for the Verndale Lions Building Fund, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

B. Resolution 22-0214A – Resolution Accepting a Donation to Verndale Fire Department

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Resolution 22-0214A – Resolution Accepting a Donation to Verndale Fire Department from Denise Rousslang in the amount of \$500.00, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

C. Resolution 22-0214B – 2022 Fee Schedule – Tabled until the next meeting

D. Resolution 22-0214C – Resolution Supporting Housing and Local Decision-Making Authority

Current stated that Legislature is trying to make it so that cities wouldn't have as much say in their land use and zoning policies.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Resolution 22-0214C- A Resolution Supporting Housing and Local Decision-Making Authority, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

E. Resolution 22-0214D – Resolution Approving Joint Powers

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Resolution 22-0214D - Resolution Approving State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements with the City of Verndale on Behalf of its City Attorney and Police Department, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

F. Resolution 22-0214E – Resolution Authorizing \$261,000 General Obligation Bond

Current stated that the loan for the Water Tower Project is getting ready to close so the City needs to accept being obligated for this amount.

A motion was made by Runyan to approve Resolution 22-0214E – Resolution Authorizing the Issuance, Sale and Delivery of a \$261,000 General Obligation Water Revenue Bond, Series 2022A for the Water Tower Project, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

Uselman asked if this was the total amount the City would be paying for the Water Tower. Current stated yes, everything else was grants. Uselman stated that the City got a cheap Water Tower.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Sourcewell Annual Meeting - Current stated that the City can have two (2) representatives attend.

Mayor Erckenbrack adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm.

Submitted by:

Attest:

Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer

Tara Erckenbrack, Mayor