

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

**Verndale City Hall
101 Brown St SW**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tara Erckenbrack, Daryl Jacobson, Ardith Carr, Tony Stanley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Runyan

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND MARCH PAYABLES

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve the February 14, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

A motion was made by Carr to approve the March payables in the amount of \$57,584.55, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS: None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRE CHIEF- Madsen stated that there were six (6) calls for the month; 4 were fire and 2 were medical. Madsen stated that their #2 engine has a pump manifold leaking that needs to be replaced; he is waiting for a quote on the cost of repair. Madsen stated that he thought it would be between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to make the repairs

A motion was made by Stanley to authorize having the truck repaired at Madsen’s discretion, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

Madsen stated that the Township meeting went well and there weren’t any concerns.

LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT- Current stated that there was a net loss of \$1,543.57 for the month. Current stated that there was an increase in sales in the amount of \$6,685.93 from 2021. Current stated that there is a net profit for the year in the amount of \$5,998.34. Current stated that there was Karaoke on March 12 from 9 pm – 12 am for St. Patrick’s Day, however there wasn’t a very big turnout.

POLICE-CHIEF CARR- Chief Carr stated that there isn't much happening. Stanley asked if there is a form (requisition procedure) to fill out to request a police report. Chief Carr stated no. Stanley asked that one be made that includes the information they need and a timeframe of when to expect a response; for example, 7-10 business days. Chief Carr asked to have his email address added to the City Website.

PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER- Uselman stated that the MN Rural Water (MRWA) Conference was very good. Uselman stated that Verndale had the winning Water Week Poster so the poster will be on the cover of the MRWA magazine. Uselman stated that work on the new water tower will be starting again sometime after the first of April. Uselman stated that the new water tower will be filled and both towers will be operational for a couple months to work out any kinks. Uselman stated that he will be getting bids for the concrete work behind the bar. Uselman stated that there was a streetlight downtown that was hit and knocked over. Uselman asked Council if he should get bids on replacing all the streetlights. Council stated yes. There was discussion about the height of the streetlights. There was discussion about how the streetlights would get paid for. Uselman stated that there is also a streetlight across from the old Bound's Body Shop that needs to have new wires ran underground in order for it to work; otherwise, the pole could be removed. Council agreed to have this pole removed. Uselman stated that there have been a handful of water services that have frozen in the past two weeks. Uselman stated that the ground is still frozen so residents that have been running water to prevent freezing should continue to run water. Uselman stated that he talked to Ziegler Cat in Brainerd and they may be getting a 2004 CAT926 loader in on trade that would be under \$60,000. Uselman stated that he has talked to Rural Development about grant opportunities for the loader and there is a chance the City could get grant dollars (up to \$50,000) towards the loader. Uselman will keep the Council informed. A Building Committee meeting was set for March 16 at 11 am. A Personnel Committee meeting was set for April 5 at 1 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Snow and Ice Ordinance – Amendment to Chapter 93: Streets, Sidewalks and Trees
Uselman stated that he didn't think it would be fair to charge residents but not the businesses downtown for removing the snow on the sidewalks. Stanley stated that it is a community benefit to have the downtown sidewalks cleared off. There was discussion about charging a flat fee of \$100.00 per year for snow removal in front of the downtown businesses. The Ordinance was tabled until the next meeting so that these changes could be made.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS CONTINUED:

CLERK/TREASURER- MELISSA CURRENT- Current stated that the Board of Review meeting has been set for Tuesday April 5 at 3 pm. Current stated that she plans to attend the MCFOA Conference March 23-25 in St. Cloud and the League of MN Cities Safety Loss and Control Workshop in Alexandria on March 30. Current stated that there is a Buildings on Main Street Conference in Fairbault April 20-22. Current stated that this is for anyone interested in

downtown revitalization. Current was asked to pass this opportunity on to the EDA. Current stated that the loan closing for the Water Tower Project would take place on March 17 at 1 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Dragonfly-e: progress report/meeting date

Current stated that they are looking to meet with the Council to give updates. Erckenbrack asked Current to have them come to the Council meeting in April or May.

Gruenberg asked if the City had thought about renting space out to the newspaper. Erckenbrack stated that there was concern about security and privacy so it wouldn't work.

Mayor Erckenbrack adjourned the meeting at 6:54 pm.

Submitted by:

Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer

Attest:

Tara Erckenbrack, Mayor