

**CITY OF VERNDALE
WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday April 11, 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; Amos Self, Family Life Church; Walter Ribeiro, Dragonfly-e; Kathy Ribeiro, Dragonfly-e

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND APRIL PAYABLES

A motion was made by Carr to approve the March 14, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes and the April 5, 2022 Board of Review Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

A motion was made by Carr to approve the April payables in the amount of \$17,683.31, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS:

A. Dragonfly-e – Walter Ribeiro – Ribeiro stated that they are finishing the first research with the University of MN. Ribeiro stated that they are applying for a federal grant, which does not require any matching and can cover up to \$100 million but they have to justify how the money will be spent. Ribeiro stated that they have developed a survey to understand where the raw material or organic processing is; the survey can be found on their website. Ribeiro urged everyone to fill out the survey and it will be filed by either Residential or Commercial so that they can build a case and move on from there. Ribeiro stated that they are trying to establish that this is not only feasible but necessary because as an agricultural state, MN can provide sustainability to our farming operations just by processing inorganic material. Ribeiro stated that they are still looking for a site to be able to implement the first unit. Ribeiro stated that they would need to talk to possible suppliers for organic material and identify where the material will be processed. Ribeiro stated that a fertilizer could be designed for the needs of our soil. Ribeiro stated that the challenge is getting money for the project. Ribeiro stated that they had a chemical engineer back up what he is saying so what they need now is an advocate because laws change quickly and he also needs an economist. Ribeiro stated that each student working on the project costs \$9,000.00 for three (3) months and is tax deductible. Ribeiro stated that he needs someone to help invest with the University of Minnesota, which would involve three (3) students for 12 months. Ribeiro stated that they would like a letter of support from the City of Verndale to put in with the grant application.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT – MIKE MADSEN-FIRE CHIEF- Madsen stated that there were eight (8) calls for the month; 4 were fire and 4 were medical. Madsen stated that their #2 engine has a pump manifold leaking that needs to be replaced. Madsen stated that he got a quote for \$11,578.31 for repairs; repairs are scheduled. Madsen stated that there will be a mock car accident for prom on April 29 at 12:45 pm at the baseball field. Madsen stated that the Auction will be April 30. Madsen stated that the Fire Department will have their pancake feed in conjunction with the flower club sale on May 21 from 8:30 am – 11 am.

LIQUOR STORE - MELISSA CURRENT- Current stated that there was a net profit of \$9,846.71 for the month. Current stated that there was an increase in sales in the amount of \$6,268.06 from 2021. Current stated that there is a net profit for the year in the amount of \$15,845.05. Current stated that the Liquor Store is planning to have “block parties” once per month during the Summer. Current stated that Aitas is booked for June 25 and The MugWugs are booked for July 30. Current stated that she would like approval for the Liquor Store to sponsor a lighted sign at R & J for a cost of \$2,500.00 for the year. Current stated that the bar would be able to make this money back rather quickly; this would also include an ad in their sales book that goes out twice per year.

A motion was made by Carr to approve a one-year sponsorship at R & J in the amount of \$2,500.00, which includes a lighted sign and advertising, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

POLICE-CHIEF CARR- Chief Carr stated that a nuisance letter was sent to a property owner and asked the Council for permission to move forward to the next step, which is charging to have the nuisance corrected.

A motion was made by Stanley to take the next step as outlined in Ordinance 78 to have the nuisance corrected, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

Chief Carr stated that another letter would be sent with a date that the City will show up to clean it up and the fees that would be assessed. Chief Carr stated that if personal property was taken from the property, then the City would need to get a storage unit to store the property (at the property owners’ expense) until the property owner could make arrangements to pick it up. Stanley stated that a second letter would need to be sent regarding other nuisances as only the dog waste was addressed in the first letter.

PUBLIC WORKS- MATT USELMAN-MANAGER- Uselman stated that he received an estimate from George Heller Concrete to do the parking lot in the back of the Bar, a valley gutter in the alley and to replace sidewalk on N Brown St.

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve the estimate in the amount of \$21,559.00 from George Heller Concrete for paving, concrete valley gutter and sidewalk replacement, seconded by Stanley. AIF/MC.

Uselman stated that since there is a possible \$50,000 grant for the wheeled loader, he needs approval to apply for the grant. Uselman stated that applying for the grant doesn't hold the City to anything yet; the grant covers 75% of the equipment costs up to \$50,000.00.

A motion was made by Stanley to approve applying for a grant for the wheeled loader, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

Uselman stated that work on the water tower was held up by the weather so they are planning on starting disinfection the 18th. Uselman stated that the City of Bertha has asked him to sweep their streets when he has time; he needs permission to do so. Uselman stated that a fee of \$100 per hour plus mileage would be charged.

A motion was made by Stanley to allow Uselman to sweep the streets in Bertha when he has time and as long as it doesn't interfere with his City work, for a fee of \$100 per hour plus mileage, seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

Uselman stated that the light pole contractor that he contacted about replacing the poles didn't show up so he will keep trying. Uselman stated that he would like to advertise at the school first for an open position. Council agreed.

CLERK/TREASURER- MELISSA CURRENT- Current stated that the Auditors plan to come the week of May 9. Current stated that she plans to attend the League of MN Cities Annual Conference June 22-24 in Duluth.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

B. Brejcha Property – Erckenbrack asked how the City assessed for special assessments. Current stated that assessments were assessed using front footage. Current stated that Brejcha's property was assessed correctly because the parcel that Brejcha didn't think was his is actually a public right of way so that is considered his frontage. Uselman stated that other properties on that block were assessed the front footage when there is a right of way so it is fair. Erckenbrack asked if Brejcha was assessed appropriately. Uselman stated yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resolution 22-0411 – Donation to the Police Department

A motion was made by Jacobson to approve Resolution 22-0411 – Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Verndale Police Department from "The Grateful Citizen's" in the amount of \$50.00, seconded by Stanley. AIF/MC.

B. Resolution 22-0411A –2022 Fee Schedule – Tabled until the next meeting

C. Resolution 22-0411B – ARPA - Standard Allowance

Current stated that this would allow for a broader category to use the American Rescue Plan funds.

A motion was made by Stanley to approve Resolution 22-0411B – A Resolution to Elect the Standard Allowance Available Under the Revenue Loss Provision of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Established under the American Rescue Plan, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

D. Resolution 22-0411C – Donation from the Verndale Lions

A motion was made by Stanley to approve Resolution 22-0411C – Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Verndale Lions in the amount of \$7,374.06 to put in their Building Fund, seconded by Carr. AIF/MC.

E. Bingo License – PAWS

A motion was made by Carr to approve a bingo license for Pets Abandoned Wanting Support (PAWS), seconded by Jacobson. AIF/MC.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Letter of support - Dragonfly-e – Council agreed to have a letter of support written. Erckenbrack stated that she has someone who can write the letter for the City.

B. Moore Engineering Update – informational only

Mayor Erckenbrack adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Submitted by:

Attest:

Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer

Tara Erckenbrack, Mayor