

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, December 13, 2021, at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mayor Deborah J. Foster called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Wayne Hasek, Britney Kawecki, Randy Lubenow, Michele Miller, and Bruce Peters were present. Also in attendance: City Administrator Cathy Reynolds, Public Works Director/City Engineer Troy Nemmers, Finance Director Paul Hoye, Assistant Finance Director Chris Ziegler, Police Chief Mike Hunter, City Clerk Patricia J. Monsen and City Attorney Mark Rahrlick via telephone.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The City recognized Cade Hartwig for his 10 years with the Fire Department and Bryan Kastning for his 15 years with the Fire Department.

Ed Willete and Laura Olson with Kids Just Want to Have Fun gave a presentation on the mini golf course and other projects and events they are involved with in the community.

During open discussion Todd Smith of 827 East First Street voiced his concerns about a ticket he received in Sherburn and that Elizabeth Bloomquist handled the court hearing for James Wilson.

Danielle Freitag of 107 Hodgman spoke about her concerns over the loud, live, outdoor music at the Channel Inn and encouraged the Council to address her concerns.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried. Items on the Consent Agenda were: Minutes from the November 22, 2021 City Council Meeting, Amended Minutes from the October 11, 2021 City Council Meeting, Approval of the 2022 Renewals for Cigarette, Refuse Hauling and Taxi Licenses, Approval of **Resolution 2021-53**, establishing the City of Fairmont's 2022 Polling Place as the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 920 East Tenth Street, Approval of an Event Permit for Fairmont Lakes Foundation Ice Fishing Tournament to be held on January 29, 2022 and Approval of an in Floor Hoist System for Public Works Building.

Finance Officer Paul Hoye presented the 2022 Property Tax Levy and 2022 Budget. Assistant Finance Director Chris Ziegler presented the Public Utilities budget. No public comment was received. Council Member Lubenow made a motion to add \$50,000 to the Capital Project Fund from the Local Option Sales Tax funds to build a shelter/structure at Veteran's Park. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-54**, adopting the 2022 Property Tax Levy and ordering its certification to the Martin County Auditor by December 28, 2021. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion. On roll: Council Members Hasek, Lubenow, Miller and Peters all voted aye. Council Member Kawecki voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-55**, adopting the 2022 Budget with the amendment of the additional \$50,000 to the Capital Project Fund. Council

Member Peters seconded the motion. On roll: Council Members Lubenow, Miller, Peters and Hasek all voted aye. Council Member Kawecki voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-58**, relating to the Softened Water Service Rates. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Lubenow, Miller, Peters, Hasek and Kawecki all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-59**, relating to Public Utility Wastewater Rates. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Lubenow, Miller, Peters, Hasek and Kawecki all voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-56**, accepting donations to the City. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-57**, setting the registration fee for vacant buildings at \$100. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-60**, Authorizing Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grant Application to the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Resolution 2021-61**, a resolution Authorizing a General Obligation Revenue Note, Bond Purchase and Project Loan Agreement with the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority for the Lime Pond Decommissioning Project. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to approve the results of officer election of the Fairmont Fire Department. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried. The new officers are: Chief Bryan Kastning, Deputy Chief Colby Whitmore, Captain Tim Miller, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Rob Iverson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Matt Streit and Secretary Dan Stensland.

Discussion on the Junk and Storage Ordinances was held.

Discussion was held on council member communication with staff.

Discussion was held on council review of proposals, review criteria, scoring and evaluations on city requests for proposals.

Nemmers stated that work on the Public Works Building is going very well. The exterior work is nearly complete and they have heat in the building and are working on getting the floors completed. Final completion date is February 28, 2022. Work on the new habitat area is ongoing with the weather. There is about two weeks of work yet to be completed and the final completion date for the project is June 15, 2022. A lift station upgrade was completed at Woodland Avenue and Summit. New pump, new structures and controls have been installed. Nemmers reported that there was an incident at the Wastewater Treatment Facility where a

digester cover came off and there was a discharge. The City is working with the MPCA and the League of Minnesota Insurance Trust regarding the incident. Council Member Lubenow asked Nemmers about the recent snow removal incident. A reminder to citizens to keep their vehicles off the street and garbage cans out of the street during snow incidents when the city crews are out cleaning the streets. The City is also working on the chemicals they are using on the streets and evaluating the results.

Ziegler reported that the City has assisted 81 households at \$60,149.58 with the Customer Assistance program with Minnesota Valley Action Council. There are 13 more households that are in the process of being assisted.

Reynolds encouraged citizens to complete an application for appointment to Boards and Commissions. The applications are on the website and are due by December 27<sup>th</sup>. The City will be closed for the holidays on December 23, 24 and 31. There is a joint work session on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. on the Chain of Lakes Watershed. Building permits as of November 2021 are at 25.6 million, which is great news for the City of Fairmont.

Mayor Foster reported that the HRA is looking at hiring a HRA Consultant.

Council Member Miller reported that FEDA approved the continuing membership with Greater Minnesota and they talked about strategic planning. Council Member Peters added that there is an existing business in Fairmont that is thinking about expanding and adding 15 jobs immediately and potentially more jobs in the future. More on this expansion will be coming to the council at a later date.

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Hasek and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

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Deborah J. Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk