

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, March 27, 2023, at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mayor Lee Baarts called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Council Members Wayne Hasek, Britney Kawecky, Jay Maynard and Michele Miller were present. Also in attendance: City Administrator Cathy Reynolds, Finance Director Paul Hoye, City Clerk Patricia Monsen, City Attorneys Robert Scott and David Assaf.

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

Mayor Baarts recognized the following employees for their years of service: Paul Hoye, Finance Director-15 years; and Karla Sauck, Liquor Store employee-10 years.

During Public Comment, Resident Shea Ripley, Owner of Building Blocks Child Care asked the city for assistance in completing the Lakeview child care area to provide 99 additional spaces for child care and to help reduce the child care shortage in Fairmont. Resident Ken Craig spoke urging the city council not to approve the rezoning of the property on Margaret Street. Resident Wayne Kahler thanked the City for their support of the Lion's Club Fly-in Breakfast on June 25, 2023 and urged citizens to come participate. Residents Darlene Lutz and Rich Bradley spoke in support of Terry Riggs for Ward 3. Residents Todd Smith, Vicky Schulte, Alejandro and Non-residents Garth Carlson and Johnathan Melendez spoke in support of Randy Lubenow for Ward 3. Randy Lubenow asked the council for their support in appointing him to Ward 3.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Maynard seconded the motion and the motion carried. Items on the consent agenda were: Minutes from the March 13, 2023 City Council meeting; March 2023 Accounts Payable; Event Permit for Fairmont Lions Club, Lions Fly-in Breakfast at the Fairmont Airport on June 25, 2023; Authorization to purchase a pickup for the Street Department and Authorization for the purchase of a used 2019 Vermeer SC802 Stump Grinder.

Council Member Kawecky made a motion to approve the appointment of Randy Lubenow to fill the vacant Ward 3 City Council Seat. Council Member Maynard seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Kawecky and Maynard voted aye. Council Members Hasek and Miller voted nay. Mayor Baarts voted aye and declared said motion passed.

Discussion was held regarding hiring an Owners Representative for the Community Center project. Council Member Kawecky requested that the discussion be put back on the April 10, 2023 agenda.

At 6:19 p.m., Council Member Maynard made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(b) to discuss the pending litigation, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources vs. City of Fairmont and Troy Menke. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.


Council went into closed session at 6:25 p.m. At 7:02 p.m., Council Member Maynard made a motion to return to Open Meeting. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Maynard and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.



Lee C. Baarts, Mayor

ATTEST:



Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk

