

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, September 11, 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 Kawecki, Randy Lubenow, Jay Maynard and Michele Miller were present. Also in attendance: Finance Director Paul Hoyer, Director of Public Works/Utilities Matthew York, City Clerk Patricia J. Monsen, Police Chief Mike Hunter, Economic Development Coordinator Ned Koppen, Airport Manager Lee Steinkamp and City Attorney Cara Brown.

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

Mayor Baarts shared events happening in the next two weeks in Fairmont. He also shared that he received a letter from the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training that the Fairmont Police Department passed the POST training and policy compliance audit. Mayor Baarts thanked Chief Hunter and the Police Department.

During Open Discussion, Brian Meade requested an opt out program concerning the new water and electric meter installation project. Rin Porter asked the council to fund a Human Rights Commission in the 2024 budget. Garth Carlson from Carlson Walters Group spoke of the economic loss the city has suffered due to delaying his project to build a campground.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried. Items on the consent agenda were: Minutes from the August 28, 2023, City Council meeting; Event Permit for Fairmont Christian Church to hold Harvest Hustle 5K on September 17, 2023; Event Permit for Rann and Wecoverly to hold Mobilize Recovery Day of Service on September 30, 2023; Event Permit for Woodland Witches to hold Woodland Halloween Event on October 31, 2023; Authorize the purchase of a Jeep Wrangler for the Park Department; and Public Comment Rules and Procedures for Commission and Board Meetings.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to approve the 2024 Joint Powers Agreement with Minnesota River Valley Dug Task Force. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve an Airport Layout Plan/Master Plan Update Project and granting permission for the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement with KLJ Engineering Services in an amount not to exceed \$436,723.55. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve the Development Agreement with Midwest Shop Condos, LLC. Council Member Maynard seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Hoyer presented the 2024 proposed budget and tax levy. Council Member Miller made a motion to approve **Resolution 2023-29**, adopting the proposed budget for 2024. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. After discussion, Council Member Lubenow made a motion to amend the budget to include \$2,500 for a Human Rights Commission. Council Member Kawecki seconded the motion. On roll call

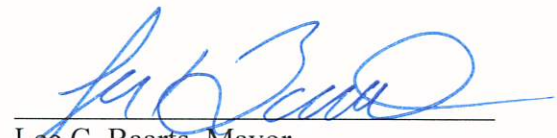
vote: Council Members Kawecki and Lubenow voted aye. Council Members Hasek, Maynard and Miller voted no. Mayor Baarts declared said motion failed. For the original motion by Council Member Miller to approve **Resolution 2023-29**, adopting the proposed budget for 2024 , on roll call vote: Council Members Hasek, Maynard and Miller voted aye. Council Members Kawecki and Lubenow voted nay. Mayor Baarts declared said motion passed. Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve **Resolution 2023-28**, adopting the proposed tax levy for 2024. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Mayor Baarts reported that he has been talking with a potential Interim City Administrator and that he will hopefully be bringing back a contract soon for council approval. The search for a City Administrator has been put on hold by GovHR to see if the city can hire an interim.

York reported that the street projects are finishing up. City Wide cleanup will be tomorrow and Saturday. He also reminded citizens that if they have not got their water and electric meters changed out yet, they need to call the city immediately to make arrangements to do so.

Council Member Hasek reported that the Board of Zoning Appeals heard variance requests from two residents, and both were granted. Council Member Miller reported that FEDA approved a resolution to purchase the property on County Road 39. They discussed the Development Agreement with Midwest Shop Condos, LLC, the new Tire Service Center and Whitetail Ridge Development.

A motion was made by Council Member Maynard, seconded by Council Member Miller and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

  
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Lee C. Baarts, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk