

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, September 25, 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 Hoye, Director of Public Works/Utilities Matthew York, City Clerk Patricia J. Monsen, Police Chief Mike Hunter and City Attorney Cara Brown.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of 10.5 Employment Agreement for Interim City Administrator. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mayor Baarts recognized the following city employees for their years of service: Randall Martin, Street Department, 15 years and Chief Michael Hunter, Police Department, 25 years.

Lisa Kuhl, Gambling Manager and James Draper, President of the Fairmont Hockey Association gave a presentation to the council regarding their lawful gambling.

Mayor Baarts shared events happening in the next two weeks in Fairmont.

During Open Discussion, Garth Carlson spoke regarding hunting in city limits. Todd Smith commented on the presentation by the Fairmont Hockey Association. Richard Bradley read a statement prepared by Bill Cieslinski opposing the proposed community center. Darlene Lutz spoke of YMCA facilities closing and invited everyone to an open house at the Opera House by the Citizens for a Strong Fairmont on September 26, 2023. Mark Ossenfort also spoke against the community center.

Council Member Hasek 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 September 11, 2023, City Council meeting; Payment of the September Accounts Payable; Event Permit for Fairmont Jr.-Sr. High School, Homecoming Parade on September 29, 2023; and an Event Permit for Indulge for Adventure Bowls on October 27, 2023.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to adopt **Resolution 2023-30** declaring costs for the 2023 Improvement Program and ordering the assessment roll be prepared. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to adopt **Resolution 2023-31** calling for a public hearing on the proposed assessments for the 2023 improvement program. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Miller made a motion to adopt **Resolution 2023-34** electing the standard allowance under the American Rescue Plan Act. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to approve the contract for the bandshell roof replacement between the City of Fairmont and Gag Sheet Metal of New Ulm. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve the employment agreement for interim city administrator services with Jeff O'Neil. Council Member Maynard seconded the motion and the motion carried.

York reported that the 2023 street projects are complete and reminded citizens to call to get their water meters changed out if they have not done so yet.

Council Member Hasek reported that the Public Utilities Commission approved the purchase of three transformers.

Council Member Kawecky reported that the library has added additional items to be checked out for activities outside the library including puzzles, games, sleds, pickleball equipment, knitting and crochet kits and more. The Minnesota adult section at the library is going well and they have plans to add a Minnesota section for youth.

Council Member Lubenow advised that the HRA approved a \$207,000 tax levy, approved a small cable increase and selected accountants. He also reported that at the Park Board meeting they discussed the repair to the Adventure Playground flooring. This will be replaced at no cost to the city. The playground area will be closed during this replacement.


Council Member Maynard reported on the Airport Board stating that they are waiting for FAA and MNDOT to close out a couple of projects.

Council Member Miller stated the Fall brochure for CER is now online at the school's website. The new Prime program for after school activities is full and there is a waiting list for it.

A motion was made by Council Member Maynard, seconded by Council Member Hasek and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk

  
Lee C. Baarts, Mayor