

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, March 25, 2024, at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mayor 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: Interim City Administrator Jeff O'Neill, Finance Director Paul Hoye, Director of Public Works/Utilities Matthew York, City Clerk Patricia J. Monsen, Police Chief Mike Hunter, Airport Manager Lee Steinkamp and City Attorney Cara Brown.

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

No comment was received during open discussion.

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 March 11, 2024, city council meeting; Payment of the March 2024 accounts payable; Event Permit for Martin County Veteran's Memorial Dedication Ceremony on May 25, 2024; and purchase of a new asphalt roller.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve the purchase of a new airport sewer lift station and force main. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to establish a performance-based step system for non-union employees and shift pay scale from a 10-step to an 8-step system for 2025. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Kawecki made a motion to waive the requirement that the City Attorney attend all city council meetings and authorize the City Administrator, at his discretion, to request attendance by the City Attorney. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Kawecki, and Lubenow voted aye. Council Members Hasek, Maynard and Miller voted nay. Mayor Baarts declared said motion failed. Council Member Kawecki made a motion to request an RFP to consider new attorneys. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Kawecki and Lubenow voted aye. Council Members Maynard, Miller and Hasek voted nay. Mayor Baarts declared said motion failed.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to adopt a substitute **Resolution 2024-12**, a resolution of the Fairmont City Council submitting names to the Chief Judge of the Fifth Judicial District Court for consideration in making appointments to the City of Fairmont Charter Commission. The substitute resolution was prepared by Council Member Maynard and handed to the council at the meeting. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll: Council Members Maynard, Miller and Hasek voted aye. Council Members Lubenow and Kawecki voted nay. Mayor Baarts declared said motion passed.

York thanked the Street Department for their work on Saturday and Sunday. The City entered into a new contract with Shamrock Recycling for tree grinding services at the tree dump. The tree dump will be opening to the public on April 1st. Soil work was completed at Veterans Park and debris was located 1 ½ feet down. The City is looking at other options for the shelter placement. The City has removed 1,000 trees due to the Emerald Ash borer infestation. The City has approximately 400 trees yet to be removed. The City is recommending that citizens also remove infested trees. City docks will be installed in April.

O'Neill thanked York and Council Member Miller for planning to attend the Lakes Conference in April. He reminded the council of the Local Board of Appeal Hearing scheduled for April 24, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the council chambers. The City has received a lot of applications for the HR Director position. Staff has been in contact with the University of Minnesota regarding bee keeping in cities. Arrangements are being made to bring a representative from the U of M to the council meeting to do a presentation. Staff is following the newly adopted cannabis laws and the potential for a city operation. The plat review for the new Justice Center is ongoing.

Council Member Kawecki reported that the library now has a seed library which includes flower and vegetable seeds. They also have new boxes which include figurines and stories. The library will begin closing at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights beginning on April 17th, due to being short staffed. The library is hoping to hire two more staff members.

Council Member Lubenow reported that the HRA renewed some Certificates of Deposit for better rates. They also talked about the empty space at Lakeview Methodist Home.

Council Member Maynard reported that the Airport is still waiting for the FAA to close out projects to receive funding. The pavement project will be done sometime in June.


Council Member Miller reported that CER discussed Cardinal Prime, a before and after school program. The program currently has 60 kids enrolled with 40 on a waiting list. The program will continue for the next school year. The Summer brochures are digital and should be out the first of April. Visit Fairmont has a new director. They are working on visitor guides and social media.

Mayor Baarts reminded everyone of the Food Shelf Challenge and encouraged people to participate. The deadline is April 6th.

A motion was made by Council Member Maynard, seconded by Council Member Miller and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m.



Lee C. Baarts, Mayor

ATTEST:


Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk