

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, April 8, 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, Civil Engineer Tyler Cowing, City Engineer Wes Brown and City Attorney Cara Brown.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to add 9.4 under new business, a discussion about a Petition to dissolve the building inspection department. Mayor Baarts reminded the Council of the Rules of Procedures for the City Council regarding adding items to the agenda. Council Member Lubenow's motion was denied. Council Member Miller made a motion to remove item 9.3 on the Charter Commission until a meeting can be held between the Charter Commission and the City Council and to hold off on submitting the last resolution to the Judge for appointments to the Charter Commission until after the meeting has occurred. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. During discussion, Council Member Kawecki asked City Attorney Brown for an opinion on Charter Section 3.07 Reading of Resolutions. City Attorney Brown stated that they have worked with many cities to remove this language, as it is generally not followed in practice. On roll: Council Members Hasek, Maynard and Miller all voted aye. Council Members Kawecki and Lubenow voted nay. Mayor Baarts declared said motion passed.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of item 9.3 consideration of adopting a resolution addressing the loss of a nominee for service on the Charter Commission and the addition of item 9.4 consideration of approving Employment Agreement between City of Fairmont and Matthew Skaret identifying City Administrator terms of service. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. On roll: Council Members Maynard, Miller and Hasek voted aye. Council Members Kawecki and Lubenow voted nay. Mayor Baarts declared said motion passed.

Public Works/Utilities Director York gave background information on the Gomsrud Park Project. City Engineer Wes Brown of Bolton & Menk gave a presentation on Phase 1 of the Gomsrud Park Project.

During public discussion, Council Member Lubenow stated that since he wasn't allowed to add to the agenda, he received a petition to dissolve the building inspection department from concerned citizens and shared some of the concerns. Council Member Lubenow stated that he will fill out the proper paperwork to get this item on the next city council agenda.

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: Approval of the March 25, 2024 City Council meeting; Event Permit for Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Inc. to hold a Spring Fishing Tournament on May 18, 2024; Event Permit for DAV, American Legion & VFW to hold Veterans Serving Veterans Picnic on June 29, 2024; Purchase of a new pickup truck to replace the current Code Enforcement Officer vehicle, squad 9 for the Police Department listed on the 2024 CIP; and Purchase of a new playground structure for Eastside Park.

Cade Hartwig, Tim Miller and Sam Cress of Light, Noise & Smoke addressed the council and requested a donation of \$10,000 for the Fairmont fireworks. Council Member Kawecki made a motion to approve a donation of \$10,000 to Light, Noise & Smoke for the 2024 July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to award the 2024 Sealcoat Projects, 2024-C Improvement Contract to low bidder Pearson Bros., Inc. of Hanover, Minnesota. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the Employment Agreement between the City of Fairmont and Matthew Skaret identifying City Administrator terms of service. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

York reported a small power outage on Sunday night in the Downtown area. All docks will be installed in the next week. He stated that there were only 19 more water meters left to be installed. Shut offs will begin the 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

O'Neill reported that a preliminary candidate has been selected for the HR position.

Council Member Lubenow stated that he had consulted with some experts and that the Veteran's Park Shelter could be erected with a slab on grade. He would like city staff to investigate alternatives. He also stated that the HRA renewed another CD. The HRA has an investor who is interested in the property by Lakeview Methodist Home that the HRA owns for a one to three-million-dollar project and they are hoping to break ground in the next twelve months.

Council Member Maynard reported that FEDA approved a revolving loan fund loan and a façade program loan for Lakes Law Properties, LLC on Downtown Plaza.

Mayor Baarts thanked the citizens and employees who participated in the food drive contest.

A motion was made by Council Member Maynard, seconded by Council Member Miller and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

  
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Lee C. Baarts, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk