

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 9th, 2024

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting was duly held at City Hall at 7:00 PM on the 9th day of January 2024.

Council present: Michael Cherney and Karen Ruechel.

Council absent: Christopher Quale

Mayor: Brian Anderson presided over the meeting.

Agenda:

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Karen Ruechel, to approve the City Council meeting agenda. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Michael Cherney, to approve December 12th meeting minutes as presented. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Approval of Timecards:

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Karen Ruechel, to approve the December timecards. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Old Business:

The council decided to move the meeting time from 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM for the second meeting of each month. It was determined the extra 30 minutes would help all council members to be able to make it to the meetings without rushing and on time.

The clerk informed the council that he and Al Sorenson had an interview with a person of interest to fill the general maintenance position for which the City of Adams posted an ad back in November. The biggest concern with the candidate was an eye issue. The council determined that the candidate should be asked to pass a DOT physical before any decisions were made about hiring the individual.

The clerk reported that the preconstruction meeting for the Well #5 Project took place on January 4th, 2024 at City Hall. Kraut Construction had indicated that it planned on starting construction of the well on February 12th, 2024.

Police Report:

The Mower County Sheriff's Department patrolled the City of Adams for a total of 197 hours in December. There were 33 Calls for service in the City with traffic stops and medical calls being the main focus.

Fire Department Report:

The Adams Fire Department responded to 26 calls in 2023.

Adams Township will be donating \$10,000.00 to the Adams Fire Department to help out with the expense of the two new water tanker trucks that were just purchased.

Ryan Tagge, has applied to join the Adams Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Michael Cherney, to approve Ryan Tagge's application to the Adams Volunteer Fire Department. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Maintenance Department Report:

The maintenance department reported that the water pump at the treatment plant is leaking. The pump was sent in to be repaired and then the radiator was found to be bad as well. The shop that the radiator was sent to is checking whether they will be able to repair it there or not. Several places have been checked and there are no replacement options available. Right now we are renting a mobile generator from Generator System Services to keep operations running at the treatment plant. Broken rake chains were repaired in the primary tank at the treatment plant.

Snowplow mounts are being installed on the City's new truck, the wing and the sander were installed on the plow truck, a new cutting edge was put on the snow bucket, and the snowblower attachment was prepared all for the upcoming winter months.

Three private sewer lines were repaired in the month of December, and last years summer help confirmed that they would be able to help again in the summer of 2024.

Prairie Visions Report:

No business to report

Approval of Bills:

The bills payable for December were reviewed by the City Council.

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Michael Cherney, to approve the payment of December bills. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Financial Report:

The city clerk presented the November 30th, 2023 financial statements.

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Karen Ruechel, to approve the financial report as presented. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Northern Country Coop Waterbill:

A new water meter was installed at 307 Commerce Street and it was determined during the installation that the outside meter at this location, which has been the meter reported for many years, hasn't been working. This location has reported zero gallons of usage for at least the last 3 years, and during the installation of the new water meter it was discovered that the actual water usage since the outside meter stopped working has been 96,000 gallons. Each resident and business in the City of Adams is afforded 1 water bill credit during their time residing in the city. The credit to Northern Country Coop would come out to be approximately \$768.00 if they wanted to use it at this time.

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Karen Ruechel, to approve the water bill credit to Northern Country Coop if they wanted to use it. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Resolution No. 01-2024:

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Karen Ruechel, to approve Resolution No. 01-2024 a resolution accepting Ella Noterman's resignation from the Adams City Council on December 13th, 2023. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Nick Anderson attended the council meeting after a discussion with the City Clerk about filling the vacant council position left by Ella Noterman. The council asked Mr. Anderson to come to the second meeting in January on 1/23/2024 where he will be appointed to fill the vacancy.

Resolution No. 02-2024:

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Michael Cherney, to approve Resolution No. 02-2024 a resolution designating the Adams Emergency Services Building as a polling place for the 2024 elections. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Resolution No. 03-2024:

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Michael Cherney, to approve Resolution No. 03-2024 a RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE OFFER OF THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY TO PURCHASE A \$580,665 GENERAL OBLIGATION WATER REVENUE NOTE OF 2024A, PROVIDING FOR ITS ISSUANCE AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A BOND PURCHASE AND PROJECT LOAN AGREEMENT . Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Building Permits:

After listening to Southland Schools Superintendent's explanation of Southland School's new construction project to add on room for more classroom space and for storage a Motion was made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Michael Cherney, to approve a building permit at 200 Water Street to Southland Schools for new additions to add classroom space on the SE corner of the school and storage space on the North side of the gymnasium. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Michael Cherney, to approve a building permit to Chans and Holly Meyer at 501 Vangsness Street for new home construction. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Karen Ruechel, to approve a building permit to Lyndsey Hall for the construction of a fence to contain their dog at 400 Bergen Street. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

City of Adams Closing Documents (MPFA Loan):

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Karen Ruechel, to approve the Mayor and City Clerk sign the Signature and Nonlitigation Certificate, the City Clerk's Receipt, the Note Register, the Certificate of Borrower, and the Nonarbitrage Certificate, the closing documents and the note which needed to be signed in regards to the note financing with the PFA. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

MN Earned Sick & Safe Time / 2024 Personnel Policy Change:

The State of Minnesota has implemented a new Earned Sick and Safe Time Law, effective January 1, 2024, which notes that any employee, excluding elected officials and independent contractors, working more than 80 hours for an employer in a given year, even if only part-time or seasonal, is eligible for vacation and sick leave, or PTO in the case of the City of Adams. The employee will be able to accrue one (1) hour of (ESST or PTO) for every thirty (30) hours worked and the hours earned/used will be required to be on every pay stub.

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Karen Ruechel, to approve personnel policy changes to include the new MN Earned Sick & Safe Time laws. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

2024 Mayoral Appointments:

Mayor Brian Anderson announced the following 2024 appointments:

Assistant Mayor: Karen Ruechel

Official Depositories: United Farmers State Bank / Northland Securities

Official Newspaper: Mower County Independent

Ambulance Joint Powers Board: Brian Anderson and Michael Cherney

Emergency Management Director: Dillon Heimer

Fire Chief: Dillon Heimer, 1st Assistant – Ryan Sathre, 2nd Assistant – Eric Wiste

Planning Commission: Charles Gilles, Dean Kiefer, Rick Hinz, Karen Ruechel, and Barry Kurtz

Prairie Visions Representative: Christopher Quale

Police Commissioner: Karen Ruechel

Street Commissioner: Nick Anderson

EDA Board: Brian Anderson, Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale, Nick Anderson

Personnel Committee: Brian Anderson, Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale, Nick Anderson and Jake Goodale

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Karen Ruechel, to approve the 2024 Mayoral Appointments. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

2024 Burning Permits:

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Michael Cherney, to approve 2024 burning permits to Anna Smith at 66650 140th St, Robert Smith at 208 4th St SW, Lynn Sathre at 204 4th St SW, David Sathre at 206 4th St SW, the City of Adams at 703 West Main Street, and John Smith at PID #21.009.0240. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

No further business.

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Michael Cherney, to adjourn at 8:10 PM. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel and Brian Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Jake Goodale

Clerk/ Treasurer