

## SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a special meeting was duly held at City Hall at 5:30 PM on the 22nd day of August 2023.

Council present: Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale, Ella Noterman and Karen Ruechel (By Phone).

Council absent: None

Mayor: Brian Anderson presided over the meeting.

### **Agenda:**

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

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Christopher Quale, to approve the August 8th, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale, Ella Noterman and Karen Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

### **Biannual Fire Board Meeting:**

The City Council met with the Adams Fire Board to review fire department operations and look at needs for the upcoming year in 2024. Fire Board members present were Ted Kiefer (City of Taopi), Troy McCabe (Marshall Township), John Kirtz (Lodi Township), Brian Hill (City of Elkton), and John Kloeckner (Adams Township). Dillon Heimer, the Fire Chief and Eric Wiste, the Assistant Fire Chief, attended the meeting representing the Adams Fire Department. Dillon made known that the main concern for the Fire Department was the need for new water tanker trucks. The 1985 International tanker truck broke down in July. It was determined that it would not be very cost-effective to try and repair the 38-year-old truck as parts were extremely expensive because they were nearly impossible to find. The other tanker truck, the 1983 International, is the oldest piece of equipment the department is still utilizing and has been at the forefront of discussions for replacement for the last couple of years. Dillon has been talking to Vander Haag's Inc., a company that custom-builds trucks to requested specifications. It was thought that they could put a 2500-gallon tank on a new chassis for around \$80,000.00 to \$90,000.00 with the specifications provided by the Adams Fire Department. Otherwise, buying a brand-new truck from a dealer could cost anywhere from \$250,000.00 to \$275,00.00. The clerk reported that currently, there was enough money in the Fire Department fund to purchase one truck from Vander Haag's outright. The clerk was asked to check with the bank to see about taking out a loan for the other truck.

Motion made by Ella Noterman, seconded by Christopher Quale, to approve the purchase of two new custom-built tanker trucks from Vander Haag's to replace the broken down 1985 International and the outdated 1983 International with a spending cap of \$90,000.00 per truck. Votes in favor: Karen Ruechel, Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Ella Noterman. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Chief Heimer also talked about things happening at the Cedar Court Apartments. The apartment alarm system has been going off for no reason without alerting the fire department. Chief

Heimer received a complaint from a resident at the apartments that the last time it went off it rang for four hours before it was turned off. The fire chief has been trying to work with the owner of the apartments to get the faulty alarm system repaired to no avail. The Adams Fire Department has turned this matter over to the State Fire Marshall to get it resolved.

### **Public Hearing on Moratorium For Cannabis Dispensaries:**

The public hearing for a moratorium on cannabis dispensaries opened at 5:58 PM. 4 residents attended the public hearing with concerns, which ranged from where a dispensary would be allowed to how many dispensaries would be allowed in town. Another resident was worried that by imposing the moratorium, the City of Adams would be denying prospective businesses an opportunity. The clerk informed the council and the residents who attended the hearing that the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM), the office in charge of monitoring and licensing cannabis dispensaries statewide, itself is not ready for cannabis dispensaries as they do not even have an application to attain a license available yet. That is why the city feels that in order to deal more confidently with cannabis dispensaries within city limits, it should wait until a more transparent set of guidelines is developed by the OCM. The public hearing was closed at 6:14 PM

### **Ordinance #198 Moratorium For Cannabis Dispensaries:**

Motion made by Christopher Quale, seconded by Ella Noterman, to approve Ordinance #198 AN INTERIM ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A STUDY AND IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE OPERATION OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE CITY OF ADAMS. Votes in favor: Karen Ruechel, Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Ella Noterman. Votes against: None Motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

The clerk informed the council that the 2023 Ford F350 that the city purchased with the money that it had been budgeting for the last 6 years came in last week. Next week, the truck will go to Mankato to have the prototype Crysteel box installed.

John Kloeckner, a representative from the Adams Township Board, was present to talk about the City of Adam's interest in annexing the Park View Acres Subdivision located West of the City of Adams in Adams Township, which he had read in the previous meeting minutes. The council informed Mr. Kloeckner that the city was only looking for legal counsel in the matter of annexation. The city now knows the processes that need to be taken for land to be annexed, and that if the city wanted to pursue the annexation of the Park View Acres Subdivision any further, it would have to work in conjunction with Adams Township to make it happen.

The clerk informed the council that he spoke to Mary Ippel with Taft Law Firm, the city's bond counsel, and she let the clerk know that the MPFA loan being used to fund the city's new well #5 project would need to be repaid from the city's water fund. Meaning that water rates will need to be increased to pay back the loan. We will know how much the water rates will need to be increased once the project moves forward.

The clerk informed the council that no applications have been submitted for the vacant Waterworks/Maintenance Supervisor position. The clerk was going to have Ella Noterman post on Facebook and the City of Adams website stating that there is a vacancy and how to apply if interested.

**City Insurance Claim:**

The clerk informed the council that the city's golf cart was driven through the Minnesota Ag storefront window. The clerk contacted the city's insurance agent and he was putting in a claim to the LMCIT.

**2024 Salary Negotiations:**

A 2.5% salary increase for the city workers was negotiated by the city clerk which is up from the 2.0% increase negotiated last year.

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Karen Ruechel to approve a 2.5% salary increase to the City Maintenance Depart and City Clerk for the coming year in 2024. Votes in favor: Karen Ruechel, Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Ella Noterman. Votes against: None Motion carried.

**Gambling Permit:**

Motion made by Ella Noterman, seconded by Karen Ruechel to approve the issuance of a gambling permit to the Adams Town & Country Recreation Corporation for a raffle to held at the Adams American Legion on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Votes in favor: Karen Ruechel, Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Ella Noterman. Votes against: None Motion carried.

**Building Permit:**

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Ella Noterman to approve the issuance of a building permit to John Kiefer at 102 1<sup>st</sup> St. NW for a storage shed in his backyard. Votes in favor: Karen Ruechel, Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Ella Noterman. Votes against: None Motion carried.

**Burning Permit:**

Motion made by Ella Noterman, seconded by Michael Cherney to approve the issuance of a burning permit to Steve Reyes at 105 5<sup>th</sup> St. NW to burn brush under the conditions that smoke cannot blow into the city or into the athletic fields when events are happening and that no burning will happen while burning bans are enacted by the DNR. Votes in favor: Karen Ruechel, Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Ella Noterman. Votes against: None Motion carried.

No further business.

Motion made by Ella Noterman, seconded by Christopher Quale to adjourn at 6:55 PM. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale, Ella Noterman and Karen Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Jake Goodale  
Clerk/ Treasurer