

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 14th, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting was duly held at City Hall at 7:00 PM on the 14th day of November 2023.

Council present: Karen Ruechel, Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Ella Noterman

Council absent: None

Mayor: Brian Anderson presided over the meeting.

Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Ella Noterman, to approve October 24th meeting minutes. Votes in favor: Karen Ruechel, Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Ella Noterman. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Approval of Timecards:

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

Old Business:

The clerk will be sending letters out to every resident and business that uses water in the City of Adams to explain the increase in water and sewer rates in order to make the payments for the PFA loan the city is in the process of obtaining from the State of Minnesota to pay for the new Well #5 project.

Police Report:

Sargeant Katelyn Fisher was present at the council meeting to submit the police report from 10/10/2023 to 11/14/2023. The Mower County Sheriff's Department spent approximately 228 hours patrolling the City of Adams during that time. They responded to 39 calls, the majority being traffic stops and medical calls. The clerk asked Sargeant Fisher to patrol the 300 block of Main Street on Monday nights around 4:00 PM after he had received a complaint that cars were stopping in the middle of the road to let kids out and a potential safety issue of kids gathering on the sidewalk unsupervised near State Hwy 56.

Fire Department Report:

The Fire Department responded to two fire calls in the month of October. The two new tanker trucks were purchased from Vander Haag's Inc, for \$86,550.00 and are ready to be picked up. Chief Heimer plans on picking them up on 11/18/2023.

Maintenance Department Report:

Hydrant flushing was completed in October. The jetter truck had a broken driveshaft repaired. Schmitz Electric removed the faulty outside light timer at the Emergency Services Building and replaced it with a dusk/dawn photo cell. The control panel for the well-house was installed by S&M Controls. The maintenance department has been picking up leaves on the streets. The

bathrooms at the campgrounds have been winterized and the water has be shut off. A hydrant at the waste water treatment plant was repaired. The new city truck is still at Crysteel waiting to get a box installed, there is no timetable on when it may be done. New Line Mechanical will be at the treatment plant the week of November 13th to replace pipe. The Legion will be ordering 17 flags to be installed on poles next spring per their request. A couple of residents have replaced their sewer service lines after failed inspections. The wet well at the plant was cleaned.

Prairie Visions Report:

There was no meeting in October, but Prairie Visions will be hosting a dinner at the Creek Bar & Grill in Rose Creek later this month.

Approval of Bills:

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

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Ella Noterman to approve payment of the bills as presented. Votes in favor: Karen Ruechel, Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Ella Noterman. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Financial Report:

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

Motion made by Ella Noterman, seconded by Christopher Quale, to approve the financial statement as presented. Votes in favor: Karen Ruechel, Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Ella Noterman. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Well #5 Financing (Taxable vs No-Taxable Loan):

The clerk and the mayor made the decision to move forward with a non-taxable PFA loan, which will save the City of Adams approximately \$7300.00 in interest. A non-taxable loan will require more paperwork and reporting to the State, but the clerk and mayor thought saving \$7300.00 outweighed the extra work.

Liquor License:

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Ella Noterman, to approve a temporary liquor license to the Sacred Heart School for their Winter Auction Banquet to be held on February 10th, 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 Christopher Quale, to approve a gambling permit to the Sacred Heart School to hold a raffle on February 10th, 2024 for their Winter Auction Banquet. Votes in favor: Karen Ruechel, Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Ella Noterman. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Resolution #14-2023:

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Christopher Quale, to approve Resolution #14-2023 allowing Mower County to retain all of the City of Adam's Voting Operations, Technology, and Election Resources (Voter) Account Funds, which annually will equally approximately \$80.00, and Mower County will reflect on credit of this amount on the City's annual election cost invoice. Votes in favor: Karen Ruechel, Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Ella Noterman. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Lodi Township Voting Location:

Lodi Township is in the process of constructing a building to conduct its elections, but they fear that it will not be completed before the start of the elections in 2024. They would like to utilize the City Hall in Adams again, like they did in 2022.

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Ella Noterman, to allow Lodi Township to use Adams City Hall for their elections in 2024 with the stipulation that they rent the building out for \$150.00 each time used. Votes in favor: Karen Ruechel, Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Ella Noterman. Votes against: None Motion carried.

John Smith Possible Solar Farm:

John Smith contacted the city to let them know that he is in the process of potentially installing a solar farm on the parcel of land he owns within the city limits in the NW corner of Adams. The land is zoned as agricultural, and the clerk let Mr. Smith know that there really are no restrictions that the City has against this type of construction. Mr. Smith told the clerk that he is just starting the process and it could be a couple of years before anything came to fruition. The council decided to table this matter until the next step of the process presents itself.

Dollar General:

A representative from Dollar General contacted the City about potentially building a store within the city limits. Some council members were concerned about what Dollar General could do to the longtime-standing businesses that have been established for years in the community. The clerk was going to check with some business owners in LeRoy, MN, to see how they fared after Dollar General moved into their community and report back to the council at the next meeting.

Building Permits:

Motion made by Ella Noterman, seconded by Karen Ruechel, to approve a building permit to Cody Kirkpatrick in order to move a shed onto his property at 311 5th St. NW. Votes in favor: Karen Ruechel, Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Ella Noterman. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Kelvin Retterath:

Kelvin Retterath contacted the city about the upcoming open house at Adams Builders Supply, which is being held to honor the 51 years Russell Retterath and his business have served the City of Adams. He wondered if the city would be doing something to honor Russell and Adams Builders Supply. The council discussed the notion and determined that the city has not honored any business owner or business for as long as anyone could remember and thought it would be unprecedented to start now. The mayor said he would attend the open house and thank Russell in person for his 51 years of service to the community and its residents.

Patricia Mueller:

Representative Patricia Mueller attended the council meeting and discussed with the council the different bonding projects that have been approved in Mower County, as well as how she intends to lobby how the state uses its 2 billion dollar surplus.

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Ella Noterman, to adjourn at 7:57 PM. Votes in favor: Ella Noterman, Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale and Karen Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Jake Goodale
Clerk/ Treasurer

