

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ----- NOVEMBER 21, 2022

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Karst. The following Council members were present: Austin, Koski, and Heitman. Council member Nistler attended via conference call. Council members Carr and Ozark were absent. Also present were Code Compliance Officer Dees, Chief Weber, Grant Writer Ryan, and DPW Skubinna. Kaden Bedwell from Interstate Engineering, Ruth Ann Hutchinson, Maggan Walstad, Nancy Hamilton, and Mark Duprez were also in attendance. City Clerk Amundson and City Attorney Pekovitch attended via Google meets. There was no media representation.

Mayor Karst led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on any Agenda Item: NONE

Council member Koski made a motion approving the consent agenda including the payment of claims for November 21, 2022 in the amount of \$70,000.06, the Valley Court Apartment claims in the amount of \$774.65, and the minutes of the November 7, 2022 Regular Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Austin, and carried unanimously.

Council member Austin made a motion approving the financials for September 2022. The motion was seconded by Council member Koski, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Karst mentioned the approval to adopt the procurement policy will be moved down on the agenda until City Attorney Pekovitch is in attendance.

Council member Heitman made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Policy and Procedure Committee to implement NSF charges in the amount of \$10.00. The motion was seconded by Council member Koski, and carried unanimously.

Council member Austin made a motion approving the Lighting Committee to apply for funding for the downtown lighting construction, but will need to work with the City Grant Writer. The motion was seconded by Council member Koski, and carried unanimously.

City Attorney Pekovitch stated that she has reviewed the procurement policy for architects, engineers, and surveyors, but is also having another attorney in the office review it. Mayor Karst stated this policy will go back to the policy and procedure committee to bring a recommendation to the city council at the December 5, 2022 council meeting.

Mayor Karst appointed the following members to the employee incentive committee: Captain Edwards, Council members Nistler, Heitman, and Carr, City Clerk Amundson, and himself.

Unfinished Business:

- Levee Safety Committee Report – DPW Skubinna stated there will be a meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, November 22, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. He also spoke about the new rules that were just released and DNRC was unaware of these. They will discuss them at the meeting tomorrow.
- Update on GNDC noncompetitive grant – No Updated Report

Mayor Karst mentioned there have been requests to move the council meetings back to 4:30 p.m. That time will not work for him, but is able to move the meetings to 5:00 p.m. He asked City Clerk Amundson to make the necessary changes and inform the public.

Committee Reports: There were no reports for Personnel or Cemetery. There will be a water committee meeting coming up and the ordinance committee will work on reviewing the changes to the community decay ordinance and review a draft of the recreational marijuana ordinance being drafted by City Attorney Pekovitch. After they are reviewed, they will be brought to council for first and second readings. City Grant Writer Ryan gave her report.

Department Head Reports:

Code Compliance Officer Dees mentioned reminders for moving boats, campers, and trailers off the streets by December 1<sup>st</sup> have been put out as a public service announcement. Also, a reminder to residents about snow removal. He talked about the Board of Adjustments meeting that was held on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Weber said that while on leave, he graduated from the FBI Command College.

Council member Austin said the fire department has been quiet.

DPW Skubinna told the council that he is working on the water and sewer lead and copper lines outreach program. The city has until October 2024 to comply. He filled out a questionnaire for DEQ funding. The street department has been working on snow cleanup and there are two (2) position openings for temporary winter help if needed.

Kaden Bedwell from Interstate Engineering updated the council on the pool project. The invitation to bid will be published three (3) times with bid opening on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the council chambers. It will be available on the builders' exchange website starting tomorrow.

Maggan Walstad was in attendance to inquire on funding for the swim pool. She said the current fundraising amount and pledges are at approximately \$2.84 million and the construction estimate is \$3.68 million and wanted to know how the difference will be paid. Mayor Karst said a meeting will be held after the bids come in to see how much will be needed in additional funding. Kaden also mentioned the three lowest bids can be held for two (2) months, so the city will have some time to acquire additional funding if needed.

Public Comment: Nancy Hamilton and Mark Duprez were in attendance to request relief of their water bill. She told the council back in March of 2021 the water pipe had burst in Mark's basement and flooded it, which in turn damaged the hot water heater and the furnace. GNDC had come in and did an inspection for the grant program, but it's still going to be awhile. Mayor Karst recommended taking it to the water committee to discuss and come back with a recommendation to the city council. A water committee meeting will be on December 5, 2022 following the regular council meeting.

Council member Koski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Austin the meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

*Stacey A. Amundson*

Stacey A. Amundson  
City Clerk - Treasurer

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Rod Karst  
Mayor