

Minutes
City Council
Monday, January 13th, 2025
5 pm

Mr. Baune administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Brad Pitzl, and Council Members Roger Baumann and Mike Remiger. Mr. Pitzl now possesses all the regular authority of the Mayor, including signing checks.

The meeting opened with the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Pitzl called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. with council members Chad Altermatt, Roger Baumann and Mike Remiger present. Council member, Amanda Guetter, Arrived at 5:20 p.m.

Also present were Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator Brandon Baune, Engineer Matthew Miller, City Attorney Matt Novak, Public Works Director Jim Jenniges, Conner Leszczuk and Dan and Scott Ritter.

EDA Update – Mr. Baune provided a brief EDA Update. He noted that the EDA had not met for the month and was doing so on Wednesday. The only update for the council was that payments were received from DEEM Inc. and that a plan was in place to get caught up moving forward.

Public Comment – Connor Leszczuk – Mr. Leszczuk spoke of his concern for the many instances he has had contact with loose dogs around town while walking his own dogs. Two such instances resulted in injuries and police reports being filed. Mr. Leszczuk also provided the council with a map illustrating the places where these instances took place. He asked the council to kindly consider ordinance changes or other action items to help mitigate the issue. Mr. Novak spoke about the current way the city handles these situations, including contacting the county. He noted that our contract states that the county must enforce our ordinance and that he would speak with Sheriff Jacobson about the City's concerns and report back to the council.

Dan and Scott Ritter of Southwest Sanitation – Scott Ritter thanked the city and its residents for many years together as our sanitation provider and reiterated their desire to continue providing services for the city going forward. Mr. Novak reiterated that, per the current contract with Southwest Sanitation, the city may try to negotiate a 3-year contract extension. Southwest Sanitation offered to keep the rates where they currently are and would provide one month free. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the council to have Mr. Baune draft and publish a solicitation for bids given the amount of money and responsibility to the residents to make sure the city gets the best deal they can.

Engineering Report – Mr. Miller provided the Engineering update which included the following items:

1. **Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project** – He noted that all work was complete for 2024. Testing, gravel, seeding, concrete and paving would all be done in the summer of 2025.
2. **Water Treatment Plant Improvements & New Well Project** – It was noted that the Advertisement for Bids was sent out. The bid opening was set for February 5th at 2:00 at the community center. The process happens online. Mr. Miller also noted that Plans and Specs have not been approved and should be done at this meeting. A copy was present at the meeting and others would be distributed. Motion by Guetter, second by Baumann to approve the Plans and Specifications for the Water Treatment Plant and Well project. Pitzl – yes; Guetter – yes, Altermatt – yes; Baumann – yes; Remiger - yes

Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator – Mr. Baune provided the CTA Report which included the following items:

1. Jim's Vacation Time – Mr. Baune noted that Jim had left 16 hours of vacation time which could not be rolled into 2025. He recommended that the council consider allowing Mr. Jenniges to roll over these hours considering how busy he was with projects and the fact that he worked alone for a few months, causing him to cancel one short vacation. Motion by Guetter, second by Altermatt to allow Jim to roll over remaining 2024 vacation hours to 2025.
Pitzl – yes; Guetter – yes, Altermatt – yes; Baumann – yes; Remiger - yes
2. Letter in Utility Bills – Mr. Baune noted that the letter would go out with January's bills.
3. Community Center Sound Wire – Mr. Baune noted that Harley Pfarr from River Valley Low Voltage was here to find out why the sound wasn't working while on Skype meetings. He found out that a wire had been removed and was nowhere to be found. It was recommended by the council to have it fixed the way it should be.
4. Packets to Council – It was a consensus of the council not to change the process.
5. Lead Copper – Mr. Baune noted that Lead and Copper results were just received, and the city was compliant on both. Congrats to Jim.

Street Report – Mr. Jenniges noted that there were no major updates on the streets. Mr. Altermatt asked if Mr. Nelson had his light updated. Mr. Baune to check into this and report back to the council.

Water/Wastewater Report – Mr. Jenniges noted that we recently had a main break near Jonti-Craft and that an update to the main on both sides of the highway should be planned in the future.

Parks Report – A plan for the parks was discussed and it was the consensus of the council to have Mr. Baune form a committee to draw up plans and gather costs and report back to the council.

2025 Appointments – The following appointments were made for 2025:

- EDA Board – Brad Pitzl and Roger Baumann
- Streets – Mike Remiger
- Water/Wastewater – Chad Altermatt

- Parks – Amanda Guetter
- Buildings – Roger Baumann

2025 Designations – The following designations were made for 2025:

- Acting Mayor – Amanda Guetter
- Official Newspaper – Redwood Gazette
- Official Depository – Integrity Bank Plus, Wabasso; Wanda State Bank; First Independent Bank, Lucan
- City Attorney – Novak Law Office
- Regular Meeting Date and Time – 2nd Monday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
- Milage Reimbursement – IRS Rate
- City Engineer – Case by Case
- Special Meetings - \$25
- Per Diem - \$75
- Setting of Clerk’s Office Hours – Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Cannabis Ordinance – Mr. Novak provided a copy of the draft ordinance at the meeting. He gave a couple of key highlights and requested that the council look at it over the next month and be prepared to ask any questions and move to approve at February’s meeting.

Community Center Improvements Update – Mr. Baune noted that the office and area where the door was removed was painted; however, the other items remained. He would check with contractors and update the council next month.

Consent Agenda – Motion by Guetter, second by Baumann to approve consent agenda as follows, which includes the addition of the Gambling Permit for the Wabasso Fire Department:

1. Approve Council Minutes – December 9th and 16th, 2024
2. Approve Auditing Agreement with Kinner and Company for \$22,000 or \$28,000 if a single audit is required.
3. Approve Wabasso Fire Department’s Request for Gambling License for Raffle on April 25th, 2025

Pitzl – yes; Guetter – yes, Altermatt – yes; Baumann – yes; Remiger - yes

City Bills – Motion by Altermatt, second by Remiger to approve the bills as follows:

General Checking

101 General Fund	\$20,879.17
225 Fire	\$4,089.29
230 Ambulance	\$3,248.90
307 2013 Refunding Bonds	\$46,967.50
319 Cedar Street Improvements	\$153,464.04
320 USDA RD Sewer Rehab	\$30,569.50

379 TIF 1-5 2005A Bonds	\$47,276.25
405 2017A Tax Abatement Const.	\$31,032.50
601 Water	\$12,705.50
602 Sewer	\$5,754.50
603 Refuse (Garbage) Fund	\$6,604.07
604 Stormwater Utility	<u>\$2,997.50</u>
Total Checks	\$365,588.72

Pitzl – yes; Altermatt – yes; Baumann – yes; Remiger - yes

Motion by Altermatt, second by Remiger to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.

Pitzl – yes; Guetter – yes, Altermatt – yes; Baumann – yes; Remiger - yes

Brandon Baune
Clerk/Treasurer Administrator

DRAFT