

Minutes
City Council
Monday, February 10th, 2025
5 pm

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

Mayor Pitzl called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with council members Amanda Guetter, Chad Altermatt, Roger Baumann and Mike Remiger present.

Also present were Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator Brandon Baune, Engineer Matthew Miller, City Attorney Matt Novak, Public Works Director Jim Jenniges, Brian and Linda Baune, and Michelle Fennern.

EDA Update – Mr. Baune provided a brief EDA Update. He noted they continue to work on past due payments, though progress is being made.

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

1. **Water Treatment Plant Improvements & New Well Project** – Mr. Miller noted that bid opening for the project happened on February 5th at 2:00 p.m. The lone bid came from Rubin Construction, LLC in the amount of \$1,287,000. A letter from Bolton & Menk was added to the packet outlining their recommendation to award the bid.
 - a. **Resolution 01-2025 Award of Water Treatment Plant and New Well Project** – Motion by Remiger, second by Altermatt to approve Resolution 01-2025 to award the water treatment plant and new well project to Rubin Construction, LLC in the amount of \$1,287,000.
Pitzl – yes; Guetter – yes, Altermatt – yes; Baumann – yes; Remiger – yes
 - b. **Phase 2: Construction Observation and Construction Management** – Mr. Miller noted that this was not approved in 2024 as the council wanted reassurance that funding would be available so the project could proceed. Motion by Altermatt, second by Guetter to approve Phase 2: Construction Observation and Management in the amount not to exceed of \$140,000 on the Water Treatment Plant Improvements & New Well Project.
Pitzl – yes; Guetter – yes, Altermatt – yes; Baumann – yes; Remiger – yes
 - c. **GIS Services** – Mr. Miller gave an update on the plan, what services they can provide and recommendations moving forward. It was a consensus of the council not to move forward with anything until the city can receive a comprehensive invoice and plan.

Public Comment – Brian and Linda Baune – Mr. and Mrs. Baune shared their concerns about a fire at their neighbors with the council. They noted concerns about what the residents were doing with the ashes and asked the council if there was anything they could do to help prevent another fire from happening, as they are very concerned that it could happen again. It was the

consensus of the council to have Mr. Baune draft and send a letter to the residents, giving them guidance on safely with the ashes from the wood stove.

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

1. **IRIS System Test** – It was noted that office staff would be testing the system this week, and council should be aware, if residents question, that the alerts are often identified as spam. This is largely due to the fact that the system name is IRIS, similar to IRS.
2. **New Computers** – Mr. Baune noted that Chad from Tech Unlimited was in the office recently to do their annual technology visit. During that visit Chad noted the age of all the computers being used. The biggest concern is that the version of Windows being used was soon going to be obsolete and Microsoft would no longer be supporting it. This would leave the City particularly vulnerable to viruses and other issues. He noted that he would be ordering new computers and laptop and planned to find a place to fit this in the budget. It was a consensus of the council to order the computers.
3. **Tourism Update** – Mr. Baune noted that he was contacted by someone on the west coast inquiring about whether we still had a large white rabbit displayed in town. They had found out about this on a website for quirky places to stop in rural America and were excited to hear the rabbit(s) still existed.
4. **Watering of Downtown Flowerpots** – Mr. Baune noted that he would be attending a Commercial Club meeting soon and they wanted to know the city's stance on watering the flowers next summer. It was the consensus of the council not to have city employees watering flowers going forward and that the Commercial Club should ask businesses to water themselves. In the event that they receive a significant amount of pushback, Mr. Baune to check with the League of MN Cities about how volunteers could use our equipment for watering, should that be our best option.

Street Report – Mr. Baune gave a brief streets report. It was noted that there were questions about whether the streets should be plowed the following weekend. Mr. Novak noted that the ordinance was clear that, while the council may give general guidance, it is at the discretion of the Public Works Director, Jim Jenniges, to decide whether to plow the streets.

Water/Wastewater Report – Mr. Baune noted that Jim would be doing exam prep and taking his Class C Wastewater Exam in early March.

Parks Report – Mr. Baune noted that he had a few people committed to the parks committee and was waiting to find a couple more. Also, Ms. Guetter questioned who had keys for the concession stands. Mr. Baune to work on list of concession stand keys.

Resolution 2-2025 Awarding the Sale of \$1,449,000 Taxable General Obligation Bond 2025B – Motion by Baumann, second by Guetter to approve Resolution 2-2025 Awarding the Sale of \$1,499,000 Taxable General Obligation Sewer Revenue Bond 2025B.
Pitzl – yes; Guetter – yes, Altermatt – yes; Baumann – yes; Remiger – yes

Resolution 3-2025 Awarding the Sale of \$2,936,000 Taxable General Obligation Bond

2025A – Motion by Altermatt, second by Guetter to approve Resolution 3-2025 Awarding the Sale of 2,936,000 Taxable General Obligation Bond 2025A.

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

Cannabis Ordinance – This was tabled to correct errors in the document. Mr. Baune was directed to place it on the special meeting agenda on February 19th.

Community Center Improvements Update – Mr. Baune noted that he and Jim had reached out to the two contractors with items left and that they did not have a definite timeline for completion. They each expressed their desires to have them complete in the next month. Also, the council discussed removing fees for ACE of Southwest Minnesota. It was a consensus of the council not to approve.

Animal Issues – Mr. Novak noted that he had spoke with the Sheriff’s Office about the city’s expectations when handling issues with animals. He believes they are on the same page as the city. He noted that neither incident brought up at last month’s meeting resulted in charges. One occurred outside of city limits and the other one did not rise to a level severe enough to bring charges.

Consent Agenda – Motion by Geutter, second by Baumann to approve consent agenda as follows, with the exception of the building permit for shed at 1460 Elm Street as does not meet Zoning ordinances:

1. Approve Council Minutes – January 13th, 2025
2. Approve Highway 68 Off-sale/Brian Baune application for Off-sale Liquor License
Pitzl – yes; Guetter – yes, Altermatt – yes; Baumann – yes; Remiger – yes

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

General Checking

101 General Fund	\$25,822.61
225 Fire	\$874.20
230 Ambulance	\$10,155.73
320 USDA RD Sewer Rehab	\$300.00
601 Water	\$13,169.41
602 Sewer	\$9,883.28
603 Refuse (Garbage) Fund	<u>\$2,905.98</u>
Total Checks	\$63,111.21

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

Motion by Guetter, second by Altermatt to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

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

Brandon Baune
Clerk/Treasurer Administrator