

Minutes  
City Council  
Monday, October 9th, 2023  
5 pm

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

Mayor Atkins called the meeting to order with Council members Amanda Guetter, Chad Altermatt, Jeff Olsen and Roger Baumann present.

Also present were Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator Brandon Baune, Public Works Director Jim Jenniges, Maintenance Worker Josh Hoffenkamp, City Engineer Matthew Miller, City Attorney Matt Novak, and Rachel Ingebretson.

**EDA Update** – Mr. Baune presented the EDA update. The EDA did not hold an official meeting as they did not have a quorum; however, a couple of daycare providers showed up for a planned discussion. This discussion was extremely informative and gave the EDA many ideas for ways they and the city may be able to assist daycares with rising costs as well as the overall lack of daycare options in our community. More to come on specific actions the EDA plans to enact. They would also like to partner with the city where possible.

**Public Comment** – The council took comments from Rachel Ingebretson. Rachel explained to the council that cars are speeding to and from Jonti-Craft behind her house. There used to be an alley behind her house out to June Street and they continue to go through as there is still a driveway onto the street. For now, Mr. Jenniges will block this off so cars cannot use this path to get to June Street, and it will be placed into the scope of work for the sewer project to have this driveway removed and regular curb and gutter put in its place.

**Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator.**

1. **Dan Mathiowetz – Request for Hearing** – Brandon updated the council on the progress for a hearing. He is working on contacting individuals for the hearing and expects to have something set by the weekend.

**Street Report** – Mr. Jenniges presented the street report.

1. It was noted by Mr. Jenniges that street patching did not begin in September as scheduled but he hoped it will soon. He is waiting to hear back from the contractor on a specific date.

**Water/Wastewater Report** – Mr. Jenniges presented the water/wastewater report.

1. Mr. Jenniges noted that everything was OK with the wastewater at this time.
2. Mr. Jenniges noted that the new media at the water plant was not functioning correctly at this time. He is working with Bolton and Menk to fine-tune the amount of chemicals needed to balance everything out. They hope to have this resolved soon.

**Parks Report**- The following issues were presented regarding parks:

1. There is still quite a bit of garbage leftover on the ground after events. Mr. Baune was instructed to contact Jon Fulton about this. He was also instructed to ask if it can be mentioned over the loudspeaker by the football announcers that spectators properly dispose of their garbage.
2. The water meter has been installed at the baseball field. Mr. Baune should bill the baseball association for the same amount of water as they were last year.

**Nuvei Proposal** – Mr. Baune presented a proposal from Nuvei for additional payment solutions among other benefits. Mr. Baune explained that he particularly liked this solution as it integrates nicely with their current accounting software, Banyon Data Systems. This would mean that bringing this software in would not greatly increase administrative time compared to other solutions. This software would allow our residents to be able to pay their bills with a credit card, both in person and online. There are many other useful features such as alerts. The council asked if other bills, such as dumpster and community center rentals. Mr. Baune will contact Nuvei to make sure. The cost to the city is \$9.95/month, while card transactions are charged 2.75%. This money goes straight to Nuvei. There is also an additional fee for a card reader to be had in the office. Mr. Baune was unsure of the exact amount for this reader. Motion by Olson, second by Guetter to approve the proposal from Nuvei, provided it can handle the items requested by the council.

Atkins – yes; Guetter – yes; Altermatt – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes

**Community Center Improvements Update – Exterior Improvements** – Mr. Olson explained a quote from Gramstad Lumber which was not able to make it onto the agenda. He explained that the quote was for the other 3 sides of the community center. He recommends that the council approve to have all 3 sides done now, rather than one each year, to mitigate the risk of the colors not matching perfectly. The council requested that Mr. Baune review this from a budget/accounting perspective and get back to the council next month.

Mr. Baune also noted that he has contacted Harley Pfarr for training on the new technology in the community center. His plan is for him and Michelle to become proficient in the technology and they will train the council and EDA as well as anyone else who should want training.

**Ambulance Update** – Mr. Novak noted that he has been working with the city of Lamberton and other stakeholders and they presented their concerns to the county commissioners. He explained that the commissioners knew about the issue but not its severity. The commissioners asked Mr. Novak to work with parties to form possible solutions. Motion by Olson, second by Baumann to form/participate in forming the Redwood County Emergency Medical Services Board to put together specific recommendations for the commissioners.

Atkins – yes; Guetter – yes; Altermatt – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes

**Engineering Report** – Mr. Miller presented the engineering report.

1. Mr. Miller noted that he has been taking questions from contractors regarding the sewer project. He clarified important dates for the sewer project including the bid and meeting dates.

2. Mr. Miller also reiterated that the filter/media replacement is a short-term fix to our water issues. We have a grant filed with the PFA and we hope to hear by mid-November on the official status of that grant.
3. Mr. Miller also noted at this time that there was a resolution in the consent agenda to apply for a grant for Front Street. This would be for similar work done as with Cedar Street. This street is a logical fit to do next as its importance highlights the grant's ideal applicants.

**Consent Agenda** – Motion by Olson, second by Altermatt to approve consent agenda as follows:

1. Approve Council Minutes – September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
2. Approve Resolution 22-2023 Local Road Improvement Grant (LRIP) Front Street
3. Approve Resolution 23-2023 Authorizing Application for Grant Navigation Support for the city
4. Approve Fireworks Display for Winterfest on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 Application from Commercial Club

Atkins – yes; Guetter – yes; Altermatt – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes

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

General Checking

101 General Fund	\$19,829.36
225 Fire	\$1,568.20
230 Ambulance	\$4,065.75
319 Cedar Street Improvements	\$32,841.19
320 USDA RD Sewer Rehab	\$27,083.50
601 Water	\$31,074.00
602 Sewer	\$7,281.47
603 Sanitation	<u>\$3,407.91</u>
Total Checks	127,151.38

Atkins – yes; Guetter – yes; Altermatt – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes

Motion by Olson, second by Baumann to adjourn at 5:50 p.m.

Atkins – yes; Guetter – yes; Altermatt – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes

Brandon Baune

Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator