

CITY OF VERGAS
PUBLIC HEARING
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER & ZOOM
Tuesday, January 14, 2025

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:15 pm, on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at the Vergas Event Center and on a Zoom for a hybrid regular public hearing with the following members present: Mayor Dwight Lundgren, Council Members: Bruce Albright, Paul Pinke, and James Stenger. Absent: Dean Haarstick. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers; Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane; Liquor Store Manager Kyle Theisen; Attorney Tom Winters; Editor Bob Williams of the Frazee-Vergas Forum; Engineer Blane Green; and Citizens Carol Albright, Emma McLemore, Sarah Lundgren, Jack McLemore, Brian McLemore, Rachel McLemore, Daniel McLemore and Rosemary Sandau.

Call to Order

Mayor Dwight Lundgren called the meeting to order.

Bruce Albright reviewed the request for tax abatement for parcels 82000990249000 and 82000990244000. These are lots sold by the Vergas HRA in the Sunny Oaks Division. The abatement is for \$5,000 or 5 years whichever comes first. The abatement is for improvements to the property, house, garage etc.

No other comments were made, and the public hearing was closed at 6:20 pm.

CITY OF VERGAS
COUNCIL MINUTES
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER & ZOOM
Tuesday, January 14, 2025

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:30 pm, on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at the Vergas Event Center and on a Zoom for a hybrid regular council meeting with the following members present: Mayor Dwight Lundgren, Council Members: Bruce Albright, Paul Pinke, Dean Haarstick, and James Stenger. Absent: none. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers; Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane; Liquor Store Manager Kyle Theisen; Attorney Tom Winters; Editor Bob Williams of the Frazee-Vergas Forum; Engineer Blane Green; and Citizens Carol Albright, Emma McLemore, Sarah Lundgren, Jack McLemore, Brian McLemore, Rachel McLemore, Daniel McLemore and Rosemary Sandau.

Call to Order

Clerk-Treasurer Julie Lammers called the meeting to order.

Oath of Office

Lammers administered the oath of office to Mayor Dwight Lundgren and Council Members Bruce Albright and James Stenger.

Council Orientation

Lammers provided a power point regarding the City Council.

Citizens' Concerns

No concerns addressed.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve the agenda with the following item added: Street Committee and League Training and the following item deleted: City Insurance. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Albright to approve the following consent agenda:

- A. Council Minutes of the December 10 and December 20, 2024
- B. Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills
- C. Liquor Store bills for December 2024
- D. Late water/sewer bills
- E. 2024 Investment Schedule/Bond Schedule
- F. General Fund Special Revenue Money Market Account
- G. 2024 Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances
- H. Forms

1. Event Center Agreement
2. Work in Right of Way Permit

Motion passed unanimously.

Set Time, Place and Date of Regular 2025 Meetings

Discussed the fact that both the Council and Lions have their large meetings on the same night. There are no handicapped parking spots left on our meeting night. Motion by Albright, seconded by Haarstick to hold 2025 Council meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in a hybrid setting at the Vergas Event Center. Motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of Acting Mayor

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Albright to appoint James Stenger as Acting Mayor. Voting yes: Pinke, Stenger, Albright and Haarstick. Voting No: None. Motion carried. The acting mayor is responsible for the duties of the Mayor in their absence. Dwight Lundgren and James Stenger will be signers on the City accounts held at Vergas State Bank along with the signature of the City Clerk.

Appointments

Discussed Event Center Advisory board and the challenging time the city has in finding members. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Albright to approve changing the event center advisory board to 5 members: one from the Lions, one from the Vergas Community Club, one citizen from Vergas, the Deputy Clerk and a Council Member. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Albright to approve the following appointments:

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve council portfolios as presented by Mayor Lundgren: CDH-Vergas Fire Board Representative Dwight Lundgren; Planning Commission Representative and Appointments - Bruce Albright, Rebecca Hasse and Shane Hasse; Economic Development Authority and Housing Redevelopment Authority Representative and Member - Bruce Albright and Kevin Zitzow; Event Center Advisory Board Representative and Member- James Stenger.

Motion passed unanimously.

Albright reviewed the rating sheets provided from 2024 Council regarding City Attorney. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to appoint the City Attorney Tom Winters of Ramstad, Skoyles and Winters, P.A. in 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to designate official newspaper - Frazee-Vergas Forum. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to designate official place of advertisement of projects: www.cityofvergas.com.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Stenger to designate Official Depositories: Vergas State Bank. Motion passed unanimously.

Albright reviewed the rating sheets provided by 2024 Council regarding Engineering firm. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to appoint City Engineering Firm Widseth for 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Tax Abatements

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve the tax abatement for parcel 82000990244000 for \$5,000 or 5 years whichever comes first for real estate taxes related to the residential building improvements on said property. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve the tax abatement for parcel 82000990249000 for \$5,000 or 5 years whichever comes first for real estate taxes related to the residential building improvements on said property. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Personnel

Lammers reviewed the personnel committee meeting held January 10, 2025 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office).

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to advertise Deputy Clerk position through January 21. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to hold special meeting on January 30, 2025 at 8:30 am at the Government Services Center to approve Deputy Clerk position. Motion passed unanimously.

Streets

Engineer Blaine Green reviewed the timeline for the parking lot/alley project with the bidding process being brought to Council in February. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve phase 2 of project which includes design, permits, plans, specifications and bidding for \$12,000. Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Utilities Superintendent

DuFrane reviewed water and sewer activities. Discussed fence around water treatment and tower from Dakota Fence for \$29,815.00. Albright asked DuFrane to provide a second quote. Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger to approve Tri-City Pump and Control estimate for impeller, wear ring, volute, and labor for \$5,405.17. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve spending up to \$1,500 on an air compressor with funds coming from sale of brass and small tools. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Haarstick, seconded by Pinke to allow DuFrane to attend Mn Heath

Department class on Jan 22 at the Big Woods Conference Center. Motion passed unanimously. DuFrane invited Stenger to tour the water plant and lagoons at his convenience.

Liquor Store Manager

Theisen reviewed the 2024 income and expenses for the Liquor Store. Discussed seating area located in front of building and was advised to have municipal committee review and bring recommendations to the Council.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Lammers provided written report.

Mayor's Minute

Lundgren thanked city employees Mike DuFrane, Matt Engebretson, Kyle Theisen and Julie Lammers for the work they do with the city and stated he is here to support them. Discussed chicken ordinance and the planning commission will review the properties that are not in compliance with the ordinance.

Information & Announcements

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke for Mayor and Council members serving less than 2 years to attend LMC 2025 Newly Elected Leaders training February 28-March 1, 2025 at Arrowwood in Alexandria MN. Motion passed unanimously.

Trainings:

- A. MN Rural Water, Jan 30, 2025 Elbow Lake (DuFrane and Engebretson)
- B. MN Rural Water Conference – March 4-6, 2025 in St Cloud (DuFrane)
- C. MN Clerks and Finance Officers – March 17 -21, 2025 in Brooklyn Center (Lammers)
- D. Clerks Advanced Academy- September 18-19, 2025 (Lammers)
- E. LMC, Loss Control Workshop March 26 in Alexandria (DuFrane, Engebretson, Lammers)
- F. League of MN Cities Annual Conference June 25-27, 2025 in Duluth (Mayor, Council & Lammers)
- G. Municipal Beverage Association (MMBA) April 20-23, 2025 (Theisen) Alexandria Arrowwood
- H. 16th Annual Operator Expo (MN Rural Water) August 20, 2025 DuFrane, Engebretson)

Events:

- A. Local Board of Review, April 10, 2025 Vergas Event Center Council Chambers, 1:00 pm (Mayor, Council and Lammers)
- B. Household Hazardous Waste Day, Thursday, June 26, 2025 10:00 - 2:00

Adjournment

Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The business for which the meeting was called having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Vergas Clerk-Treasurer
Julie Lammers, CMC