

CITY OF VERGAS
COUNCIL MINUTES
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER & ZOOM
Tuesday, February 13, 2024

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:30 pm, on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at the Vergas Event Center and on a Zoom for a hybrid regular council meeting with the following members present: Council Members: Bruce Albright, Paul Pinke, Dean Haarstick and Natalie Fischer. Absent: Mayor Julie Bruhn. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers; Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane; Engineer Blaine Green; Attorney Tom Winters; Editor Bob Williams of the Frazee-Vergas Forum; and Citizens Marcia Huddleson, Josh Hanson and Eric Ruther.

Call to Order

Acting Mayor Natalie Fischer called the meeting to order.

Citizens' Concerns

No concerns addressed.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve the agenda with the following item add: Clerk-Treasurer report, and the following item deleted: 2024 Statement of receipts, disbursements and balances from the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Albright to approve the following consent agenda with Albright having minor corrections to the minutes:

1. Council Minutes of the January 9 and 26, 2024
2. Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills totaling \$76,764.54.
3. Liquor Store bills for December 2023 totaling \$46,777.02.
4. Late water/sewer bills
5. 2024 Investment Schedule/Bond Schedule
6. General Fund Special Revenue Money Market Account
7. American Rescue Plan Funding 2021-2026
8. Committee Reports - requiring no Council Action
 - A. EDA/HRA
 - B. Water Sewer Committee
 - C. Streets/Sidewalk/Yard Waste

Motion passed unanimously.

Glenn St and W Lake St Extensions

Josh Hanson, developer of Lawerance Lake Acres, reviewed request for city to pay cost for movement of hydrant. Eric Ruther explained the cost of moving the hydrant on Glenn St was increased due to slope of ditch. They had estimated a cost of \$6,800 and was invoiced \$9,446.64. The council stated this expense would need to come from our water fund which is operating at a deficient and there is no water revenue coming from this project. No action. Council had previously disapproved paying.

Committee Reports

Park Advisory Board

DuFrane presented 2 quotes for the removal of the decaying trees in Lion's Park (park located behind the event center). Kangas Tree Service for \$2,000 and Midwest Tree and Maintenance, Inc for \$429.50. DuFrane stated the parks department could do the log loading and stump grinding. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to hire Midwest Tree and Maintenance, Inc for \$429.50. Motion passed unanimously.

Lammers presented a DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant to help with the Long Lake Park project. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to authorize Widseth to write and submit the application for the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant for the Long Lake Park. Motion passed unanimously

Personnel

Fischer presented the updated Use and Maintenance of City Vehicles policy explaining the city truck could be taken to EMS calls if an employee is on EMS and they miss the truck leaving the station and the removal of tacking vehicles home during course of the work day. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve the Use and Maintenance of City Vehicles policy. Motion passed unanimously.

Planning Commission

Lawrence Lake Acres second addition final plot was presented to Council. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Albright to approve the final plat as presented. Motion passed unanimously. Fischer asked Hanson if he would consider adding City water and sewer as funding may be available. Hanson stated if funding was presented to him, he would consider it.

Event Center Advisory Board

Lammers reviewed the floors in the event center. She met with the installer who has stated if areas need to be repaired, they will need to be marked and he would repair them.

Staff Reports

Utilities Superintendent

1. Water
 - a. MNRWA Continuing education 2/27/24 Staples, MN. Lead and Copper workshop. No class cost other than wages and mileage on City vehicle.
 - b. Ace Electric is still waiting for the last piece for the Water Treatment plant. Shipping date is 2/26/24.
 - c. Water Plant treated 9.1 million gallons of water.
2. Wastewater
 - a. 7.5 million gallons of wastewater was the influent stream.
 - b. 6.98 million gallons of wastewater was treated and discharged into the rapid infiltration basins. No water was discharged into the appropriate wetlands. All reported gallons have been sent to the appropriate agencies.

Green stated this is a great seminar to attend as many changes are being made by the state. Widseth is ready to move forward with the lead and copper project as soon as the work order is approved by the State of Mn. Motion by Haarstick, seconded by Pinke to allow DuFrane to attend MRWA seminar in Staples on February 27, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Lammers reviewed the Munibilling program that went live in the beginning of February encouraging everyone to sign up for emailed bills and to pay by echecks. Lammers reviewed the newly presented budget format and asked Council members to provide her with information if they would like to see changes.

Information & Announcements

Trainings:

1. MN Rural Water Conference – March 5-7, 2024 in St Cloud (DuFrane)
2. MN Clerks and Finance Officers – March 19 -22, 2024 in St Cloud (Lammers)
3. LMC, Loss Control Workshop March 26 in Mahanomen or March 27 in Alexandria (DuFrane, Engebretson, Lammers)
4. Municipal Beverage Association (MMBA-)April 20-23, 2024 (Theisen) Arrowwood
5. League of MN Cities Annual Conference June 26-28, 2024 in Rochester (Mayor, Council & Lammers)
6. Clerks Advanced Academy- September 19-20, 2024 (Lammers)

Events:

- Local Board of Review, April 10, 2023 Vergas Event Center Council Chambers, 1:00 pm (Mayor, Council and Lammers)
- Ottertail County, Workforce Summit, Wednesday, April 24, 2024
- Household Hazardous Waste Day, Thursday, June 20, 2024 10:00-2:00 (Volunteers Needed)

Marcia Huddleston questioned how to receive packet information the Council was receiving. Lammers explained the information is connected to the agenda she was receiving. When getting the agenda emailed to you if you click on the agenda tab at the bottom it will bring you to the packet information. The information is continually added so you may need to click back on the information to receive more information.

Adjournment

The business for which the meeting was called having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Vergas Clerk-Treasurer
Julie Lammers, CMC