

City of Vernon Center
PH & Reg Council Mtg
1-4-22 Minutes

Council Present: Mayor Dana Ziegler, Eric Pederson, Lisa Peterson, Emily Edwards, Wendy Bennett
Staff Present: PW Supervisor Mark Willette, Clerk Diane Roelofs
Others: Residents Jordan Moore, Calvin Baarts, Comm Bank-Avery Malakowsky, USDA RD-Ed Gilmore, Engineer Chris Knutson, Deputy Elijah Blakesley

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Ziegler opened the public hearing at 7pm and briefly explained the City Fee Schedule and Ord. #93 Water & Wastewater Rules, Regs and Penalties. There were no comments from the public. The public hearing was then closed at 7:01pm.

Mayor Ziegler opened the regular council meeting right after closing the public hearing.

Agenda: Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the agenda. 2nd by Councilor Bennett, all approved, motion carried.

Public Comment: none

Public Safety: Deputy Elijah Blakesley reviewed the December patrol report he provided showing 62 calls/hours for the month resulting in an average of 15.17 per week. The year in review showed 11.4 avg. hours a week surpassing the 10-hour contract agreement. He wanted to point out the burglaries are up in the rural areas but he is not seeing that in Vernon Center as of now.

Res. 2022-01 Appointments & Designations: After review and agreement to keep as stated in resolution, Councilor Bennett made a motion to approve Res. 2022-01 Appointments and Designations. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

Infrastructure Project: Eng. Chris Knutson covered the most recent information of the project stating the costs are up to \$13.4 million making it overbudget and short of funding. The water plant is basically bare bones for interior and only the building style itself could have a cost savings if changed from brick to steel according to Eng. Tom Madden. Possible street cuts considered were the underground infrastructure of the 2 blocks of East and Center streets north of First St., sidewalk on East Street and Oak Street and Hwy. 169 manholes. Even with possible cuts, the project will be short approximately \$1 million dollars. USDA-RD representative Ed Gilmore was present and was asked to give an estimate of what payments would be for an additional \$1 million loan, which will be reviewed at the February meeting. According to Mr. Gilmore Minnesota USDA-RD 2022 funding from the federal will not be known until about March. How much would be grants and loans is determined from that federal funding. If additional bonding money will be needed, the city should reach out to Senator Julie Rosen. USDA-RD Ben Skaaland has been reviewing Vernon Center's project plans and suggested as an option to SEH to put the project into alternate bids or to split up the project. Eng. Knutson told council that streets are not far from the original costs--\$3.1 to \$3.4 million. Mr. Gilmore requested ROW and other documents in order to get them reviewed on time. Mayor Ziegler made a motion to cut out all sidewalks except for Main St. E. and Main St. W proposed sidewalks. 2nd by Councilor Pederson, all approved, motion carried. Sidewalk around the FD should remain as well as leaving in Center Street and no pavement in front of the WTP. A meeting with Schmiesings for easement concerns should be set asap. GMS will not be in favor of a temporary road from Hilltop to the property line, therefore a temporary road will need to be installed from the Schmiesing property to GMS.

Community Bank-Avery Malakowsky: A request by Community Bank was presented to the council to move the fire hydrant during the project and to have a drive over curb on Center St. Community Bank would like to pave their entire lot along with a portion of the alley asap after the project has finished and would be funding that expense. The council did not have a problem with this proposal but it is dependent on whether or not Consolidated Communication can find a cement drive over vault to replace what is currently there.

Public Works:

MDH inspection report was reviewed. Protection of well #2 will be needed but can wait until the project is finished. The community room access to the old code will be turned off to protect the WTP SCADA system; PW Supervisor Willette can always let someone in if need be.

202 & 204 West St. N property owners will need meet with a committee to get a full understanding of their properties' sewer replacement plans. A meeting will be set up Monday, Jan. 10th and an invite will be sent out. The easement sent to Vic Kaduce has not been returned; Clerk Roelofs was instructed to wait longer for its return.

LJP Waste: The garbage company representative Ed Farforth was contacted. Mr. Farforth apologized and wanted citizens to be told to put out their garbage by 7am and know that under certain circumstances it may be later in the day before they are picked up. Two different trucks are being used due to breakdowns of the single truck service and the inability to get repair parts.

MPCA I&I Reduction report: Council reviewed the report that was sent to MPCA and Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the report. 2nd by Councilor Bennett, all approved, motion carried.

Consent Agenda: No comments on consent agenda. The consent agenda contained the 12-7-21 minutes, checks report showing \$475,712.02 in deposits and \$169,336.79 in checks, cash investment report, 20-23 Project expense report, revenue and expenditure guidelines, dumpsite agreement with VC Twp, **Res. 2022-05 Approval of Transfer from 101 City Checking to 403 City Savings Future Projects \$21,100, Res. 2022-06 Resolution Authorizing the City Clerk to make Electronic Funds and Wire Transfers**, review of Res. 2020-08 Policy to Allow Payment Before Council Authorization, LMCIT 2021 Dividend information, and the 2021 Annual City Report of Noxious Weed Control. Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

Additional Bills: Additional bills of \$14,304.75 for December and \$99,343 upcoming for January 2022 were reviewed. Councilor Pederson made a motion to approve the additional bills as presented. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

Res. 2020-04 Approval of Donations for 2020 Fireworks: After review, Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve donations of \$2154 from the Dec. 4th parade, soup supper and bake sale put on by St. Peters Church and the Vernon Center community group and a donation for \$200 in memory of Evelyn Wallace. 2nd by Councilor Bennett, all approved, motion carried.

Res. 2020-03 Approval of Annual Subscriptions, Dues and Memberships: After review, Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve Res. 2020-03 Annual subscriptions, dues and memberships. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

Res. 2020-02 City Fee Schedule: After no objections from the earlier public hearing, Councilor Bennett made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-02 City Fee Schedule. 2nd by Councilor Pederson, all approved, motion carried.

Ord. #93 Water and Wastewater Rules, Regulations and Penalties: Mayor Ziegler thanked all who were involved in updating this ordinance and felt the city did their due diligence in the updated version. Due to no objections during the earlier public hearing; Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve Ord. #93 along with Ord. #93 Summary Publication. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

Zoning: CVC draft letter: Mayor Ziegler reported about the draft letter to CVC stating that the letter contained what the committee agreed upon to include in a response letter. The letter gave suggested requirements but also stated that the requirements do not guarantee approval. Per city attorney advice the letter also stated that Crystal Valley Coop would have to request the city council to waive the limitation period (stated in Ord. #66 Article 12, Section 1201.Subdiv.4 Limitation on Application) and would need that approval before the rezone request could be re-filed within the 12-month period.

Resident Calvin Baarts brought up the dangerous ice slick on Hwy 169 in front of Giefer Towing Service. A letter will be sent to Giefer Towing to correct the solution by transferring the water to the sanitary sewer collection system. More research should be done to find out where all of the water is coming from. ✓

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 3rd, 2022

Adjourn: Councilor Pederson made a motion to adjourn at 8:29pm. 2nd by Councilor Bennett, all approved, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:


Diane Roelofs, Clerk-Treasurer


Dana Ziegler, Mayor

2-3-22
Date Approved