

City of Vernon Center  
3/4/2025  
Regular Council Meeting

Council Present: Mayor Dana Ziegler, Wendy Bennett, Emily Edwards, Adam Finney, and Lisa Peterson  
Staff Present: Clerk Kara Hansen  
Others Present: Casey from MRM, Calvin Baarts

Mayor Ziegler opened the regular council meeting at 6:00 PM

### **Approve Agenda**

Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the agenda. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Finney. All approved. Motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda included the 2/10/2025 mtg minutes, Check Reconciliations, January Cap Funds, January Cash Balance Investment Report, Checks for Month showing in \$49,746.12 deposits and \$33,881.51 in checks, City Expenditure Guideline, City Revenue Guideline, 2020-23 Project Balance Excel Spreadsheet, March & April calendar of events, the BEC Call Log for February, the February FD Report, the SSS Financing Participant List, the FD PPE list, and Resolution 2025-10 D-Bar License Renewal. Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Bennett. All approved. Motion carried.

### **Additional Bills**

#### **a). Add'l Bills**

Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the additional bills. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Edwards. All approved. Motion carried.

#### **b). Final Brush Truck Invoice & Resolution 2025-011 Funds Transfer**

Clerk Hansen said the final invoice for the brush truck purchase is attached. Councilor Peterson asked if the townships had been billed for their portion. Clerk Hansen verified they had been.

Councilor Bennett made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-11 Funds Transfer. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Edwards. All approved. Motion carried. Councilor Finney abstained.

### **Public Comment**

#### **Infrastructure Project**

##### **a. Rural Water Loan Extension Certificate**

Clerk Hansen said the extension was needed to be signed by March 1<sup>st</sup> so she contacted Lori Blair of MRWA who said it was fine to wait until tonight's council meeting.

##### **b. Bypass at WWTP**

Mayor Ziegler said the plan to bypass at the WWTP would be drafted by Holtmeier and the MPCA would approve it from there.

##### **c. Engineering Notes**

Mayor Ziegler said the notes are from an email Engineer Knutson sent that afternoon. He encouraged the council to read the notes as Engineer Knutson couldn't make it to the meeting due to the weather.

### **Follow up From Previous Meeting**

#### **a). General Update**

Clerk Hansen said the 2024 grass fire invoice has been paid. She said she also spoke to Paul Welckle at Consolidated and they agreed the City should wait until fiber optics are installed before upgrading to a

VOIP phone.

**b). Hilltop Deferred Assessment Certificate**

Clerk Hansen said this was drafted by the City Attorney to be filed with the county in the event the property on Hilltop is developed in the next 20 years. She will take it to be recorded at the county after it's been signed.

Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the deferred assessment agreement. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Finney. All approved. Motion carried.

**c). 303 West St N Sewer & Water**

PW Supervisor Willette spoke with the property owner of 303 West St N who said they will have their line capped off in Spring by Peterson Motor Grader who will do the work when they are slated to do the drain tile on Railroad St. Calvin Baarts was in attendance and he verified Peterson Motor Grader would cap off the sewer in Spring.

**d). Cannabis Ordinance**

Clerk Hansen said the interim ordinance on cannabis expired in August of 2024. The County has yet to pass their own ordinance as it pertains to cannabis, and she wanted to know what the City would like to do on the matter. Mayor Ziegler directed Clerk Hansen to reach out to Blue Earth County's Property and Land Supervisor for an update on where the county is in regards to its own ordinance.

**Minnesota Paid Leave Update**

Clerk Hansen reported the State of Minnesota released the rates at which the new Paid Family and Medical Leave would affect employees and employers. As the City of Vernon Center employs less than 30 employees, they qualify to pay a rate of .22% but they can pay more if they choose. According to the state of Minnesota, employees must earn at least 5.3% of the statewide average yearly wage, which is 2024 was \$3,781. This will exempt all the volunteer fire fighters and the council from having to pay into this.

**Next Meeting Scheduled for 4/3/2025**

**Adjourn**

Councilor Peterson made a motion to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Edwards. All approved. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.

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Kara Hansen, Clerk-Treasurer

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Lisa Peterson, Acting-Mayor

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Date approved