

City of Vernon Center
Regular Council Meeting
5-3-22 @ 7pm

Council Present: Emily Edwards, Lisa Peterson, Dana Ziegler; Absent: Eric Pederson, Wendy Bennett
Staff: PW Supervisor Mark Willette, Clerk Diane Roelofs
Others: Kevin Wilde, Shirley Randt, Eng. Chris Knutson, Cathy Kietzer

Mayor Dana Ziegler called the meeting to order @ 7pm.

Agenda: Add e. under Infrastructure Project as Flows & Bypasses, f. Schmiesing Easement and removed from the Consent Agenda Res. 2022-16 Approve Transfer that is not needed. Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the agenda with the updates. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

Public Comment: Residents Wilde and Randt spoke to the council about a property that has had someone living out of a truck last year, lawnmowers & junk lying around, dog feces on the porch, a partially built building. After they were finished, council agreed that the city will research the next steps to get the property cleaned up.

Public Safety: 53 calls, 12.3 hours a week

Fireworks: Cathy Kietzer, representing the 4th of July celebration & parade, reported that they will have a head shooter next year, therefore will not need to have J&M Displays do the fireworks shoot. The celebration this year will be on July 2, 2022 with the parade to start around 7pm. They are also working on a getting the peddle pull back in town. The route for the parade will need to alter according to the roads that will be under construction.

Infrastructure Project: Engineer Chris Knutson updated the council about his memo. The council does not need to attend the bid openings. The city will need to secure the full amount of loan needed before the project will be fully funded. RD will let the city know what loan totals will be after the bid openings. Shannon Sweeney will be asked to be at the next council meeting. Concerns of material delays and more money will be needed was noted. Utility companies have been met with and lines that will need to be moved will happen before any construction starts. It was suggested to have a neighborhood meeting in June, giving Eng. Knutson 2 weeks' notice as to the date. Mayor Ziegler requested that the council meets with the contractors prior to a public hearing to go over expectations. Updates for the project will be set up for the residents either by string texting, Facebook or the city website.

BEC Agreement: After review, Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the BEC Agreement between the City of Vernon Center and Blue Earth County. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

Signage during the Project: Engineer Knutson stated that directional signage for the WWTP and GMS will be added to the bidding set.

102 & 104 Main St. E: These properties have connected sewer lines. There is no reasonable way to split the sewer connections; therefore, the city would like to meet with the property owners to advise them as to what future corrections should be done.

Flows & Bypasses during construction: PW Supervisor reported that he would like the engineers and contractors to be aware of the sudden influent spikes from clear water (rain) and wanted to know who would be responsible if this were to happen.

Easement for Schmiesing for Temporary Road: Council reviewed the draft easement for Schmiesings to review. Council agreed to submit to Schmiesings for their attorney's review.

Public Works: Summer Hire—Personnel committee stated that the interview went well with the one applicant for the summer temporary worker. Councilor Edwards stated that she would be attend a meeting with the new summer help, Nicole Volk and city staff. The meeting will give expectations of the job. The job will be paying \$11 per hour. Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve hiring Nicole Volk for the summer hire position. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

Temporary Road Quotes—Peterson Motor Grader submitted a bid of \$21,868 and Boening Brothers submitted a bid for \$13,299.53. Mark's recommendations would to be to go with the lowest bid from Boening Brothers. Councilor Edwards made a motion to approve Boening Brothers quote for \$13,299.53. 2nd by Mayor Ziegler, all approved, motion carried. Councilor Lisa Peterson abstained from conversation and voting.

Consent Agenda: Consent agenda included minutes from 4/5, 4/11, & 4/25/22, Checks for Month report with \$18,007.63 deposits and \$15459.88 checks, Cash Balance Investment report, project excel report of expenditures, March bank reconciliations, and the calendar of events. Councilor Edwards made a motion to approve the consent agenda. 2nd by Councilor Peterson, all approved, motion carried.

Additional Bills: Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the additional bills for \$5825.79 for April and \$91,000.72 for upcoming bills due in May. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried. Clerk pointed out that included in the additional bills is the \$12,166 interest due to Community Bank for the first year on the \$869,000 temporary bond loan.

Compliance: Council covered the compliance documents provided in a. thru d. including Discrimination Process Notice, Reasonable Accommodations Process, Notice, Form & Monitoring Chart, Language Access Plan (LAP) Procedures and the Website Accessibility Statement. Councilor Edwards made a motion to approve the compliance documents a. thru d. 2nd by Councilor Peterson, all approved, motion carried.

Res. 2022-15 Adopting Prohibition of the Use of Excessive Force Policy & Policy: Council discussed the policy and noted that the okay from Captain Paul Barta should be attached to the policy. Councilor Edwards made a motion to approve Res. 2022-15 adopting the prohibition of excessive force. 2nd by Councilor Peterson, all approved, motion carried.

Spring Walk of Town: All council members should walk the town and give the clerk a list of properties and to be specific with details of areas to clean up before the June meeting.

Fire Department: no report

Misc.: Mayor/Clerk Meeting on May 12, 2022 in Eagle Lake, MN

Next Meeting: Monday, June 13, 2022. The council did set Tuesday, December 6th (regular council meeting for December) for the Budget and Final Tax Levy.

Crystal Valley Coop: CVC asked what they needed for requirements to take down the evergreens and put up a fence on the truck wash lot. An email was sent to them with details prior to the council meeting. They do have intensions to clean up the lot they just purchased next to it.

Adjourn: Council Edwards made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. 2nd by Councilor Peterson, all approved, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,


Diane Roelofs, Clerk-Treasurer


Dana Ziegler, Mayor


Date Approved