January 16, 2024
Regular City Council Meeting

A regular monthly meeting of the Sebeka City Council was called to order on January 16, 2024, at 6:31 pm by Mayor Anderson. A quorum of the council was present including Anderson, Connor, Grewing, Hanson and Lillquist. City staff members in attendance include Hahn, Haman, Hoppe, Lane and Roberts. Guests include Carter Wright and Levi Kuschel. Matt Johnson attended for the media.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Changes to the agenda included: Add 7B2 – Reolsution for donation to the police department.

There were no changes to the consent agenda.

MOTION by Connor, second by Lillquist to approve the agendas as amended, and authorizing all items listed on the consent agenda. Voting in favor: Anderson, Connor, Grewing, Hanson and Lillquist; Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

PRESENTATIONS:

CARTER WRIGHT addressed the council regarding request to obtain two lots in Northern Acres, one via the incentive policy, the other for purchase price of $5,000. The proposed resolution, purchase agreement and deed documents were reviewed.

MOTION by Lillquist, second by Hanson to adopt Resolution 2024-01 to authorize the conveyance of Lots 13 & 14 to Carter and Wright, and signing of all required documents for these transactions. Voting in favor: Anderson, Connor, Grewing, Hanson and Lillquist; Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

MOTION by Grewing, second by Hanson to approve sale price for second Northern Acres lot to Carter and Anna Wright for $5,000. Voting in favor: Anderson, Connor, Grewing, Hanson and Lillquist; Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

LEVI KUSCHEL addressed the council regarding his interest in joining the Sebeka Fire Department as an EMT. He would like the city to consider changing the requirements to allow people who live/work outside the city and outside the required response time to serve on the department. Currently the Fire Department is fully staffed. A change to the bylaws will be referred to the fire committee for consideration. Currently the fire department is fully staffed, and we do not have EMTs. All firefighters are required to serve as firefighters and first responders.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department Report: The fire department report was reviewed. There were 8 calls for service in December, including 5 rescues, 2 fires, and 1 vehicle. In 2023 there were a total of 208 calls.

Police Department Report: Reviewed monthly department report. There were 86 calls for service in December. Working with family of deceased property owner of 5 Clifford Ave S regarding property clean up. The tough book computers were ordered for PD and FD. They are starting to arrive. The PD will be undergoing their POST Board audit tomorrow. Reviewed Resolution 2024-05 to approve acceptance of a donation to the police department.

MOTION by Grewing, second by Lillquist to adopt Resolution 2024-05 accepting a donation to the police department. Voting in favor: Anderson, Connor, Grewing, Hanson and Lillquist; Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Liquor Store Report: Roberts presented the department report, including a list of upcoming activities, such as C&C bingo; CLC Gun Bingo; Pool League has started. Roberts expressed appreciation for gutter work performed by Hoppe and Maninga. We discussed issues they are having with the LS water softener. Discussed excess comp balance for Roberts. Hahn reminded the council when this occurred with previous manager, excess balance was paid out 5 hours per week at the previous years rate of pay.

MOTION by Lillquist, second by Grewing to pay out excess comp balance for Roberts in the amount of 10 hours per week at the 2023 payrate until the balance is down to the maximum of 40 hours. Voting in favor: Anderson, Connor, Grewing, Hanson and Lillquist; Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Becker Transport will be holding an event at the Event Center on February 10th. They are asking the city to contribute to the hiring of the Shane Martin Band. Last year the city contributed $1000; this year they have requested $2000.

MOTION by Connor, second by Grewing to pay $1000 for the Shane Martin Band, with Becker Transport to retain any funds received for the $5 cover charge. Voting in favor: Anderson, Connor, Grewing, Hanson and Lillquist; Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Public Works Report: Tom Hoppe presented the department report. They have been making repairs in the fitness center and at city hall. Busy with snow plowing and/or sanding icy roads and salting city owned streets. Discussed that the remote water meter readers are working well, and that this purchase was very good for public works.

Administration: Reviewed the administrator report which included a list of accomplishments over the past year. The highlight was obtaining the $1.14 million PFA grant. Much thanks is owed to Bolton Menk for their assistance in making this happen. Council would like to express their appreciation at the February meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Employee Handbook/Personnel Policy Manual – Holding off one more month before seeking approval to ensure all employees have adequate time for input.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed Meeting Dates were reviewed with no changes.

MOTION by Grewing, second by Lillquist to approve the proposed meeting dates for 2024. Voting in favor: Anderson, Connor, Grewing, Hanson and Lillquist; Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Annual Appointments and Designations were reviewed. The only change was to move Anderson off the Administrative Committee and add him to the Liquor Committee; and to remove Grewing from the Liquor Committee and add him to the Administrative Committee. Hahn should confirm with Ament and Miller if the agree to remain as Public Hearing Officers. Hahn should bring draft Ordinance to increase council pay for consideration.

MOTION by Grewing, second by Connor to adopt Resolution 2024-02 approving annual appointments and designations. Voting in favor: Anderson, Connor, Grewing, Hanson and Lillquist; Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

The 2024 Fee Schedule was reviewed and discussed. Proposed changes included Adding Golf Cart License fee that is referenced in the ordinance, $10 annually. The Sewer rate needs to be increased as agreed to by Resolution 2023-14 at the the time of application for the PFA funding. Added fee for RV Camping Permit as referenced by ordinance; increased aerobics $5.00 per session; and increased pool daily admissions to $5.00. Discussed possibility of increase to fitness center membership, but none was made at this time.

MOTION by Connor, second by Hanson to adopt Resolution 2024-03 approving the 2024 Fee Schedule as amended. Voting in favor: Anderson, Connor, Grewing, Hanson and Lillquist; Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Election Judges and Pay Rates Reviewed and discussed the resolution to appoint election judges for 2024 and set the rate of pay for said judges.

MOTION by Hanson, second by Grewing to adopt Resolution 2024-04 to approve the 2024 election judges and set the rate of pay for election judges. Voting in favor: Anderson, Connor, Grewing, Hanson and Lillquist; Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Minnesota Flag Hanson began the conversation stating he does not want to fly the new state flag. Does not agree that old flag was racist. Council wants to continue to fly the current flag that represents the history of our state. Public Works staff should purchase current flag as long as it is available.

ADJOURN:

Hahn was asked to add a closed session to the agenda to discuss security next month.

Having no other business before the council,

MOTION by Grewing, second by Lillquist, to adjourn the meeting. Voting in favor: Anderson, Connor, Grewing, Hanson and Lillquist; Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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David A. Anderson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cheryl Hahn, City Administrator