

Motley, MN

April 12th, 2021

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof Mayor Al Yoder called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Pat O'Regan, Steve Johnson, Jace Carlson and Mayor Al Yoder. Council Member Amy Hutchison was absent. The meeting was held at Motley City Hall.

The following persons were present at City Hall for all or part of the meeting: Public Works Maintenance Worker Bryan Stevens, Police Chief Jason Borash, Clerk/Treasurer Curt Bryniarski. Other interested individuals were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Al Yoder called for additions or deletions to the agenda.

No additions or deletions.

O'Regan moved with a second by Carlson to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Claims
 - i. Check #32282 – 32362; EFT #30448 – 30461; Payroll EFT #1000813- 1000846
- B. WEX fuel/mileage report – March
- C. Minutes of the Regular March 8th, 2021, Council Meeting
- D. March Employee Hours Report
- E. March Employee Leave Report

All aye, none nay. Mayor Yoder declared the Motion carried.

Agenda Requests/Presentations

Jon Archer from Schlenner Wenner & Co was virtually present via Zoom to present the 2020 Financial Statements and audit report. The audit process has not changed over the past year, other than it has all been handled remotely. Most presentations of financial statements have all been done remotely as well.

Jon went through the report in detail. The audit went smoothly, and he felt that the response from City staff was good. He was very happy with the financial performance of the City, there were no compliance findings.

Bernice Thompson reported on the Sprinkle and Sprout Garden Club. She was in attendance to request funding for their club. Mayor Al Yoder stated that the city would be able to pay for their flowers again this year. \$500 is the amount that has been given in the past. This money comes from the 10% Gambling fund. Council member Steve Johnson suggested increasing the amount to \$600. The amount given must match receipts provided by the garden club.

Johnson moved with a second by O'Regan to provide up to \$600 in funding for the Sprinkle and Sprout Garden Club. All aye, none nay. Mayor Yoder declared the Motion carried.

Bernice Thompson remarked that the 50-mph speed zone on the South end of town is dangerous for them crossing with their small tractor during the watering season. Mayor Yoder suggested they call Motley Police Department when they are crossing for assistance in slowing down the traffic while they cross.

Lisa Bjerga and Lana Hansen were present from the Hospital District Board to provide an update. Lisa Bjerga, CFO of the Lakewood Health Systems in Staples, presented the report. She focused on the district's response to COVID, through the phases. Currently, they have administered 7,220 vaccines.

Lakewood has added new providers this year and have had 2 retired, with 1 more retiring in 2022. They had a total of 360 providers for 2020. They averaged a total of 765 employees for 2020. She announced that Tim Rice, President/CEO of Lakewood will be retiring in December of 2022.

Sherry Frisk was present on behalf of the Motley Historical Society to request permission to use the Meeting Room and the Council Chambers for their Open House event on Memorial Day. Permission was granted.

Carlson moved with a second by O'Regan to approve the Motley Historical Society's use of both meeting rooms on Memorial Day, waiving the rental fee. All aye, none nay. Mayor Yoder declared the Motion carried.

Jason Borash from the June Fest Committee was present to provide an update on the June Fest celebration for 2021. They have decided to have June Fest this year on June 19, 2021. It will include most of the typical activities, but will not include a street dance. The committee is requesting donations from the City to help cover the costs. In the past the City has approved \$3,000. They are hoping to receive more this year as they are no longer partnering with the Staples Motley Area Chamber of Commerce since they have separated. The discussion concluded that the City would increase their contribution for this year, given the circumstances.

O'Regan moved with a second by O'Regan to approve a \$6,000 in donation to June Fest from the 10% Gambling Fund. All aye, none nay. Mayor Yoder declared the Motion carried.

Planning & Zoning Department/Committee Business

No business.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Brad Olson was absent as he was attending a township meeting. There were no questions of concerns from the Council after viewing the report.

Police Department

March 2021 police report was given by Police Chief Jason Borash.

Total calls for the month of March were 91, making a year-to-date total of 288.

Police Chief Borash reported that Officer Josh Pesta has submitted his resignation of full-time officer. He is requesting to remain as part-time. He is accepting a position with the County Sheriff's department that will take up most of his time. Chief Borash recommends keeping Officer Pesta on part-time until a full-time officer is hired.

Carlson moved with a second by O'Regan to accept the resignation of Officer Pesta from his current position as full-time Police Officer and approve moving him to part-time temporarily. All aye, none nay. Mayor Yoder declared the Motion carried.

Chief Borash was also seeking permission to have a memberships with the MN Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA). These are membership dues and coverage by their Legal Defense Fund. These are for both officers in the department.

O'Regan moved with a second by Johnson to approve the memberships and the dues for the MPPOA. All aye, none nay. Mayor Yoder declared the Motion carried.

Chief Borash also requested permission to set up a hiring committee to find a replacement full-time officer. Council member Johnson volunteered to be on the hiring committee. Mayor Yoder also appointed Chief Borash and Clerk-Treasurer Curt Bryniarski and Public Works Director Bruce Brotherton. There was some discussion on possible avenues to pursue in regards to advertising the position.

O'Regan moved with a second by Carlson to post the position for full-time Police Officer for 30 days with a starting wage from minimum to mid-point of Grade 7. All aye, none nay. Mayor Yoder declared the Motion carried.

Police Chief Borash requested vacation time for June 20-27, 2021 and August 19-22, 2021.

Carlson moved with a second by O'Regan to approve the vacation request by Chief Jason Borash. All aye, none nay. Mayor Yoder declared the Motion carried.

Public Works Department

March 2021 report was given by Public Works Director Bruce Brotherton.

Bruce Brotherton reported that the electric work is complete in the Converse Park Pavilion.

Administrative Department

March 2021 report was given by Clerk/Treasurer Curt Bryniarski.

Bryniarski reported that the water usage report is showing 4% loss which is still achieving our goal.

Old Business

No unfinished business to discuss.

New Business

Clerk Curt Bryniarski presented a letter from Little Falls City Administrator, John Rademacher, seeking support for pursuing a referendum to construct a recreational facility in Little Falls.

Carlson moved with a second by O'Regan to approve Resolution 2021-16: Supporting the City of Little Falls Referendum for Local Option Sale Tax to Construct a Recreational Facility. All aye, none nay. Mayor Yoder declared the Motion carried.

Meeting room usage request made by Bob Koenig for Spring Firearm Safety Class – April 19th, 20th, 22nd, 26th, 27th and 29th, 7-9 p.m.

Johnson moved with a second by Carlson to approve the meeting room usage without the rental fee. All aye, none nay. Mayor Yoder declared the Motion carried.

Carlson moved with a second by O'Regan to approve a \$500 donation to the Staples - Motley High School Grad Blast to be used as needed. All aye, none nay. Mayor Yoder declared the Motion carried.

Public Works Director annual performance evaluation is scheduled for a closed meeting on May 10, 2021.

Public Forum

Members of the American Legion were present to request an update about the flying of the thin line flag. Mayor Al Yoder reported that the City Attorney has recommended not flying the flag as it could open up to other organizations requesting their flags be flown as well. It was suggested that the fire department may use it as a parade flag.

Konrad Alexander was present to request an extension of his nuisance compliance deadline due to health reasons. Council member O'Regan suggested moving the deadline to the middle of August. Council agreed to move the deadline to August 15th due to the Konrad's health condition. Police Chief Jason Borash will monitor the progress. Mayor Al Yoder offered to find him assistance to complete this, but Konrad stated that he has appropriate help.

Joyce Kuehn, new president of the Sprinkle and Sprout Garden Club, introduced herself to the Council.

Council Forum

Mayor Al Yoder announced that he has a surgery coming up but he fully expects to be at the next council meeting anyway.

Upcoming Meetings/Important Dates

Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting, Friday, April 16th, 2021, 11:00 a.m. – City Hall

Planning and Zoning Meeting: Tuesday, April 27th, 2021, 6:30 p.m. – City Hall

City-Wide Garage Sales: Friday and Saturday, April 30th – May 1st, 2021

Regular City Council Meeting, Monday, May 10th, 2021, 6:30 p.m. – City Hall

City-Wide Cleanup Day: Saturday, May 15th, 2021, 7:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Council

O'Regan moved with a second by Carlson to adjourn the meeting. All aye, none nay. Mayor Yoder declared the Motion carried. The meeting was duly adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Curt Bryniarski, Clerk/Treasurer