

Whalan City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, April 12, 2021 5:00 p.m.
Meeting held at the Whalan Town Hall and via Zoom

Present: Marlys Tuftin, Tanya Cook, Kim Berekvam, Thore E. Johnson, and Owen Lewis

Absent: None

Visitors: Dave Ruberg, Ben Ruberg, Diane Snyder, Don Kullot, Rob Wagner, Attorney Joe O’Koren, Randy Berekvam, and Barb Jeffers

Regular Meeting:

Mayor Tuftin called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

- A. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- B. **Agenda:** Member Cook motioned to approve the agenda with the additions of Mower and Spray to the agenda. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.
- C. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - 1. Mayor Tuftin read the minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 8, 2021: Member Johnson motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.
- D. **Treasurer’s Report:** Clerk Peterson provided the treasurer’s report, after reviewing the 2019 and 2020 Audits, Peterson provided the following updated fund balances: The CD has a value of \$27,067.46 General Fund \$-74,860.63, Ballfield Fund \$850.00, Beautification Fund \$187.00, and Electric Fund \$137,935.95. Clerk Peterson requested review of Resolution 2021-05, authorizing the transfer of \$125,000 from the Electric Fund to the General Fund. Member Cook motioned to approve the resolution. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried. Member Johnson motioned to approve the accounts payable:

<u>Claim No</u>	<u>Vendor</u>		<u>Amount</u>	<u>Check Number</u>
412211	City of Lanesboro	April Rent	\$225.00	5831
412212	Manion O’Koren	270	\$315.00	5832
412213	Thore Johnson	Snowplowing	\$48.00	5833
412214	City of Lanesboro	AED Supplies	\$423.65	5834
412215	Plunkett’s	6996059	\$40.00	5835
412216	Acentek	11841874	\$41.26	5836
412217	Smith Schafer	92317	\$3,700.00	5837
412218	MiEnergy	Monthly Fee	\$172.00	5838
4122110	IRS	Withholding	\$338.35	E-Check
4122111	MN Dept of Rev	Withholding	\$10.00	E-Check
4122112	MN PERA	1st Qtr	\$226.15	E-Check
4122113	Whalan Museum	Internet	\$35.13	5842

4122114	MiEnergy	Purchase Power	\$2,669.02	5839
4122115	MN Dept of Rev	Sales Tax	\$994.00	E-Check
Payroll	Randy Berekvam	February	\$205.47	5840
Payroll	Michele Peterson	March	\$404.25	5841

Member Lewis seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.

E. Welcome to Visitors and Visitor Comments:

- a. Don Kullot - Fillmore County Emergency Management Director:** Director Kullot reviewed preparedness plans currently in place. Also discussed was the possibility of conducting tabletop exercises.
- b. Rob Wagner - Lanesboro Fire Department:** Wagner noted that the department is planning to conduct a swift water rescue training again this year. He also noted that at least half of the department are trained weather spotters. It was noted that there are supplies of sandbags available to Whalan in Lanesboro as well as with the County. Sand without added elements is preferred for filling the sandbags. The department conducts a drill night on the third Monday of the month, it was suggested that perhaps one of those drill nights could be conducted in Whalan.
- c. Deane Benson - Lanesboro Ambulance:** Director Benson was unable to attend. Mayor Tuftin noted that she and Benson had inspected the AED's in town with the exception of the unit in the pie shop. Benson ordered replacement pads and batteries for the units. Discussion was had regarding the possibility of a training for the AED's.
- d. Attorney O'Koren - Prosecution:** Attorney O'Koren noted that there are two considerations for the Council regarding prosecution. The City could request the County to represent them if needed, or the Manion O'Koren law firm could as well. The Manion O'Koren Law Firm would charge an hourly rate as well as request a share in the total cost of a key for information from the Bureau. The cost is currently \$750 annually which is being split between Lanesboro and Rushford Village currently. Discussion will be tabled until further information can be obtained from the County Attorney.

F. Continued Business:

- 1. Business Licenses:** Member Cook motioned to approve the licenses for 2021-2022. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.
- 2. Lodging Tax:** A committee has been formed to include Tanya Cook, Kim Berekvam, John Smith, Jane Lewis, Pat Hudoba, and Ben Ruberg. A committee report will be available at the June Council meeting.
- 3. Late Fees:** Member Johnson motioned to continue waiving late fees through June. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. It was discussed that accounts could still be disconnected for non-payment, however no late fees would be incurred. Council will readdress late fees at the June meeting.
- 4. Electrical Repairs Reimbursement:** Mayor Tuftin reviewed the details of the electrical damage that occurred in the fall of 2018. The Council had worked with the previous City Attorney to collect for the charges paid by the City, unfortunately no reimbursement was made. After reviewing the facts with Attorney O'Koren as well as the contractor Haakenson Electric it was determined that the repairs should have been arranged by the property owners. Member

Johnson motioned to not pursue collection of the funds any longer. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.

G. New Business:

- a. **DNR Agreement:** Discussion to be continued in May once an agreement is received from the DNR.
- b. **Title 9:** Members noted no changes to chapters 90 and 93. In chapter 92, ordinance 92.04 it was suggested to add "Ball" in front of the word Park. Members discussed that in chapter 91 they would prefer to have all ordinances containing licensing and impounding removed. Clerk Peterson will make those amendments, and resubmit Chapters 91 and 92 next month.

H. Miscellaneous:

1. **Mower:** Randy Berekvam noted that a new mower is estimated to cost \$6,500, and a trade in value at \$1,000. Discussion was had to wait on a new mower, however consider budgeting for replacement in the future. Member Cook motioned to approve the purchase of a trimmer up to \$250.00. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.
2. **Spray:** Member Johnson purchased grass and weed killer for maintenance. Johnson will bring the receipt to the next Council meeting for consideration of reimbursement.
3. **Banners:** Banners have been printed, and equipment is in. Members will review placement during the walking tour.
4. **Tour:** Council Members will meet at Town Hall at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 24, 2021 for a walking tour of town. Notice will be posted.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 10, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Member Berekvam moved to adjourn at 6:29 p.m. Motion seconded by Member Cook. Vote was done by roll call with all in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Clerk/Treasurer