

Whalan City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, July 11, 2022
Meeting held at the Whalan Town Hall and via Zoom

Present: Marlys Tuftin, Kim Berekvam, Owen Lewis, Thore E. Johnson, and Sheila Higbe

Absent: None

Visitors: Dave Ruberg, Ben Ruberg, Randy Berekvam, Melanie Murphy, Dale Peterson, David Hallum, Barb Jeffers, Brian Krambeer, Steve Oian, Kent Whitcomb, and Drew Weber.

Regular Meeting:

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

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Agenda: Member Higbe motioned to approve the agenda with the additions of Mower and Mulch to Miscellaneous. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

C. Approval of Minutes:

1. Mayor Tuftin read the minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 13, 2022: Member Johnson motioned to approve the minutes with clerical amendments. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

D. Treasurer's Report: Clerk Peterson provided the treasurer's report. The following are the balances as of 06/30/2022: General Fund \$61,268.43, Court Reimbursement Fund \$14,638.00, Ballfield Fund \$889.06, Beautification Fund \$187.00, American Recovery Act Funding \$3,606.31, Small Cities Assist \$12,153.00, General Capital \$27,336.56, and Electric Fund \$30,522.78. Member Berekvam motioned to approve the treasurer's report including the following accounts payable:

<u>Claim No</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Check Number</u>
71120221	Deluxe Business Systems	\$216.97	E Check 720221
7112210	Fillmore County Assessor's Office	\$494.00	6043
7112211	Acentek	\$41.07	6044
7112212	Plunkett's Pest Control	\$42.80	6045
7112213	City of Lanesboro	\$29.35	6046
7112214	MiEnergy	\$3,829.09	6050
7112215	MiEnergy	\$172.00	6049
7112216	MN Department of Revenue	\$1,019.00	E Check 720222
7112217	MN Department of Revenue	\$98.88	E Check 720223
7112218	IRS	\$650.17	E Check 720224
7112219	MN PERA	\$295.68	E Check 720225

711222	City of Lanesboro	\$250.00	6035
711223	Whalan Museum	\$35.13	6036
711224	City of Lanesboro	\$277.03	6037
711225	Marlys Tuftin	\$450.00	6038
711226	Kim Berekvam	\$300.00	6039
711227	Owen Lewis	\$200.00	6040
711228	Thore Everett Johnson	\$250.00	6041
711229	Sheila Higbe	\$300.00	6042
Payroll	Randy Berekvam	\$615.95	6047
Payroll	Michele Peterson	\$570.13	6048

Member Higbe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

- E. Bolton & Menk Engineering:** Drew Weber presented information regarding the discussion of drainage along Oak Street between 1st and 3rd Avenues. Weber noted the existing conditions as well as potential solutions along with cost estimates for those options. It was noted that the installation of a storm sewer outlet could be done as part of the County project this fall. The estimated cost for this installation would be \$2,500 - \$3,000. Member Lewis motioned to approve installation of a storm sewer outlet on the north east corner of the intersection of 2nd Avenue and Main Street. Member Higbe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Discussion will be continued for the additional work to be considered to help with the drainage concern.

F. Welcome to Visitors and Visitor Comments:

- a.** Melanie Murphy: Noted it was difficult to hear, the system was inspected.

G. New Business:

- a. Electric Utility:** Clerk Peterson suggested review of the Electric Utility as well as how we can provide better service to the residents of Whalan. Representatives from MiEnergy provided suggestions on how they could assist Whalan. Members also discussed the financial implications of the different options available. A public meeting will be called to review the option of transferring ownership of the electric utility to MiEnergy to receive feedback from the community. Discussion to be continued.
- b. Placement of Plum Trees:** Member Lewis motioned to table the discussion. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- c. Parking along 2nd Avenue:** Concerns were noted for parking along 2nd Avenue. Members felt that the spaces should be striped in order to ensure the safe travel on the road way. Clerk Peterson will create two diagrams showing parallel parking, and diagonal parking. Member Lewis motioned to table the discussion. Member Higbe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- d. Short Term Lodging License Application:** The moratorium previously placed on new short term lodging applications expired at the end of June. For this reason the application Dale Peterson submitted in December of 2021 was brought back before the Council. Member Lewis motioned

to approve the license application. Member Higbe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Mayor Tuftin and Members Lewis, Higbe, and Berekvam voting yes. Member Johnson voted no.

H. Continued Business:

- a. Town Hall Siding Estimates:** Member Lewis shared a quote for replacing the estimated 20 boards and repainting in the amount of \$16,848. Clerk Peterson shared that there is a potential to apply for grant and loan funds through the USDA's Community Facility program. Member Lewis motioned to direct Clerk Peterson to make an application to replace all of the siding with new Cedar siding, and three coats of paint on the siding. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- b. Zoning Board:** Still looking for a volunteer to serve on the Zoning Board, interested individuals should contact the City Office.

I. Miscellaneous:

- a. Filing Period:** The filing period for the 2022 municipal election will be August 2, 2022 through August 16, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Affidavits of candidacy can be completed at the City Office, the cost is \$2.00. There are three positions up for election, Members Higbe and Berekvam, as well as the Mayor seat. Mayor Tuftin announced she would not be running for reelection.
- b. Mower:** Randy Berekvam noted the mower had mechanical problems, and therefore is being serviced. A loaner unit is being utilized until the repairs are completed.
- c. Mulch:** Members shared that the mulch delivered will not work adequately for the playground area. Clerk Peterson will reach out to the vendor to see what if anything can be done to correct the issue.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 8, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Member Johnson moved to adjourn at 6:31 p.m. Motion seconded by Member Lewis. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Clerk/Treasurer