

Whalan City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 9, 2021 5:00 p.m.
Meeting held at the Whalan Town Hall and via Zoom

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

Absent: None

Visitors: Dave Ruberg, Ben Ruberg, Randy Berekvam, Melanie Murphy, David Rahn, Brian Krambeer, Johnny Halvorson, Darren Moser, Wes Harding, and Rory Berekvam

Public Hearing: Mayor Tuftin called the Public Hearing to order at 5:00 p.m. Discussion was had regarding rates, to which Mr. Moser noted that annual rate increase would be considered as operational expenses also increase each year. There were no major changes to the agreement as presented. Member Johnson motioned to close the Public Hearing at 5:08 p.m.

Regular Meeting:

Mayor Tuftin called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Agenda: Member Berekvam motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

C. Approval of Minutes:

1. Mayor Tuftin read the minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 14, 2021: Member Johnson motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. Mayor Tuftin read the minutes of the Regular Meeting, July 12, 2021: Member Lewis motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

D. Treasurer's Report: Clerk Peterson provided the treasurer's report. The CD has a value of \$27,199.55 General Fund \$50,230.56, Ballfield Fund \$785.65, Beautification Fund \$187.00, and Electric Fund \$16,641.20 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>
809211	Norby Tree Service	\$2500.00	5893
809212	Manion O'Koren Law Firm	\$390.00	5894
809213	Bluff Country Brine	\$1362.01	5890
809214	Acentek	\$41.10	5895
809215	Whalan Museum	\$35.13	5891
809216	City of Lanesboro	\$225.00	5892

809217	League of MN Insurance Trust	\$466.00	5900
809218	Plunkett's Pest Control	\$40.00	5898
809219	MiEnergy	\$4793.60	5897
8092110	Mi Energy	\$172.00	5896
8092111	Fillmore County Journal	\$60.30	5902
Payroll	Randy Berekvam	\$491.21	5901
Payroll	Michele Peterson	\$404.25	5899

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

E. Welcome to Visitors and Visitor Comments:

- a. Brian Krambeer, MiEnergy:** Mr. Krambeer reviewed the contract amendment, noting that the changes allow for a 5% savings annually for the community. Member Johnson motioned to approve the contract amendment. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- b. David Rahn:** Rahn noted concern for the high cost of tree removal for the City, questioning if all trees being removed or trimmed were within the public right of way, or public property. Additionally Rahn noted that there is still more work to be done on the streets.
- c. Wes Harding:** Harding inquired that if after the September 11 Taste of the Trail event there was still no volunteer to take over, could the funds be turned over to the City. If a volunteer does come forward in the future, would the City turn those funds back over to the Taste of the Trail Event as well. Member Higbe motioned to table the discussion until the October meeting. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- d. Johnny Halvorson:** Halvorson would like to donate two plum trees to the City, he requested that Council members choose the location, trees would be planted in September of 2022. Halvorson also noted that members of the community may be interested in fire wood from trees that the City has removed. It was noted that a sign should be created for the brush dump area noting what is allowed. Finally Halvorson inquired about a cement slab to place the portable bathroom on, it was noted that this is DNR property so approval would need to be given by them prior to any work being done.
- e. Rory Berekvam:** Mr. Berekvam noted concern for the location of his property line, due to the fact his neighbor is installing a fence. Clerk Peterson noted that the permit had not been sent to the Zoning Board in error, and that the property owners should work together to determine the property line.

F. Continued Business:

- 1. Acentek Franchise Agreement:** Member Lewis motioned to approve the agreement as submitted. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- 2. Portable Bathroom:** Discussion was had regarding the amount of use for the one unit, and with it only being cleaned once a week. A quote for an additional restroom was shared however members noted that a service twice a week would be sufficient. Member Lewis motioned to

contact the new DNR representative and request the unit be serviced twice a week. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.

3. **Solid Fuel Ordinance Compliance Date:** Member Higbe motioned to insert the date of December 1, 2021 to bring the unit into compliance, with a letter being sent to the property owner who is not currently compliant. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried with Mayor Tuftin and Members Berekvam, Higby, and Johnson voting in favor, Member Lewis voted no.
4. **Call for Public Hearing for Code of Ordinances:** Member Johnson motioned to approve Resolution 2021-10 calling for a public hearing for the Code of Ordinances. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

G. New Business:

1. **St James Drive Street Sign (Currently reads St James Street):** Member Johnson motioned to purchase new street signs for St James Drive and Riverview Drive. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. **2022 Budget:** Suggestions were provided to add to the preliminary budget for 2022. Clerk Peterson will amend the budget and present it to the Council for approval in September.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Member Lewis moved to adjourn at 6:28 p.m. Motion seconded by Member Higbe. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Clerk/Treasurer