

Whalan City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 10th, 2020
Meeting held at 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, and Barb Jeffers

Regular Meeting:

Mayor Tuftin called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

- A. **Agenda:** Member Johnson motioned to approve the agenda with the additions of Dust Control, Brush Dump Burning, Tree Removal Request, Opioid Claim, Short Term Rental, and Minnesota Department of Health Notice. Member Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- B. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - 1. Mayor Tuftin read the minutes of the Regular Meeting, July 13th, 2020: Member Lewis motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- C. **Treasurer's Report:** Clerk Peterson provided the treasurer's report: The CD has a value of \$27,067.46, General Fund \$38,495.39, Electric Fund \$6,830.98, Ballfield Fund \$850.00, Beautification Fund \$187.00. Member Cook motioned to approve the following payments:

Checks to be issued:			
Vendor	Item	Amount	Check #
City of Lanesboro	Rent (May, June, July)	\$ 225.00	5751
Acentek	Monthly Fee	\$ 40.64	5753
MiEnergy	Purchased Power	\$ 4,604.91	5752
MiEnergy	Monthly Fee	\$ 172.00	5752
Randy Berekvam	Payroll	\$ 457.12	5754
Michele Peterson	Payroll	\$ 429.25	5757
Plunkett's	6728986	\$ 40.00	5755
Fillmore County Journal	Election Notice	\$ 40.22	5756
Total		\$ 6,009.14	
Electronic Payments Made:			
MN Dept of Revenue	Sales Tax	\$ 964.00	
EFTPS - Fed Payroll Taxes	2nd Quarter	\$ 478.19	

MN State Payroll Taxes		\$ 32.00	
MN PERA		\$ 210.00	
Deluxe Business Systems	Checks	\$ 128.42	
Total		\$ 1,812.61	

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

D. Welcome to Visitors and Visitor Comments: Randy Berekvam was present to discuss equipment for the City. He noted that the current Trimmer is in need of replacement. Purchase of a Trimmer that would allow different attachments was discussed. Mr. Berekvam will look into possible attachments that could be used for duties in town, and provide cost estimates at next month's meeting.

E. Continued Business:

1. Covid19 Update and Response:

a. Member Berekvam motioned to continue waiving the late fee for utility accounts through November. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.

2. City Rounds: JC Nerstad has been contacted, and will be scheduling a time to review the streets as well as the alleys. Member Johnson has a list of areas that need to be addressed. Member Cook will request a second estimate for the alley ways from Sveen Construction. Council requested that the Sheriff's Department complete a review of town to ensure ordinance compliance, Clerk Peterson will coordinate.

3. Ordinances: No additional work has been completed at this time.

4. Chamber Funds: Discussion continued for possible expenditures including mulch, flowers, cleaning of Gazebo, holiday decorations, as well as possible banners. Members noted they could help with the maintenance of the flowers. Clerk Peterson will look into the cost of creating banners as well as holiday decorations. It was noted to wait until 2021 to print brochures.

5. Electrical Improvements: Members Berekvam and Johnson met with Steve Oian with MiEnergy to review options for the needed improvement. The existing pole can remain in place, while removing a portion of the top of the pole and replace the crossbar and transformer for an estimated cost of \$1500. Member Cook motioned to approve the work to be completed. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

F. New Business:

1. Moratorium Request: Planning and Zoning has met previously, and did not make a recommendation to remove the moratorium on short-term rentals. No further discussion was had.

G. Miscellaneous:

1. Dust Control: A request from Cedar Valley Resort was made for dust control application to be completed. Member Lewis motioned to wait until the Spring of 2021 for the dust control application. Member Johnson seconded the motion. The discussion will be placed on the March 2021 agenda. Motion carried with all in favor.

2. Brush Dump Site: A letter was received from the MN DNR noting that a permit was not on file for the current brush dump site. Clerk Peterson will work to complete the permit application process. Member Johnson noted he had copies of previous years permits.

3. **Minnesota Department of Health Notice:** Mayor Tuftin also received a letter that the water testing in the park had met compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Rules.
4. **Opioid Filing:** Clerk Peterson filed a claim on behalf of the City of Whalan in the Purdue Pharmaceuticals Class Action Lawsuit. More information will be shared when available.
5. **Tree Removal:** Scott Hatley inquired about the possibility of the City paying for a portion of the cost to remove a tree on his property. Member Cook motioned that the City not contribute any funds as the tree is located on private property. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
6. **Short Term Rental:** It was brought to the attention of the City Council that a property that is not licensed for Short Term Rental for 2020 was rented out. In addition, the group renting the facility brought several motorized vehicles which drove through and around town in an unsafe manner. Member Cook motioned to send a letter to the property owner noting that the property should not be rented out as it does not currently have a license. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
The Council also requested that a reminder be sent out to all short-term rentals in the City regarding the City curfew of 8 p.m., as well as the Ballfield curfew of 9 p.m. Additionally, the letter will encourage the ordinances to be followed as well as asking visitors treat the community with respect.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 14th, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Member Johnson moved to adjourn at 6:34 p.m. Motion seconded by Member Lewis. Motion Carried all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Clerk/Treasurer