

Whalan City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 12, 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, David Hallum, Barb Jeffers, John Gaddo, Scott Kurl, and Jane Lewis.

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 Museum Lighting, Truck Bed Liner, and Tree to Miscellaneous. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

C. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the July 11, 2022 Council Meeting were read by Mayor Tuftin. Member Lewis motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Minutes of the August 8, 2022 Council Meeting were read by Mayor Tuftin. Member Higbe 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 following are the balances as of 08/31/2022: General Fund \$55,820.04, Court Reimbursement Fund \$14,638.00, Ballfield Fund \$889.06, Beautification Fund \$187.00, American Recovery Act Funding \$7,212.62, Small Cities Assist \$12,153.00, General Capital \$27,342.61, and Electric Fund \$32,142.16. Member Higbe 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>
Payroll	Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2022	\$570.13	6077
Payroll	Period Ending 08/31/2022	\$713.83	6078
912221	MiEnergy	\$4,891.98	6066
912224	O'Koren Law Office LLC	\$75.00	6068
912225	Thore Everett Johnson	\$156.25	6069
912226	S&A Petroleum	\$930.76	6070
912227	VIS Plumbing & Heating	\$220.00	6071
912223	City of Lanesboro	\$493.92	6072
912228	Acentek	\$41.03	6073
912229	Whalan Museum	\$35.13	6074

9122210	Plunkett's Pest Control	\$44.13	6075
912222	Harter's Trash & Recycling Inc	\$85.65	6076
9122211	Wesley Harding	\$178.37	6079
9122212	Minnesota Mayors Association	\$30.00	6080
9122213	League of MN Cities	\$433.00	6081
9122214	Whalan Autobody	\$958.80	6082
9122215	Larry Johnson	\$200.00	6083

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

E. Welcome to Visitors and Visitor Comments:

- a. Jane Lewis: Lewis shared an idea of creating a summer concert series in Whalan. Members noted that the idea was worth pursuing.

F. New Business:

- a. **Oak Street Drainage:** Brian Malm with Bolton & Menk Engineering reviewed a change order in the amount of \$4,086.75 for the County Road Project currently underway. Member Berekvam motioned to approve the expenditure. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Malm then presented the memo and cost estimate for studying the drainage along Oak Street. Member Johnson motioned to approve the proposal for preliminary design and survey services for Oak Street in the amount of \$8,500.00 Member Higbe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- b. **SHIP Grant:** Clerk Peterson will share additional information regarding the program and funding opportunities. Member Berekvam motioned to bring ideas to the next meeting. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- c. **Taste of the Trail Committee Funds:** Previously funds from the committee were turned over to the City, and then reissued to the committee. The committee is requesting that the City become the fiscal agent for the group, to retain the funds and disburse expenses upon request. Member Berekvam motioned to approve the request. Member Higbe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- d. **League of MN Cities Invoices:** Member Higbe motioned to approve the Dues Membership Invoice in the amount of \$433, as well as the Mayors Association Invoice in the amount of \$30. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- e. **Short Term Lodging Survey:** Clerk Peterson shared the results, as recommended by the Zoning Commission, of the Short Term lodging survey. Sixty-Seven surveys were sent out, and 30 were returned. Of that 50% of the respondents noted that there should be more short term lodging establishments allowed within the City.
- f. **2023 Preliminary Budget, Resolution 2022-07:** Member Lewis motioned to approve Resolution 2022-07 setting the preliminary budget for 2023 for the City in the amount of \$59,893.00. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

G. Continued Business:

- a. Electric Utility:** Member Higbe motioned to continue the discussion of transferring the ownership of the electric utility to MiEnergy. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Clerk Peterson will work with MiEnergy and the City Attorney to determine what next steps are. Motion carried with all in favor.
- b. Town Hall Siding:** Discussion to be continued.
- c. Zoning Board:** A volunteer is still in need to serve on the Zoning Board.
- d. Public Right of Way and Maintenance:** Member Lewis motioned to table the discussion. Member Higbe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- e. Mower:** Members reviewed several quotes for the purchase of a new mower. Member Lewis motioned to approve the quote from M&M in the amount of \$8,075.00. Member Higbe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- f. Brush Removal:** It was noted that brush removal had been completed along 2nd Avenue with thank you to Benjamin Ruberg for completing the work. Additional concern was shared for the intersection of New Street and 3rd Avenue. Staff will work to clear this area.
- g. Mulch Removal:** The mulch pile has been removed with the help from Larry Johnson. Member Higbe motioned to send a thank you note, along with payment in the amount of \$200 to cover expenses for the tractor and two trucks used to move the pile. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

H. Miscellaneous:

- a. Museum Lighting Quote:** Member Higbe motioned to approve the quote received from Haakenson Electric in the amount of 1,173.16 from the American Recovery Act Funding. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Members shared that a request for cost share from the Museum and or the Auxiliary should also be considered. Motion carried with all in favor.
- b. Truck Bed Liner Invoice:** Member Johnson provided an invoice for a liner being applied to the truck bed. Council had previously designated \$550 for the project in November of 2019. Member Berekvam motioned to approve payment to Whalan Autobody in the amount of \$958.80. Member Higbe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- c. Tree along Trail:** It was noted that a portion of a tree had fallen near the trail, residents had removed the debris, however concern was shared for the remaining portion of the tree. The DNR has been contacted to verify whose property the tree is on.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Peterson
City Clerk/Treasurer