

Whalan City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 14th, 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:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

- A. **Council Member Appointment:** Mayor Tuftin noted that election results had been reviewed, Member Johnson’s term expired in 2018, therefore another member needed to be appointed to the Council. Member Lewis motioned to appoint Everett Thore Johnson to fulfill the Council seat until the end of 2020. Member Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- B. **Agenda:** Member Johnson motioned to approve the agenda with the additions of Utility Poles at Ball Field and Bases for the Ballpark. 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, August 10, 2020: Member Cook motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Member Berekvam 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 \$27,067.46, General Fund \$35,956.18 Electric Fund \$9,953.17, Ballfield Fund \$850.00, Beautification Fund \$187.00. Member Johnson motioned to approve the treasurer’s report, and requested that a follow up call be placed with MiEnergy regarding the total cost of the transformer replacement:

Checks to be issued:			
Vendor	Item	Amount	Check #
City of Lanesboro	Rent (September)	\$ 225.00	5762
Acentek	Monthly Fee	\$ 40.64	5760
MiEnergy	Purchased Power	\$ 4,096.05	5761
MiEnergy	Monthly Fee	\$ 172.00	5761
Randy Berekvam	Payroll	\$ 180.08	5765
Michele Peterson	Payroll	\$ 429.25	5763
Plunkett's	6768668	\$ 40.00	5759
League of MN Cities	Workers' Comp Premium	\$ 446.00	5758

LMC Membership Due	326513	\$ 408.00	5766
Minnesota Mayors Assoc	Annual Membership	\$ 30.00	5767
MiEnergy	482467	\$ 2,948.12	5764
Total		\$ 9,015.14	
PERA	141877	\$ 10.00	Electronic
Total		\$ 10.00	

Member Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried with Mayor Tuftin and Members Cook, Johnson and Berekvam voting in favor. Member Lewis voted no.

E. **Welcome to Visitors and Visitor Comments:** Dave Ruberg noted that it was very difficult to hear via the zoom link. Clerk Peterson will work to provide a better experience next month.

F. **Continued Business:**

1. **City Rounds:** Member Cook noted that there are tree branches on the gazebo roof. Sveen Construction recommended waiting to grade and add rock to the alleys until next spring. This would allow time for the rock to compact. The cost to grade the alley ways was estimated to be \$300, with a maximum of 5 loads at \$225 each needed for rock, for a total of \$1425. Clerk Peterson will follow up with J.C. Nerstad to assess the pavement, Member Johnson volunteered to meet with him.
2. **Ordinances:** No additional work has been completed at this time.
3. **Chamber Funds:** Clerk Peterson provided estimates from Display Sales as well as Kelly Printing for banners as well as Holiday Decorations from Display Sales. Estimated cost for Banners from Kelly printing was \$250 per banner. Member Lewis motioned to move forward with four banners for the light poles in town, as well as the hardware to install them. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Clerk Peterson will verify with the Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce that this is a reimbursable expense. Members Cook and Berekvam volunteered to review the design concepts.
4. **Electrical Improvements:** Clerk Peterson met with Chad Chaffee of MiEnergy, it was recommended that the infrastructure be reviewed and a plan created to update as necessary. Peterson is waiting for a cost estimate to have this completed. A current map of the infrastructure has not been found, an estimated cost of \$10,000 to complete was received. Peterson also noted that there may be an opportunity to work with Lanesboro Public Utilities on future electrical projects in town. Further discussions will be held as projects are determined.
5. **Brush Dump Site:** Members noted that the current site is the only easily accessible site for the brush dump in town. Clerk Peterson will complete the permit application with the DNR for the current location.

G. **New Business:**

1. **Equipment Quotes:** Member Johnson shared that a quote for a trimmer was received in the amount of \$199, this did not include any additional attachments. Member Cook motioned to wait until Spring 2021 to make the purchase. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
2. **Zoning Board Member:** Linda Hazel had expressed interest in this position. Members noted that her house in town had recently sold, and therefore noted she was not a qualified candidate.

Members will reach out to community members to see if there is any additional interest. Clerk Peterson will share the minutes of the Zoning board with the Council Members going forward.

3. **Cyclin-Up Inn Lodging License for 2020:** Members discussed the license for Cyclin-up for 2020. It was noted that since the Council had not made a clear statement on timing to apply for the annual license, that this license would be approved for the remainder of the year. The license was approved by consensus.
4. **LMC Membership Dues:** Member Johnson motioned to approve payment of the LMC Membership Dues. Member Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
5. **Minnesota Mayors Association Membership:** Member Cook motioned to approve the annual fee for the Mayor Association of \$30. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
6. **2021 Budget:** Clerk Peterson shared a preliminary budget report for 2021. As well recommended submitting a request for proposals for Auditor and Attorney services. Members noted that amounts for trees, streets, and alleys needed to be included in the budget for 2021.
 - a. **Resolution 2020-3 Approving Proposed Tax Levy:** Member Johnson motioned to approve the resolution setting the preliminary levy at \$40,000. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
 - b. Member Berekvam motioned to approve submitting requests for proposals for Auditor and Attorney Services. Member Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
7. **Tree Review:** Mayor Tuftin, Member Lewis, and Clerk Peterson had met earlier with Norby Tree Service to look at a few areas of concern:
 - Row of trees along Half street
 - Portion of tree hanging over Half street near power line
 - Limbs touching the gazebo roof
 - Tree along Half street and an alleyway near power lines as well

Member Johnson motioned to approve the removal and trimming of trees in the specified areas, with homeowners paying for half of the removal fee. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.

8. **LMCIT Liability Coverage Waiver Form:** Member Lewis motioned to approve the Liability Coverage Waiver Form, and to not waive the monetary limits. Member Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

H. **Miscellaneous:**

1. **Utility Poles at Ballfield:** Clerk Peterson will reach out to MiEnergy to receive a quote for removal of the existing light poles. Member Johnson will mark the poles being requested to be removed.
2. **Bases for Ballfield:** Member Johnson noted the existing bases have deteriorated and need to be replaced. Johnson will look into the cost to replace. Clerk Peterson will look back as to when the bases were last replaced.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Member Johnson moved to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. Motion seconded by Member Lewis. Motion Carried all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson

City Clerk/Treasurer