

Whalan City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, December 13, 2021 5:00 p.m.
Meeting held at the Whalan Town Hall and via Zoom

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

Absent: Sheila Higbe

Visitors: Dave Ruberg, Ben Ruberg, Randy Berekvam, Attorney Joseph O’Koren, and Barb Jeffers

Regular Meeting:

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

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Agenda: Member Johnson motioned to approve the agenda with the additions of: Reimbursement request for Everett Johnson, City CD account, 2021 Audit Engagement, Lodging License, Whalan Autobody, and Moratorium on Lodging Licenses to Miscellaneous. As well remove items Brush Removal Quote and Hall Rental from the Agenda. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Clerk Peterson noted that Member Lewis was participating remotely from 45733 West Tulip Lane, Maricopa, AZ 85139. Motion carried with all in favor.

C. Approval of Minutes:

1. Mayor Tuftin read the minutes of the Regular Meeting, November 8, 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 \$34,288.91, Ballfield Fund \$1,152.27, Beautification Fund \$187.00, American Recovery Act Funding \$3,606.31, Small Cities Assist \$6,076.50, and Electric Fund \$21,800.71. Member Johnson 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>
1213211	MiEnergy	\$392.00	5942
12132110	MiEnergy	\$172.00	5950
12132111	Burns & Messenger, Inc	\$34.31	5952
12132112	Plunkett's Pest Control	\$40.00	5953
12132113	Visit Bluff Country	\$168.90	5954
12132114	MiEnergy	\$2,647.75	5956
12132115	Sveen Excavating	\$500.00	5955
1213212	Whalan Museum	\$70.26	5943
1213213	Marlys Tuftin	\$450.00	5944
1213214	Kim Berekvam	\$300.00	5945
1213215	Owen Lewis	\$300.00	5946
1213216	Thore Everett Johnson	\$300.00	5947
1213217	Sheila Higbe	\$250.00	5948
1213218	City of Lanesboro	\$225.00	5949

1231219	Acentek	\$40.69	5951
Payroll	Randy Berekvam	\$354.17	5958
Payroll	Michele Peterson	\$404.25	5957

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

E. Welcome to Visitors and Visitor Comments: Randy Berekvam questioned if the banners should be taken down for the winter months. Council Members requested the banners be taken down to help preserve them.

F. Continued Business:

- 1. Fillmore County Street Project:** Mayor Tuftin noted that the neighborhood meeting went well last week. The property owners will need to decide on whether or not sidewalks will be part of the project. Member Johnson motioned to approve the resolution for State Aid for Local Transportation. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Member Berekvam motioned to approve the Cooperative Agreement with Fillmore County. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- 2. Lodging Tax Committee:** Member Berekvam noted that there were no new developments. The next step would be to organize a meeting to include representatives from Whalan, Lanesboro, and the Chamber of Commerce.
- 3. Ordinance 30.111:** Members noted a preference to review the ordinance annually. Member Lewis motioned to approve the ordinance as presented. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- 4. Ordinance 54.06:** Member Berekvam motioned to approve the ordinance as presented. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- 5. Clerk and Snowplowing Salary:** Member Johnson motioned to increase the clerk's salary to \$22.00 per hour for up to 32 hours a month effective January 1, 2022. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor. Due to Member Berekvam and Johnson not being able to vote, discussion will be continued for the Snowplowing Salary. Member Johnson motioned to table the discussion. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

G. New Business:

- 1. 2022 Budget - Resolution 2021-14:** Member Berekvam motioned to approve the resolution setting the final tax levy at \$44,224 for 2022. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- 2. Planning and Zoning Council Appointment for 2022:** Discussion will be continued in January when all Council members are present.
- 3. Resolution 2021-13 Accepting the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recover Fund:** Member Johnson motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- 4. Garbage Service:** Members noted that their current contract would be up in the Spring, most likely May 1, similar to Lanesboro.
- 5. Fillmore County Attorney Information:** Mayor Tuftin noted that this discussion will be closed due to Attorney Client privilege to discuss active and pending litigation per MN Statute 13D.05 Subdivision 3B. Attorney Client Privilege; discussion will be focused on victim rights regarding State v. Melander. Disclosure of any potential plea agreement could jeopardize negotiations

between the Fillmore County Attorney's Office and the Defendant. Member Johnson motioned to close the meeting at 5:46 p.m. Member Lewis motioned to reopen the meeting at 5:54 p.m.

6. Miscellaneous:

- a. **Reimbursement for Parts:** Member Johnson requested reimbursement for a gas can and chain oil. Member Lewis motioned to approve the reimbursement request of \$38.24. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- b. **City CD Account:** Member Johnson motioned to convert the funds currently in a CD into a Money Market account while adding Mayor Tuftin and Clerk Peterson as the the signers on the account. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- c. **2021 Audit Engagement:** Member Berekvam motioned to approve signing the engagement letter for the 2021 audit. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- d. **Whalan Auto Body:** Member Johnson noted that the City truck had been serviced at Whalan Auto Body at no cost. Members requested that a thank you letter be issued to Whalan Auto Body.
- e. **Lodging License Request and Moratorium:** Members reviewed the lodging license request from Dale Peterson. Members of the Zoning Committee requested additional time to finalize the updated zoning ordinance. Member Lewis motioned to extend the moratorium period for another six months. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor to extend the moratorium period through June of 2022.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 10, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Member Johnson moved to adjourn at 6:18 p.m. Motion seconded by Member Lewis. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Clerk/Treasurer