

Whalan City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 13, 2023
Meeting held at the Whalan Town Hall and via Zoom

Present: David Hallum, Sheila Higbe, Kim Berekvam, Thore E. Johnson, and Owen Lewis via Zoom

Absent: None

Visitors: Randy Berekvam, Ben Ruberg, Barb Jeffers, and Melanie Murphy via Zoom

Regular Meeting:

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

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Agenda: Member Johnson motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of the following 2 topics:

*Resolution 2023-11 to show support of the Drainage Improvement Project on Oak St and 2nd Ave

*Repair of Leaf Blower/Vacuum

Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried, with all in favor, via a Roll Call Vote.

C. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the October 9, 2023 Council Meeting and Public Hearing were read by Mayor Hallum. Member Lewis motioned to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting as presented; Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried, with all in favor, via a Roll Call Vote. Member Berekvam motioned to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing as presented; Member Higbe seconded the motion. Motion carried, with all in favor, via a Roll Call Vote.

D. Treasurer's Report: Clerk Grossell provided the treasurer's report. The following are the balances as of 10/31/2023: General Fund \$44,906.12, Court Reimbursement Fund \$2,103.19, Taste of the Trail \$2900.98, Ballfield Fund \$935.06, Beautification Fund \$187.00, General Capital \$27,680.73, and Electric Fund \$52,596.89. Member Lewis motioned to approve the treasurer's report including the following accounts payable:

Claim No	Vendor	Detail	Amount	Check Number
	Payroll Period Ending			
Payroll	10/31/2023	October Payroll – R. Berekvam	\$ 643.06	6259
	Payroll Period Ending			
Payroll	10/31/2023	October Payroll – T. Grossell	\$ 502.52	6260
11132301	State of MN	3 rd Qtr Sales Tax Payable (third month)	\$ 476.00	Elec Pmt
11132302	Plunkett's Pest Control	Oct Pest Control	\$ 44.52	6261
11132303	Acentek	Nov 2023 Phone	\$ 41.15	6262
11132304	Whalan Museum	November Internet Expense (in full)	\$ 70.26	6263
11132305	MiEnergy	Purchase Power, invoice	\$ 3895.13	6264
11132306	City of Lanesboro	OnSite Invoices Oct – Nov 2, 2023 service	\$ 86.57	6265
11132307	Lanesboro Rural Fire Dept	Semi-Annual Pmt for 2023 Services	\$ 1489.80	6266
11132308	Teresa Grossell	Zoom Subscription Reimbursement	\$ 149.90	6267
11132309	MiEnergy	New House Elec Hook-Up Fees	\$ 678.55	6268

A. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried, with all in favor, via a Roll Call Vote.

B. Welcome to Visitors and Visitor Comments: No comments were shared.

C. New Business:

- a) **Visit Bluff Country Ad for 2024:** Member Higbe motioned to approve the placement of an ad for the City of Whalan identical to last year's ad in the Visit Bluff Country Magazine at a cost of \$193.34 for 2/9 of a page, and not purchase an online ad for an additional \$89/year; Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried, with all in favor, via a Roll Call Vote.
- b) **Resolution 2023-11:** Member Higbe motioned to approve the resolution showing the Council's support of the City of Whalan's application for funding through the Local Road Improvement Program to advance the Oak Street Drainage and Trail Connection project; Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried, with all in favor, via a Roll Call Vote.
- c) **Leaf Blower/Vacuum:** The leaf blower/vacuum is in need of repair. Member Higbe motioned to authorize Randy Berekvam to pay up to \$100 to have it repaired; Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried, with all in favor, via a Roll Call Vote.

D. Continued Business:

- a) **Short Term Rental/Lodging Ordinance Update:** Nothing new to report
- b) **Generation X Contact:** Mayor Hallum reported that this will wait until next summer now, due to weather
- c) **2024 Budget Discussion:** Reviewed YTD figures, and Clerk Grossell shared some observations based on current budget and expense/revenue balances. It was questioned if payroll expenses can be more consistent to not exceed the budget and if the \$3000 currently budgeted for "Ballfield Park and Maintenance" is appropriate. No action was taken at this time as finalizing the budget will take place during the December meeting so our Levy can be certified.

G. Miscellaneous:

- a) **Reminder:** December Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec 12 instead of Monday, Dec 11
- b) **City Phone Line Installed:** Call-forwarding not functional yet, but Clerk is able to check for messages remotely, so the Call Forward Feature may not be needed after all. The Clerk was asked to add the City's phone number to future agendas, along with our mailing address.
- c) **Hall rent not yet collected for Friday, October 20:** The Clerk will create/send an invoice (via email through Council Member Johnson, as that is the only contact info we have)
- d) **New Electric Connection:** Clerk to send invoice for \$750 for new electric connection @ 114 First Ave
- e) **Taste of the Trail funds:** A check for \$229.57 was issued to Lucas Johnson after the last Council Meeting (Council approval isn't required for these funds, but just reporting to keep the Council apprised.)
- f) **Zoning Board Committee Membership Update:** Two current members have their current terms ending this year, but they are each willing to serve an addition term, so that Appointment will be on next month's agenda.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Member Berekvam moved to adjourn at 5:40 p.m.; motion seconded by Member Higbe. Motion carried, with all in favor, via a Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa L. Grossell
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved 12/12/2023

PAY COUNCIL MEMBERS