

Whalan City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 14, 2021 5:00 p.m.
Meeting held at the 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, Randy Berekvam, Randy Willenberg, Melanie Murphy, Kelly Ruberg, Wes Harding, Jane Lewis, and Barb Jeffers

Public Hearing - Solid Fuel Fired Heating Device Ordinance: Mayor Tuftin opened the hearing at 4:45 p.m. Member Cook motioned to close the hearing at 4:59 p.m. with no comments heard. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Regular Meeting:

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

- A. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- B. **Agenda:** Member Lewis motioned to approve the agenda with the additions of Pole Replacement and Resignation to Miscellaneous. 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, May 10, 2021: Member Lewis motioned to approve the minutes with the correction of changing 3rd Avenue to 2nd Avenue. Member Cook seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.
- D. **Treasurer's Report:** Clerk Peterson provided the treasurer's report. The CD has a value of \$27,067.46 General Fund \$43,000.79, Ballfield Fund \$850.00, Beautification Fund \$187.00, and Electric Fund \$14,208.73. Member Cook 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>
614202113	Fillmore County Journal	\$40.22	5870
614202114	Fillmore County Assessor's Office	\$478.00	5869
614202115	Jane Lewis	\$678.60	5871
614202116	Sveen Excavating	\$2,500.00	5872
614211	Manion O'Koren Law Firm LLC	\$425.00	5856
6142110	Plunkett's Pest Control	\$40.00	5867
6142111	MiEnergy	\$2,655.99	5866
6142112	MiEnergy	\$172.00	5865
614212	S&A Petroleum	\$719.04	5857
614213	SEMLM	\$40.00	5858
614214	Bruening Rock Products	\$1,753.34	5859
614215	City of Lanesboro	\$225.00	5860

614216	City of Lanesboro	\$250.32	5861
614217	Lanesboro Rural Fire Department	\$2,130.38	5862
614218	Acentek	\$41.26	5863
614219	Whalan Museum	\$35.13	5864
Payroll	Randy Berekvam	\$562.97	5873
Payroll	Michele Peterson	\$404.25	5868

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

E. Welcome to Visitors and Visitor Comments:

- a. **Wes Harding:** Mr. Harding announced that he is stepping down as the Whalan Representative to the Trail Towns Committee effective July 31, 2021. A replacement for his seat is being sought.

F. Continued Business:

- 1. **Dust Control:** The Dust Control application has been completed for the year 425 ft for Everyday Road and 1075 ft for Deep River Road.
- 2. **Lodging Tax Committee:** Notification was received by the City of Lanesboro and a meeting will be set up with representatives from Whalan, Lanesboro, and the Chamber of Commerce to discuss possible changes to the agreement.
- 3. **Late Fees:** Member Berekvam motioned to reinstate late fee charges for past-due Utility accounts. Member Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- 4. **Prosecution:** Mayor Tuftin read aloud Resolution 2021-7. Member Cook motioned to approve the resolution. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- 5. **DNR Agreement:** Member Lewis motioned to approve the agreement for 2021. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- 6. **Solid Fuel Fired Heating Device Ordinance:** Member Cook motioned to approve the ordinance as presented. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- 7. **Council walking tour findings:** Clerk Peterson noted that the annual tree inspection was completed. Norby Tree Service recommended the removal of two Ash trees as well as some trimming around an electrical line near the museum. Members questioned a tree on the corner of 1st Avenue and New Street, Peterson will verify and report back next month. Peterson will also reach out to Nerstad for an estimated work date. Sveen Construction will be grading the alleys soon, and will then be able to determine the amount of gravel needed.

G. New Business:

1. MiEnergy

- a. **Rates:** Member Johnson motioned to accept the rate charges for 2021. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- b. **EV Charging Station:** MiEnergy is offering a free EV charging station to all member Cities, however Cities would need to handle the installation and ongoing maintenance. Council members requested tabling the discussion in order to determine if an appropriate location could be determined.

2. Title 7

- a. **Chapters 70 and 72:** Mayor Tuftin noted that the language noting Police Chief should be changed to Sheriff. Member Berekvam motioned to accept both chapters with that amendment. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

3. **AED Cabinet:** Member Cook motioned to approve the purchase of two AED cabinets at \$125.99 plus shipping for the Aroma Pie Shop and Cedar Valley Resort. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
4. **Utility Account Adjustment Consideration:** Clerk Peterson was asked if the Council would be willing to forgive a portion of a Utility Bill, due to the fact that the homeowner had passed away, and legally there was no one in charge of the estate. No action was taken.
5. **2022 Budget:** Clerk Peterson noted that work on the 2022 budget will begin next month, Council members were asked to bring project ideas to the next meeting.

H. Miscellaneous

1. **MiEnergy Powerline Rebuild:** Notification was received that MiEnergy will be working on updating infrastructure in the area over the next year.
2. **Member Cook:** Mayor Tuftin read the letter of resignation submitted by Council Member Cook. Member Lewis motioned to accept the resignation. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Member Lewis motioned to post notice of the intention to appoint an interim Council Member until a special election can be held. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. **Pole Replacement:** Member Johnson motioned to replace the utility pole on Bench Street as recommended by MiEnergy. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
4. **Resignation from Planning & Zoning:** Mayor Tuftin read the letter of resignation submitted by Jane Lewis. Member Cook motioned to accept the resignation of Jane Lewis. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Member Lewis then motioned to advertise the opening. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 12, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Member Johnson moved to adjourn at 5:58 p.m. Motion seconded by Member Lewis. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Clerk/Treasurer