

Minutes of the proceedings of the City Council of the City of New Auburn in the County of Sibley and State of Minnesota including all accounts audited by said Council.

Regular Meeting
May 13, 2024

Meeting called to order by Mayor Mandy Grack at 7:00 p.m. at the city office.

Members present: Wayne Schultz, Pam Horton, John Wangen, Michael Cotterman and Mandy Grack

Members absent:

Staff present: Joey Schuft, Roberta Zaske and Fire Chief Bryce Busse

Additions or Corrections to the agenda City Clerk wanted to add Blight checking in City

Approval of minutes: A motion by John Wangen, seconded by Pam Horton to accept the minutes for April. A motion by John Wangen, seconded by Michael Cotterman to approve the Local Board of Appeal minutes, motions carried.

Reports given:

1. Fire Department – Chief Busse gave his report. Fire Department would like to buy 8 air packs that would cost about \$58,000, they would like to donate \$40,000 to the City from New Auburn Fire Relief, asking for some of the Cities public safety money and if they don't have enough, take the rest from Fire savings account. The Fire Chief will come back next month with quotations for SCBA's.
2. Treasurer –report was given and approved
3. Park/streets/buildings- Joey gave his report. The generator shed roof is shingled. Irrigation refresher class on May 21, 2024 to keep up his irrigation license, motion by Pam Horton, seconded by Wayne Schultz to approve Joey's class, motion carried. Motion by Wayne Schultz, seconded by Pam Horton to approve 15 loads of gravel for our streets, motion carried.
4. Sheriff – Josh Klein gave his report and asked if we had any issues.

Resolution, Policies, and ordinances:

Resolutions:

Ordinances: updating zoning ordinance – City Attorney is working on it

Policy:

Unfinished business:

1. Grant for \$25,000 from State - City Clerk talked to Joel Peck from MPCA, the fence would not be covered under the grant. Does anyone have any other idea?
2. Public Aid money – After discussing the options, the City Council will decide next month how much they will give fire department for SCBA and how much towards the law enforcement.
3. STREAMS – City Clerk updated council on the meeting from May 8, 2024. Streams now has 4 Cities (Lafayette, Gibbon, Winthrop and New Auburn) and two businesses (DFA and Ethanol plant) the next step is to set up a regional meeting group and then work on the PER report.

New Business:

1. Complaint – parking semi on the street – homeowner talked about his son parking his semi, the Mayor read the ordinance, after much discussion, the homeowner understands that no semi tractor and or trailer can be parked on the street. Then the Mayor talked to the homeowner about someone living in a camper on his property. After the mayor read the ordinance and the homeowner now understands that no one can live in a camper in the city limits of New Auburn.
2. Chicken ordinance – a family in New Auburn has chickens without a permit, the council agreed that the City Clerk should take further action with this family.
3. Mobile Home Park inspection from the State - The State of Minnesota has been in contact with the City Clerk with all the concerns that the citizens, city officials and city employees have with the condition of the mobile home park. The State of Minnesota is looking into the concerns and take action.

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4. Mobile Home Park's manager, Tiffany, asked the city council to put up a streetlight. Mayor Grack asked her some questions, but she didn't know where they wanted the street light. Mayor Grack told her that we don't install street lights on private property or everyone in the city would want one.
5. Water leak at Miller Homes/Aric Rolf – after an explanation by Aric Rolf, A motion by Michael Cotterman, seconded by Pam Horton to forgive 11,600 gallons of sewer only, motion carried.
6. Water leak at Craig Lowden – after an explanation by Craig Lowden, a motion by Wayne Schultz, seconded by John Wangen to forgive 39,000 gallons of sewer only, motion carried.
7. Water leak at USPS/Lori Arndt – after an explanation by Lori Arndt, a motion by John Wangen, seconded by Wayne Schultz to forgive 19,500 gallons of sewer only, motion carried.
8. Minnesota Pay Equity – City Clerk explained why the city was not in compliance with Minnesota Pay Equity. The female class of City Clerk Treasure has more job points and less pay than the male class maintenance. The estimated cost to correct this disadvantage is to increase the salary of the City Clerk Treasurer by \$1.83 per hour. A motion by Wayne Schultz and seconded by Pam Horton to approve a \$1.83 raise effective on May 5, 2024, motion carried.
9. Liquor License renewal – Backwoods Bar and Curly's for off sale, on sale and Sunday License - A motion by Wayne Schultz, seconded by Michael Cotterman to approve the off sale, on sale and Sunday license for Backwoods Bar and Curly's, motion carried.
10. Sibley County – JD5 ditch - After some discussion, it was decided that a few people should attend the meeting on May 22, 2024. It sounds like we do not understand this project, so its hard to make a decision.
11. Cemetery plot - After a discussion, a motion by Wayne Schultz, seconded by Pam Horton to allow Larry Kirschbaum to buy a plot next to his brother, motion carried.
12. New Auburn Lions – A motion by Pam Horton, seconded by John Wangen to allow the three cabinets at the city hall to be used by New Auburn Lions club and allow them to change the locks to match but keep old locks incase another non-profit asked to use one, motion carried. Also talked about wanting to do a few community project, ideas were free library, free sports library, update the volleyball court with new net and sand, painting to fresh things up, new swings and possibly a dog park in the future. Lions will let the City know before they do anything.
13. Bathroom at the park – After much discussion, it was decided to leave the bathroom open for the public for now. Maybe install a camera to see who does the vandalizing.
14. Move the recycling bin next to city office to monitor it better – after discussing it, city council decided to leave it where its at for now, no action taken.
15. Election judges – after discussing, we need to hire 1-2 more judges for the primary and general election.
16. City billing, switch to envelopes and not post cards- after discussing it, city council want to wait a few months and then decide.
17. Stamps going up in July from \$.68 to \$.73. Motion from Wayne Schultz, seconded by Pam Horton to approve to buy 30 rolls of stamps, motion carried.
18. Office closed for vacation days- City clerk talked about vacation days coming up, no action was taken.
19. Blight checks – City clerk asked the council if they wanted to do any blight checks, after much discussion, it was decided to wait a month or so, no action was taken.
20. Historical Society – motion by Wayne Schultz, seconded by Michael Cotterman to waive the hall free rental for the historical society plant sale, motion carried.

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Additional items discussed:

1. Clerks Report no report
2. Curt Reetz – no report
3. Open discussion -

Motion by Wayne Schultz, seconded by Michael Cotterman to approve paying claims #69528-69558 in the amount of \$42,062.78 plus any other normal monthly bills, motion carried with 5 yes and 0 no. Claims paid in April were claims 69486-69521 for \$21,296.92 and additional claims 69522-69527 \$7,885.24 Ck #24175-24177 Payroll \$3,014.57, PERA \$542.97 CK 24179-24181 \$3,276.84 PERA \$564.82 Federal taxes for April \$1,794.48. Motion carried with 5 ayes, 0 nays

Motion by John Wangen, second by Wayne Schlutz to adjourn at 8:46 pm. Motion carried.

Roberta Zaske, City Clerk-Treasurer