

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
November 13, 2024

Meeting called to order by Mayor Mandy Grack at 7:02p.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

Open Public Forum:

Approval of minutes: A motion by Michael Cotterman, seconded by John Wangen to accept the minutes for October meeting, motions carried.

Reports given:

1. Fire Department – Chief Busse gave his report. New Auburn Fire was award \$19,000 for a grant from Taylor Family Farms Foundation, this grant will be used for SCBA's. Talked about how to retain firefighters, having a meeting on paying firefighters for calls and training. Applications are out for new officers for 2025, will bring applications to city by December 2nd. Looking into changing the way we bill fire calls, will meet with fire officers.
2. Treasurer –report was given and approved
3. Park/streets/buildings- Joey gave his report. Having issues in with the detention tank, re-plumped the chlorinator was leaking. Floors need to be replaced at city hall and city office, they are worn. The shop needs concrete and door is leaking, its hard to heat. Bucket for the tractor is cracked and snowblower is being repaired. Council is talking about purchasing a new snowblower and tractor bucket in 2025.
4. Sheriff Report –

Resolutions, Ordinances and Policy:

Resolutions: 20241113A Canvassing the election Results Motion by Wayne Schultz, seconded by Michael Cotterman to approve the canvassing for the election results, motion carried.

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

Policy:

Unfinished business:

1. STREAMS – The engineer is coming to New Auburn on November 20th to talk about cost for our sewer to go to Winthrop. A group meeting is set up for zoom on December 2nd. No action was taken.
2. Garage on City property – We have permission to go into the garage to show people so we can try to sell it. We will need to re-advertise once the garage is open. No action was taken.
3. HSEM/FEMA City Clerk meet with FEMA for a final walk through, signed papers with HSEM and we should receive a payment of \$11,085.14 (federal \$8,527.03 and state \$2,558.11) plus City Clerks wages for federal \$418.56. City Council wants to spend the money to prepare for the next flood with a new pump, repair the old pump, and other items. Tabled until the money is deposited.
4. SEH – Rural Development will not get a chance to look at our project until February 2025. No action taken.
5. Any more discussion on the Budget 2025 After much discussion, the City Council talked about adding \$10,000 for new snow blower and bucket to equipment repair/replacement. Budget will be about 2% increase.

New Business:

1. Property Tax Assessment - we had one request for a hearing. There is still a lot of delinquent water and sewer bills pending. The amount not paid as of today is \$6,600. December this amount will be assessed to property taxes.

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2. Divine Acres contacted me about a storm shelter for the trailer park. A permit has been approved and they will install any time now.
3. FFA want to put an FFA sign on our population signs coming into New Auburn. Motion by John Wangen, seconded by Wayne Schultz to allow the sign on our population sign, motion carried.
4. Water program has ACH option – A motion by Michael Cotterman, seconded my John Wangen to approve the ACH option and city will waive the ACH fee for customers, but using a credit card will cost the customer 3.5% or \$2.00 minimum, motion carried.
5. Danny Kissinger wants to put up a mailbox in front of his place. Glencoe post office told him they do not allow any more mailboxes in New Auburn. The city council agreed but will check into it. No action taken.
6. A person wanted to have the fee waived for renting the community hall so she could hold some free CPR class, the person didn't show up and the council wants more information first.
7. Utility pole ready to fall down. Century link came to fix the pole.
8. Election reimbursement – no action taken.
9. Employee evaluations – Meeting was closed will Joey and Bobbi had their evaluations.

Additional items discussed:

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

Motion by John Wangen, seconded by Michael Cotterman to approve paying claims #69733-69760 in the amount of \$19,857.34 plus any other normal monthly bills, motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays
Claims paid in October were claims 69701-69729 for \$42,006.13 and additional claims 69730-69732 \$209.68 Payroll - CK 24433-24435 \$3,101.73 PERA \$585.32 CK 24436-24438 \$3,352.93 payroll, PERA \$585.32 Federal taxes for October \$1,879.48. Motion carried with 5 ayes, 0 nays

Motion by Michael Cotterman, second by Wayne Schultz to adjourn at 9:02 pm. Motion carried.

Roberta Zaske, City Clerk-Treasurer