

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
December 9, 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, Dale Brenhaug, Justin Wisch

Additions or Corrections to the agenda

Open Public Forum:

Approval of minutes: A motion by Wayne Schultz, seconded by John Wangen to accept the minutes for November meeting, motions carried.

Reports given:

1. Fire Department – Chief Busse gave his report. 2024 had 30 medicals, 8 misc, 5 fires, 2 mutual aid and 5 rescues. Fire Officers for 2025 is Justin Wisch- 1st Asst Chief, Lucas Doelger- Asst training officer, and Beth Frahm – secretary. Current is Bryce Busse – Fire Chief, Dale Brenhaug – 2nd Asst Chief and Collin Brehmer – Training Officer. Motion by Wayne Schultz, seconded by Michael Cotterman to approve the new officers, motion carried. Fire Policy – Motion by John Wangen, seconded by Wayne Schultz to approve the changes in the fire policy but to add First Responder Reserves need to also make 10% calls to be eligible for a bonus at end of the year, motion carried. Firefighters in good standings – two firefighters are not in good standings and will not receive the retirement amount for 2024, Fire Chief talked with both firefighters. Fire mutual aid agreement – after some discussion, we will wait and see what happens at fire chiefs meeting.
2. Treasurer report – Report was given with no comments.
3. Park/streets/buildings- Joey gave his report. Been cleaning up dead trees. Looking at replacement of the new pump for transferring water, will bring more prices back next month along with other items needed for flooding.
4. Sheriff Report – Deputy Johnson gave his report, asked if we needed anything.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Policy:

Resolutions: 20241209A Approving final tax levy Motion by Wayne Schultz, seconded by Pam Horton to approve the tax levy as presented, motion carried.

20241209B Property Tax assessment Motion by John Wangen, seconded by Michael Cotterman to approve the property tax assessment as presented, motion carried.

20241209C Transferring funds Motion by Pam Horton, seconded by Wayne Schultz to transfer funds from general checking into general savings as presented, motion carried.

20241209D Application for grant navigation Motion by Wayne Schultz, seconded by John Wangen to approve the application to request a grant, motion carried.

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

Policy:

Unfinished business:

1. STREAMS – Wayne Schultz and City Clerk went to meeting in Winthrop on December 2nd, discussed what our next step should be. The four cities need this regionalization, but it is too costly for all the cities. We go to the DNR committee January 10th, we will meet after that meeting.
2. Lead and copper - The state is going to mandate the next step. They want the Cities to get on a PPL list so we can accept money to help residents that have galvanized or lead services, it will cost us about \$2000 to hire engineer to do the PPL, motion by Wayne Schultz, seconded by Michael Cotterman to hire SEH for the application for PPL, motion carried.
3. Garage on City property – Maintenance will get a new lock for shed and put it on.

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New Business:

1. SEH small grant for engineering services – sign agreement – Motion by Wayne Schultz, seconded by Michael Cotterman to accept the agreement, motion carried.
2. SEH I/I report – sign agreement – Motion by Wayne Schultz, seconded by Michael Cotterman to approve the agreement with SEH to help us with the I/I report, motion carried
3. Police agreement for insurance company – Motion by Pam Horton, seconded by Wayne Schultz to update our Police Agreement for insurance purposes, motion carried
4. 4M Fund – renewed the notification to Broker and Certification by Broker, motion by John Wangen, seconded by Pam Horton to approve the certification, motion carried.
5. Garbage pick up contract is expiring – Look into renewing a contract.
6. Mobile home park had final inspection – no action taken
7. City Laptop computers – return to city office if not using them.
8. Any change in fee schedule for 2025 – update the mileage and water/sewer/storm rates.
9. City clerk to work a few hours on January 1st to print reports – ok with council just no over time.
10. Employee annual wage for 2025 – Motion by Michael Cotterman, seconded by Wayne Schultz to approve a 4% increase on wages, motion carried
11. City Audit is January 21-23, office will be closed with city clerks discretion.

Additional items discussed:

1. Clerks Report no report
2. Curt Reetz – no report
3. Open discussion - New Auburn had 41 inches of rain in 2024, with 39 inches between April and June, our normal rain fall is 23 inches. Lets try to do a Christmas lighting contest next year and improve some of the city decorations.

Motion by John Wangen, seconded by Michael Cotterman to approve paying claims #69767-69787 in the amount of \$70,999.55 plus any other normal monthly bills, motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays
Claims paid in November were claims 69733-69760 for \$19,857.34 and additional claims 69771-69766 \$7,487.83 Payroll - CK 24470-24472 \$3,199.26 PERA \$585.32 CK 24478-24480 \$3,191.86 payroll, PERA \$585.32 Federal taxes for November \$1,923.34. Motion carried with 5 ayes, 0 nays

Motion by John Wangen, second by Pam Horton to adjourn at 8:02 pm. Motion carried.

Roberta Zaske, City Clerk-Treasurer