

**City of Mountain Lake
Regular City Council Meeting
Mountain Lake City Hall – 930 Third Ave
Monday, November 2, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: David Savage, Dana Kass, Darla Kruser, Andrew Ysker, Mike Nelson

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: Michael Schulte, City Administrator/Clerk (over conference call);
Maryellen Suhrhoff, City Attorney; Doug Bristol, Police Chief; Jon Beck,
Police Officer, Daron Friesen, Street Superintendent

Others Present: Francisco Garza, Bob Christianson, Marty Seifert, CGMC; Braxton Seifert

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nelson at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Agenda & Consent Agenda

Motion by Kass, seconded by Savage, to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

Bills: Checks #24218 – 24275, 693E – 695E

Payroll: Checks #65626 – 65643

Approve September 15 Planning & Zoning Commission Minutes

Approve September 17 Library Board Minutes, September Library Report, and
September Expenditures

Approve September 21 EDA Board Minutes

Approve September 24 Utilities Commission Minutes

Approve September 29 Police Commission Minutes

Approve October 19 City Council Minutes

Public

No one spoke during this portion of the meeting.

Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Report

Marty Seifert, Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, presented a report on the past legislative session, the ongoing pandemic, CARES Act funds, LGA, and other activities the Coalition has been focusing on along with specific details on Mountain Lake. The state continues to have special sessions each month to continue Governor Walz's emergency powers. The next state

budget will be the focus point of the next session and the Coalition's main priority will be to have LGA funded and given to cities on time this next year. General questions and discussion ensued.

Street Department Report

Daron Friesen, Street Superintendent, presented a report of completed activities in October.

Ice-Skating Rink

As winter approaches, the administrator asked the council if any changes were needed in operating the ice-skating rink this year. The ice-skating rink is usually flooded in December and continues until March. An ice-skating rink attendant opens and closes the warming house typically from 3-5 p.m. during the week and 1-4 p.m. on weekends. The current ice-skating rink attendant decided not to return to the position this year. Upon further discussion, direction was given to operate the ice-skating rink as normal this winter season and to hire a new attendant. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Kass, to advertise for an Ice-Skating Rink Attendant and to post the wage as \$12/hour. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Grant Application to Mountain Lake Area Foundation

Motion by Kruser, seconded by Savage, to approve an application to Mountain Lake Area Foundation for various ice-skating rink items for \$3,989. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Pay Request #6 - Wastewater Ponds Project

John Graupman, Bolton & Menk, submitted a memo providing an update on the wastewater ponds project. The project is near 70% completed and is wrapping up for the season to continue next spring. The pay request to Mathiowetz Construction was recommended to be approved. Motion by Savage, seconded by Kass, to approve Pay Request #6 to Mathiowetz Construction for \$394,403.27. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Public Nuisances

The city attorney sent certified letters to 6 property owners regarding violations with city code on their properties and that the City Council would review them at this meeting, would possibly declare them public nuisances, and would possibly continue the legal process to have the properties cleaned up by the city at the property owner's expense. Only 1 letter was unsigned for. Francisco Garza was in attendance and explained his situation with his property. Questions and discussion ensued. Upon further discussion, the Council gave Garza the option to clean up his property as stated in the original agreement with him in a timely manner or that the matter may need to be addressed by the city to handle if ignored. Motion by Kass, seconded by Savage, to declare the 6 properties who were mailed a certified letter as public nuisances and to continue the legal process of having the properties meet city code and to have any expenses billed to the property owners. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Waiver of Lien Against Property – 429 12th Street North

The property owners of 429 12th Street North received a forgivable grant over 10 years through the Small Cities Development Program from state funds for \$19,130 in 2016. The unforgiven balance stands at \$11,478. Bob Christianson, one of the property owners, was in attendance and explained the situation. Repairs and improvements were made to the property but now the basement walls are caving in making the property unlivable. The repair cost to fix the issue costs more than what the house is worth. The property owners plan to sell to another party who plans to repair the house themselves. If the property is sold to another party, the property owners must pay the remaining balance unless the lien is waived by the City Council. Motion by Kass, seconded by Ysker, to waive the remaining balance of the lien due to the fact that the house is no longer livable. Motion carried 5 – 0.

CARES Act Funds

The administrator provided a list approved by an EDA subcommittee of additional grant funds to businesses and nonprofits who experienced a greater loss of funds due to COVID-19 than what has been given to them from the city and county already. The list includes 5 businesses and 2 nonprofits for a total of \$32,000. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Ysker, to approve the list of grants to businesses and nonprofits presented using CARES Act funds for a total of \$32,000. Motion carried 5 – 0.

3rd Quarter Revenues & Expenses

3rd quarter revenues and expenses were reviewed.

Close City Hall – November 27

Motion by Kass, seconded by Ysker, to close City Hall on November 27. Motion carried 5 – 0.
Staff have the option to work or use a vacation / floating holiday.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Approved November 16, 2020

ATTEST:

Michael Schulte, Administrator/Clerk