

**City of Mountain Lake
Regular City Council Meeting
Mountain Lake City Hall – 930 Third Ave
Tuesday, December 3, 2024
5:45 p.m. – Regular City Council Meeting
5:45 p.m. – Truth In Taxation Meeting**

Members Present: Andrew Ysker, Darla Kruser, Dean Janzen, Bryan Bargen, Mike Nelson

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: Michael Mueller City Administrator; Ben McHenry Police Officer

Others Present: Deanna Anderson, David & Cheryl Abelson, Doug Regehr

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nelson at 5:45 p.m.

Approval of Agenda & Consent Agenda

Motion by Bargen, seconded by Kruser to add Resolution #21-24 Unpaid Utility Bills , 521 Klein Street demolition estimate, and spray way misters to the agenda. Motion carried 5 – 0.
Motion by Kruser, seconded by Ysker to approve the agenda and consent agenda as amended.
Motion carried 5 – 0.

Bills: Checks #28836-28879, 1201E-1213E

Payroll: Checks #68445 – 68483

Approve November 14 Utilities Commission Minutes

Approve November 18 City Council Minutes

Approve November Street Department Report

Approve 2025 Tobacco and Liquor Licenses

Accept Chanah Brandt Resignation, EMT, effective 11/19/2024

Hire Breanna Wagner, EMT, effective 12/3/2024

Hire Ken Classen, Jean Haberman & Cheryl Hiebert, Ice Rink & Warming House Attendant, effective 12/3/24

Approve Resolution # 20-24 Accept Police Department Donation

Public

A letter was presented to the council from Rachel Yoder and Jay Schied.

2025 Items

Motion by Kruser, seconded by Ysker to approve 2025 wages, salaries, and step changes accordingly for each employee. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Unpaid Charges

A public hearing was held regarding the matter to object to certification of unpaid charges from the city and utilities. There were no comments.

Motion by Barga, seconded by Kruser to approve Resolution #17-24 Unpaid Utility Bills.

Motion carried 5 – 0. Motion by Janzen, seconded by Barga to approve Resolution #21-24

Unpaid Utility Bills. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Utilities

The 2025 budget and rates were presented. Northland Securities recommends continuing to raise water and sewer rates by 2% every year. Missouri River Energy Resources conducted an electric rate study in September 2023, which recommended 8% rate increases for the next three years, to cover the capital costs for the new power plant. Motion by Ysker, seconded by Janzen to approve the 2025 Utilities budget. Motion carried 5 – 0. Motion by Janzen, seconded by Ysker to approve Resolution #18-24 Electric, Water, and Wastewater Rates as presented. Motion carried 5 – 0.

City Administrator

The council reviewed a list of meeting dates for 2025.

Council reviewed an estimate for demolition for 521 Klien Street, before demolition, the fire department will review the property if they could conduct a fire training exercise involving a controlled burn.

Spray way misters for City Park were briefly discussed, City Council requested more information on maintenance, installation, and overall costs.

Roundtable

An update was given to the council regarding board and commission meetings.

A list of expiring and vacancies for the various city boards and commissions were briefly discussed. Mayor Nelson is still working on the list and contacting those whose term expires at the end of this year and finding vacancies.

Truth In Taxation Public Hearing To Discuss 2025 Budget & Leavy

Review – Preliminary 2025 Summary Budget and Tax Levy

Review – Local Government Aid

Review – 2025 Capital Improvement Plan

Review – 2025 Budget Packet

The administrator reviewed and explained the preliminary 2025 summary budget and tax levy, Local Government Aid, levy information, the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan, and the 2025 budget packet as approved in September. The preliminary levy was set at a 5% increase. The total levy is \$1,070,748.70, a \$54,419.14 increase from last year. No public questions regarding the budget and levy increase. A large amount of the levy increase, \$52,000.00, will be budgeted towards a new building for the Fire & Ambulance Hall. No changes were made to the levy or budget.

Resolution #19-24 - 2025 Final Levy & 2025 Budget

Motion by Janzen, seconded by Ysker, to approve Resolution #19-24 – 2025 Final Levy & 2025 Budget. Motion carried 5– 0.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

Michael Mueller, Administrator/Clerk