

**City of Mountain Lake
Regular City Council Meeting
Mountain Lake City Hall – 930 Third Ave
Monday, March 18, 2024
5:45 p.m.**

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

Members Absent: Bryan Bargaen

City Staff Present: Michael Mueller City Administrator; Maryellen Suhrhoff City Attorney;
Louis Norell Assistant Police Chief; Dave Watkins Electric
Superintendent

Others Present: Mark Langland, Larry Rebman

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda & Consent Agenda

Motion by Janzen, seconded by Kruser to add to the consent agenda the Mountain Lake Area – Comfrey Boys Basketball Team Proclamation as well as the New Power Plant Transformer & Switchgear Sealed Bids to the agenda. Motion carried 4– 0. Motion by Janzen, seconded by Kruser to approve the agenda and consent agenda as amended. Motion carried 4– 0.

Bills: Checks # 28125-28157, 1042E-1044E

Payroll: Checks #67945 – 67980

Approve January 8 Tree Commission Minutes

Approve February 13 Library Board Minutes, February Report & Expenditures

Approve February 20 EDA Board Minutes

Approve February 22 Utilities Commission Minutes

Approve March 4 City Council Minutes

Accept Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan

Approve Pow Wow Street Closure Request

Hire Kris Thompson, EMT, effective 3/11/2024

Mountain Lake Area – Comfrey Boys Basketball Team Proclamation

Public

No comment

Police

Assistant Police Chief Louis Norell researched a variety of vendors for squad and body worn cameras. The Mountain Lake Police Department has a recommendation for purchasing Axon

body worn cameras. This purchase was not originally set in the budget for 2024 and needed direct Council approval for the purchase and future years of implementation. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Janzen to approve the purchase of body worn cameras for the police department. Motion carried 4– 0.

New Power Plant Transformer & Switchgear Sealed Bids

Tabulation of the sealed bids were recorded. No action was taken. The sealed bids will be sent to our Electrical Engineers, Qualus, they will review the bids, specifications, and designs, and provide their input before Council acts.

City Attorney

An update was given to the council regarding civil processes on various properties, public nuisances, current processes, court procedures, agreements, and plans.

City Administrator

City Hall received an anonymous call advising that someone at 736 9th Street N had illegally connected to the water after they had been shut off. Water services were disconnected on October 16, 2023, due to non-payment. It was investigated by the Utilities. The top of the curb stop had been pulled off and staff could not access the lock, as a bolt was dropped into the hole. City personnel went inside the house and found the meter was disconnected and water lines were replumbed; however, the water meter wires were still connected. This allowed the meter to be read but did not reflect any water usage going through the meter. An invoice was presented by the city administrator, including water usage for October through March, as well as charges for labor, repairs to the curb stop, and a new meter. An administrative fine of \$1,000 was included. Motion by Janzen, seconded by Ysker to approve the invoice and \$1,000 administrative fine. Motion carried 4– 0. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Kruser to update our Rates, Fees, and Administrative Fines to list \$1,000 administrative fines per each violation, for anyone who tampers or bypasses a utility meter (Curb Stop/Water/Sewer/Electric). Motion carried 4– 0.

Roundtable

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

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

ATTEST:

Michael Mueller, Administrator/Clerk