

**Regular City Council Meeting
Via Go-To Meeting / Conference Call
Monday, May 18, 2020**

6:30 p.m.

Call +1 (646) 749-3122 Access Code: 431-029-157

The Mayor and City Administrator determine that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted under MN Statute section 13D.02 is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or an emergency declared under Chapter 12 as stated in 13D.021. MN Statute 13D.021 will be followed for this meeting.

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

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: Michael Schulte, City Administrator/Clerk; Maryellen Suhrhoff, City Attorney

Others Present: Ron Klassen, Rachel Yoder, Representative Rod Hamilton

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. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Bills: Checks #23644 – 23682, 668E – 669E (1-5)

Payroll: Checks #65305 – 65332

Approve April 23 Utilities Commission Minutes (6-8)

Approve April 23 Board of Appeal & Equalization Minutes (9-12)

Approve May 4 City Council Minutes (13-17)

Hire Adam Watkins, Part-Time Police Officer, effective date May 7, 2020

Hire Chad Neuenburg, Weed Harvester Operator, effective date May 9, 2020

Hire Brett Willaby, Seasonal Street Worker, effective date May 26, 2020

Approve Resolution #14-20 to Accept a \$3,000 Donation from the Mountain Lake Fire Relief Association

Public

Ron Klassen asked questions about his property (Parcel ID: 22.004.1030) being annexed into city limits. The property is 13.5 acres south of the commercial park and south of Highway 60. A joint resolution (1-17) was passed between the city and Mountain Lake Township to annex land

for the commercial park and land bordering the commercial park for potential expansion of the commercial park. The administrator provided information on the notices, public hearing, mailing labels, and procedures of annexing the land. Klassen explained that the land was bought by contract for deed in 2016 and was officially paid for in 2018. The mailed notification of potential annexation and the public hearing was mailed to the property owner he purchased the land from. Klassen stated the previous property owner was not aware of the annexation. The council explained that the property was annexed as part of potential expansion of the commercial park and the city must pay the township over time for loss of property taxes. Klassen stated the land should be de-annexed until the city is ready to develop the land to the south. Mayor Nelson stated that the city does not necessarily have to purchase and develop the land as it can be developed or sold to another entity if desired at any time. Discussion ensued on taxes, annexation procedures, and future plans. The city attorney stated some more information on the annexation procedures. Direction was given to the city attorney to investigate what options are available and the costs and effects of those options.

City Attorney

There was no new information from the city attorney to report.

Ambulance/Fire Contracts with Townships

The township contracts were signed by all the township officials and sent back to city hall. A summary of the payments by each township were reviewed. Motion by Kass, seconded by Ysker, to approve all the listed contracts with the listed townships. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Discussion/Update with MN Representative Rod Hamilton & Resolution #15-20

Representative Rod Hamilton provided an update from the state legislature. The session ended last night. Hamilton explained the difficulties and issues the state is dealing with. By not having in-person voting, all voting was done by roll-call in which each vote took around 11 minutes for each bill. A special session is likely on June 12th to continue discussions on a bonding bill, COVID-19, and other issues. The state was looking at a 1.5 billion surplus and are now looking at a deficit. Over 600,000 in Minnesota have applied for unemployment. The administrator asked if Hamilton knew anything additional about the CARES Act in which funds are potentially going to be sent to cities to help respond to COVID-19. Questions were asked of what it could be used for. Hamilton encouraged to learn more from the governor's website as he did not want to provide any misinformation about the funds, when they would be distributed, and what they could be used for as it has not been officially decided yet. Mayor Nelson sent the resolution that the EDA passed at their meeting today and Hamilton stated it was a well-written resolution that does not encourage breaking the law but encourages to balance health and economic needs. The resolution was sent to the council to review. Upon further discussion, it was decided to pass the same resolution by the city council. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Kruser, to approved Resolution #15-20 Supporting Mountain Lake Businesses and Urging Governor Tim Walz to

Expedite the Re-Opening of All Minnesota's Economy in a Manner that Balances Economic and Public Health Needs. Motion carried 5 – 0.

COVID-19

The city's operation plan was reviewed. The following updates were decided: City Hall will remain closed tentatively until the first week of June when safety glass and other safety measures were installed. Pick-ups at the library will begin on May 20. The community center will remain closed through June 1st but reservations that are under 10 people and allow proper social distancing will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The pool players may use their room as long as they stay under 10 people and surfaces used are properly sanitized. The city campground will remain closed for recreational campers due to the governor's restrictions through June 1st. Public bathrooms including the campground bathroom/shower house will be open on May 20. Park equipment will be open on May 20. All residents are asked to use the bathrooms at their own risk as bathrooms will be cleaned only at their normal routinely schedule. The park equipment will not be specially sanitized. Residents are asked to use at their own risk and follow proper social distancing. Public meetings will be conducted electronically through June 1. The City Council will review the plan again on June 1. Motion by Savage, seconded by Ysker, to approve the updated city operation plan. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Approved June 1, 2020

ATTEST:

Michael Schulte, Administrator/Clerk