

**City of Mountain Lake
Regular City Council Meeting
Mountain Lake City Hall – 930 Third Ave
Monday, May 3, 2021
6:30 p.m.**

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

Members Absent: Dana Kass

City Staff Present: Michael Schulte, City Administrator/Clerk; Maryellen Suhrhoff, City Attorney; Daron Friesen, Street Superintendent

Others Present: Doug Regehr, Janet Broten

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda & Consent Agenda

Motion by Janzen, seconded by Kruser, to add Checks #24853 – 24901, Payroll: Checks 65969 – 65983, Street Department Report, 9.A – Library Aide Position, 9.B Parade Route to the agenda.

Motion carried 4 – 0. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Ysker, to approve the agenda and consent agenda as amended. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Bills: Checks #24853 – 24901

Payroll: Checks #65969 – 65983

Approve March 18 EDA Board Minutes

Approve April 8 Utilities Commission Minutes

Approve April 19 City Council Minutes

Accept Resignation of Sharron Hanson, Planning & Zoning Commission, effective April 28, 2021

Approve Brian Janzen to the Utilities Commission effective May 3, 2021

Approve Travis Smith to the Planning & Zoning Commission effective May 3, 2021

Public

Janet Broten, 644 4th Avenue, stated concerns of vehicles speeding up and down 4th Avenue near the apartments and is concerned of safety for children who live on this street. Mayor Nelson directed the administrator to discuss further with the police chief.

Street Department Report

Daron Friesen, Street Superintendent, went over completed tasks in April. Friesen reported that there are multiple slides with cracks and some other playground parts needing repairs. Each part is fairly expensive ranging from \$500 - \$1500. Friesen asked if the worst should be repaired and budget for future parts next year or to go ahead and replace all the needed parts. Direction was

given from the Council to order parts for each repair as they are potential safety hazards to kids if they worsen.

Conditional Use Permit – Empire Solar, LLC on behalf of Josefina Barvosa

The city administrator explained to the Council that Empire Solar, LLC withdrew their conditional use permit application this afternoon as the property owner cancelled the project. The conditional use permit was removed from the 5:30 p.m. Planning & Zoning Commission meeting agenda today.

Resolution #8-21 Approving Conditional Use Permit

No action taken due to the withdrawal of the stated conditional use permit.

Minor Subdivision – Clifford P. Netsch Revocable Trust

The administrator explained and reviewed the subdivision application, the survey, and the draft findings of fact. The current owner intends to split the parcel of 22.356.0040 (1703 6th Avenue) to create a new parcel. The current parcel will become two parcels with the new property line near the middle going east-west. There is a natural shrub barrier which will represent the new property line. The new owner of the north parcel will be Trevor & Crystal Fast, who currently lives across the street north of 7th Avenue. The southern parcel will be owned by Zachary Romsdahl of St. James. The split meets required lot size width and square footage. The Planning & Zoning Commission met today and approved to recommend to the City Council to approve the subdivision/split with no further conditions or restrictions.

Resolution #9-21 Approving Subdivision of 22.356.0040 – 1703 6th Avenue

Motion by Ysker, seconded by Kruser, to approve Resolution #9-21. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Electric Superintendent Position

There were two signatures for the internal posting for the advertisement of the Electric Superintendent position. The administrator stated that there has been a great amount of support from CMPAS members and neighboring cities including St. James and Windom who are willing to help with various technical matters and support with the department being down 1 employee. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Janzen, to transfer David Watkins from Electric Lineman to Electric Superintendent for a 30-day trial period per union contract and move Watkins up to the next step in the Electric Superintendent pay scale and to follow the pay scale's schedule, per union agreement. Motion carried 4 – 0. Watkins will have 30 days to decide to stay in the new position or return to his former position and the City Council can also decide to place Watkins permanently in the new position or return him to his former position, per union agreement. Action will be taken at the June 7th meeting.

Request from Sue Garloff, President of the Mountain Lake Chamber of Commerce

Sue Garloff wrote a letter to the City Council requesting that the City Council proclaim Friday, May 21st as “Peterson Pharmacy & Gifts Day” in the city of Mountain Lake and to read a special proclamation at the May 17th City Council meeting. Garloff states in the letter the great work that the pharmacy has done since the pandemic started over a year ago. Over 2,000 vaccines have been given to individuals and the pharmacy has provided great service to the community. With their dedication to fighting COVID-19, providing excellent medical service, and supporting the community in other ways, Garloff asks that the City Council join the Chamber to honor this special Mountain Lake business. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Ysker, to make May 21, 2021 “Peterson Pharmacy & Gifts Day” in the city of Mountain Lake and to read a proclamation at the May 17, 2021 City Council meeting. Motion carried 4 – 0.

City Attorney

Nuisances or previous nuisances at various addresses were discussed. City Attorney Suhrhoff provided updates on court hearings and statuses of each. Mayor Nelson discussed concerns of various garages and sheds in the city that are in poor condition. The city attorney and city administrator will work with the building inspector on writing letters to the property owners to repair or remove the structures.

Part-Time Library Assistant/Aide

An interview committee interviewed two candidates that applied for the Library Assistant/Aide position. A recommendation was made from the committee to hire Karin Stoesz at Step 4 of the position’s pay scale. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Janzen, to hire Karin Stoesz as a Library Assistant/Aide at Step 4 of the position’s pay scale effective June 2, 2021. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Parade Route

The Chamber is requesting the City Council to approve the expansion of the parade route on 3rd Avenue to end at the old Casey’s building to encourage social distancing. The property owner has given permission to use his lot south of 3rd Avenue for parking and pick-up. 3rd Avenue would be closed to this point in which vehicles will either need to turn onto Golf Course Road to go north or turn at Cottonwood Road to go east. Motion by Ysker, seconded by Kruser, to approve the requested expansion of the parade route. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Approved May 17, 2021

ATTEST:

Michael Schulte, Administrator/Clerk