

**Regular City Council Meeting
Mountain Lake City Hall
Monday, August 3, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Mike Nelson, Darla Kruser (7:10 p.m.), David Savage, Dana Kass, Andrew Ysker

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: Michael Schulte, City Administrator/Clerk; Maryellen Suhrhoff, City Attorney, Daron Friesen, Street Superintendent; David Watkins, Electric Lineman; Doug Bristol, Police Chief; Will Pohlmann, Police Officer

Others Present: Tom Appel, County Commissioner; Doug Regehr, Gloria McKissick

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 Ysker, to add Checks #23892 – 23959, 682E – 683E and Payroll #65467 – 65485 to the consent agenda and approve the consent agenda and agenda as amended.
Motion carried 4 – 0.

Bills: Checks #23892 – 23959, 682E – 683E

Payroll: Checks #65467 – 65485

Approved June 15 EDA Board Minutes

Approve June 24 Library Board Minutes, June Expenditures, & June Library Report

Approve July 9 Utilities Commission Minutes

Approve July 20 City Council Minutes

Approve July 23 Special City Council Minutes

Approve Resignation of Rosalie Dick, Effective August 3, 2020

Public

Keith Willard, 625 Klein Street, was in attendance to express his desire to build a 30x40' pole shed on his property. Willard's property is the southernmost property within city limits south of Highway 60 in which fields surround 3 sides of the property. The administrator has talked with Willard over the phone to explain the accessory structure standards ordinance in which accessory structures cannot exceed 10% of the lot size or no more than the square footage of the principal dwelling, whichever is less. The neighbor to the north has a pole shed constructed near 2005 and

other properties within the animal overlay district have pole or machine sheds. Willard asked if a variance could be sought. The council provided direction that the standards for granting a variance may be possible and directed the matter to the Planning & Zoning Commission. A meeting will be held to either discuss a variance or if a change to the animal overlay district ordinance should be considered.

Gloria McKissick expressed concerns regarding her neighbor and asked questions of responses to various matters regarding her neighbor. The council recommended setting up a meeting with the chief of police to discuss further.

Street Department Report

Daron Friesen, Street Superintendent, provided a report of items completed in July. The cemetery dirt piles will be leveled and finished this week. A trail camera was purchased and will be installed. Longer open hours for the burn site may be considered. Discussion occurred on having internet and a lap top in the street shop to be able to receive emails, receive quotes, and research parts and maintenance items. Direction was given to establish an internet connection and order a lap top. The department and the utilities are requesting to purchase a 1996 Peterbilt dump truck from Jimmy Wilson for \$29,000. It is in good shape, has low miles, and has extra sides to install that can be used for hauling snow. Discussion ensued on ongoing maintenance and repair costs. Motion by Savage, seconded by Kass, to approve the purchase of the 1996 Peterbilt dump truck for \$28,000 and to split all pertaining costs of the truck 50% between the street department and the utilities. Motion carried 5 – 0. Motion By Ysker, seconded by Kruser, to decommission the 1958 GMC Dump Truck and to salvage by a third party.

CARES Act Funds

The administrator has been participating in webinars and informational meetings along with phone calls with the county regarding the CARES Act funds the city received. The funds must be used according to the criteria the federal government has established and be spent by November 15. An area the funds can be used for are grants to businesses that meet federal guidelines. Tom Appel, County Commissioner, was in attendance to explain what the county has been discussing and planning to do with their portion of the funds. A grant application is being finalized at the county level to provide to businesses and nonprofits to complete and return to the county. The commissioners have been meeting regularly to discuss the criteria set forth in the application. An option the city could pursue is to work with the county on distributing funds to Mountain Lake businesses and nonprofits either by sending a portion of funds to the county to give to Mountain Lake businesses and nonprofits or take the applications submitted by Mountain Lake businesses and nonprofits and have the city distribute the funds directly. Criteria for applying, funds received, deadlines, and other items were discussed. The county is looking at having a deadline to receive applications by September 15. The administrator learned that the federal government may extend the deadline of November 15 to a date in 2021. The deadline date will be the largest

factor as emergencies or other costs the city may incur may develop in 2021. Direction was to continue to work with the county and decide more once the applications are received and if the deadline is extended.

Financial Services Agreement with Northland Securities

A financial services agreement with Northland Securities was explained and reviewed. The agreement provides services to establish a tax abatement for the proposed EDA housing project of costs not to exceed \$3,000. The cost can be reimbursed through the bonds if the project is approved. Motion by Savage, seconded by Kass, to approve the agreement. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Resolution #18-20 Calling Public Hearing on Housing Program

The resolution calls for a public hearing on September 21st. A brief update of the housing project was provided. A call is set with Tammy Omdal of Northland Securities this Wednesday to discuss the financing of the project. The building committee met this past week to discuss possible rents and locations for the two four-plex buildings. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Ysker, to approved Resolution #18-20. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Resolution #19-20 Calling Public Hearing for a Tax Abatement

The resolutions calls for a public hearing on September 21st to discuss the tax abatement involved with the financing of the EDA housing project. Motion by Kass, seconded by Savage, to approve Resolution #19-20. Motion carried.

Wastewater Ponds Project

A memo submitted by John Graupman of Bolton & Menk was read providing an update on the wastewater ponds. Perimeter drain tile, force mains, the lift station structure, and river crossing directional drill were some of the items completed. Installing the liner will begin this year ahead of schedule. The pay request from Mathiowetz Construction was recommended by Graupman to pay. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Kass, to approved Pay Request #3 to Mathiowetz Construction for \$1,827,530.59. Motion carried 5 – 0.

2021 Budget

The budget guide provided the League of Minnesota Cities was reviewed. FICA, Medicare, and PERA rates will stay the same as 2020. Recommendation of percentages from the League for budgeting premiums through LMCIT were reviewed. LGA was certified this past week but with many unknowns at the state level, the amounts may be cut by the end of the year. The administrator stated that if there are unique items to budget for or items to start planning for, that the next month is the time to incorporate those items for the next year. A first draft of the budget numbers will be presented at the next meeting.

City Attorney

City Attorney Suhrhoff provided an update on the greenhouse property. The Court of Appeals determined that the city's resolution failed to detail specific repairs that needed to be done to make the buildings non-hazardous. The primary reason the resolution was not specific is because the owners refused to meet with the city and allow us to enter the premises. Suhrhoff provided more explanation and options going forward. Upon further discussion, the city is moving forward with efforts to have the junk trucks removed from the property and the volunteer trees removed. The city is deliberating on options to address the greenhouse buildings. The city will continue to seek the cooperation of the owners to address the concerns regarding the property. Police Chief Bristol spoke to the council about a nuisance property on 10th Street that has not been following a signed agreement between them and the city attorney. Bristol expressed that actions taken against the property, such as towing vehicles, cost the city money and asked what the council wanted to do as this has been a unique situation over the years. Upon further discussion, the city attorney is going to review the signed agreement and figure out the best option moving forward on dealing with the public nuisance.

City of Mountain Lake Preparedness Plan

The plan was updated to include a section regarding masks as required by the new mask mandate by the governor. Motion by Kass, seconded by Kruser, to approve the updated plan. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Approved August 17, 2020

ATTEST:

Michael Schulte, Administrator/Clerk