

Empire City Council Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2023

The meeting of the Empire City Council was called to order by Mayor Trent Larson at 7:00 PM .

Present were: Mayor Trent Larson; Council Members: Eric Hanson; Danny Rubio; Marla Vagts; Also present were Jerod Waltman, Jenni Faulkner, and Brian Hilgardner

A. Call Meeting to Order and Flag Pledge

B. Roll Call

C. Approve the Agenda

Eric Hanson made a motion to approve. Danny Rubio seconded. Motion carried 3-0

D. Minutes

D.1 9 12 13 Council / 9 19 23 Planning Commission / 9 25 23 Park & Rec. Committee

Danny Rubio made a motion to approve. Eric Hanson seconded. Motion carried 4-0

E. Treasurer's Report

Eric Hanson made a motion to approve. Marla Vagts seconded. Motion carried 4-0

E.1 Profit & Loss / Budget Comparison

Council reviewed the profit & loss/budget comparison and the projected revenues and expenditure report for 2023, as of 9/26/2023

F. Visitors

None.

G. Bills to be paid in the amount of \$44,780.89

Marla Vagts made a motion to approve. Eric Hanson seconded. Motion carried 4-

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H. Committee Reports:

Maintenance / Sewer and Water / Road and Bridges

Jerod Waltman reported that meters are being read, he is catching up with locates, he is able to work on the gravel roads now that we have received some rain.

It was reported that he and Charles Seipel-Teng met with the public works and parks director with the City of Farmington regarding the paved trail that runs southwest from 205th St. Staff believes there was damage done to the trail from trucks with the City of Farmington depositing snow to the dump site along the trail during this past winter. Farmington noted that they will no longer be hauling snow to the site. It needs to be determined when the trail will be repaired and who will be responsible for the repairs.

Law Enforcement

Deputy Hanah Martin presented the incident reports for the month of August.

Dog Ordinance - Foster Dogs

Deputy Martin is seeking clarification on the animal control ordinance. The ordinance does not contain language that references foster dogs. In the MXR District, residents are permitted a maximum of three dogs. Kennels are not permitted in the MXR District. The Council reviewed information from animal control ordinances from Farmington, Rosemount and Lakeville. Farmington's ordinance makes an exception for foster dogs. The Council recommended that the Planning Commission discuss the current ordinance to see if they recommend amending it.

Park & Rec

Eric Hanson reported that there was a request to consider installing additional dog waste receptacles and cans along the trail system. Jerod Waltman noted that much of the waste that ends up along the trails is due to irresponsible dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs. Staff will review the trail system to see if there are any gaps that could use additional receptacles.

Engineering

Information on 2025 Street and Parking Lot Improvement Project

Brian Hilgardner reported that he will have financial information on the proposed 2024 Street and Parking Lot Improvement project prior to the budget hearing in November.

Information from MN DOT on Highway 3 Safety Improvements

Brian Hilgardner noted that he is forwarding concerns to MN DOT that arose from information that was presented at a recent open house regarding the Highway 3 corridor in Empire and Farmington. Concerns include future traffic control at 197th Street and the number of proposed roundabouts without a stop light to break up traffic.

Update on HBC Broadband Project

Bryce Lauren with SM Drilling presented an update on the HBC fiber optic project. They are currently moving into the area of 197th Street from the north. Some lawn restoration will need to wait until spring as it gets later into the season. They have been doing their best to work around irrigation systems and try to disturb yards as little as possible. Eric Hanson asked if the City could receive weekly updates on the project so that the updates can be posted to social media.

Planning

Consider Adopting Ordinance 2023- 10, Amending Zoning Ordinance to Permit Essential Services in Mineral Extraction (ME) District

Jenni Faulkner presented a memo outlining the addition of essential services to the ME District. The addition of this language would be an amendment to the zoning ordinance. After a public hearing on the amendment was held at last week's Planning Commission Meeting, the Planning Commission recommended adoption of the ordinance amendment.

Danny Rubio made a motion to adopt. Eric Hanson seconded. Motion carried 4-0

I. Old Business

I.1 Discussion on Appointment to Fill City Council Vacancy

It was reported that Mayor Larson was going to meet with a resident that may be interested in

being appointed to City Council. Mayor Larson will also meet with Mark Page to discuss his interest.

J. New Business

J.1 Consider Approving 2024 On-Sale Intoxicating and Sunday On-Sale Liquor Licenses for Southern Hills Golf Course

Danny Rubio made a motion to approve. Eric Hanson seconded. Motion carried 4-

0 J.2 Consider Renewal of City Health Insurance Plan with BCBS for 2024

The City Council reviewed the proposed renewal of the City's Health Insurance Plan for 2024 with BCBS as well as a comparison to other similar plans.

Marla Vagts made a motion to approve. Danny Rubio seconded. Motion carried 4-0

K. Meetings:

Planning Commission Meeting, October 3, 8:00

PM Park & Rec. Meeting, October 9, 7:00 PM

City Council Meeting, October 10, 7:00 PM

L. FYI

L.1 Information from Charter on Cable Channel Changes

L.2 Kwik Trip Meeting

Will be held on Wednesday, October 4th at the Empire Public Works Building

M. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Trent Larson made a motion to adjourn. Eric Hanson seconded. Motion carried 4-0

Trent Larson, Mayor

Charles Seipel-Teng, Clerk - Administrator