

Empire City Council Meeting Minutes March 28, 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 Danny Rubio, Marla Vagts, Tom Kaldunski; Charles Seipel-Teng; Jerod Waltman; Brian Hilgardner; and Jenni Faulkner. Council Member Eric Hanson was absent.

Agenda: Danny Rubio made a motion to approve the agenda. Tom Kaldunski seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Minutes: Marla Vagts made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting of March 14, 2023; Planning Commission Meeting of March 21, 2023. Danny Rubio seconded. Motion passed 3-0, Tom Kaldunski abstained.

Treasurer Report: The treasurer's report showed a General Fund Account balance of \$25,922.64 plus investments and an Escrow Account balance of \$8,309.65 plus investments. The report included the Profit & Loss/ Budget Comparison as of 3/28/2023. \$260,000 was transferred from General Savings to General Checking on 3/28/2023.

Marla Vagts made a motion to approve the financial report. Danny Rubio seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Bills to be Paid: A motion by Danny Rubio to pay the attached list of bills in the amount of \$353,261.85. Tom Kaldunski seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Visitors:

A property owner on Clayton Ave. indicated that he believes that there are people living on a parcel in the area without a permanent dwelling unit in addition to raising and butchering a large number of animals on the property. Council directed staff to look at the property and report the information to the Planning Commission.

Committee Reports

Maintenance / Sewer and Water / Road and Bridges

Jerod Waltman reported that staff is working to address gravel road maintenance prior to the roads thawing. They have been able to temporarily improve some of the roads that were in very bad condition after this winter.

Grant Gaylor will be resigning from his position with the maintenance department at the end of the month. Danny Rubio made a motion to accept the resignation of Grant Gaylor from employment with the City of Empire and post the open position. Marla Vagts seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Deputy Sheriff:

Deputy _----- reported that Deputies have been responding to traffic and crisis calls. Residents should keep an eye out for mail theft that is taking place in the area.

Park & Recreation:

No updates.

Engineering:

Brian Hilgardner reported that engineers are working with the developers of Deer Creek to put together their final plat application. The Biscayne Ave. sewer study is almost complete and awaiting final review by the City of Farmington. The plan is to discuss sewer study along with the maintenance JPA with Farmington at the next EFPAC meeting.

Planning:

Jenni Faulkner reported that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendments to the seasonal parking ordinance and recommended alternatives for on street parking. The Planning Commission is reviewing the long-term financial plan. They will also be reviewing an IUP application for a potential buyer of the Skyview Ranch Property. An attorney with the League of Minnesota Cities will be attending the April 18th Planning Commission Meeting to review land use regulations.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Tom Kaldunski made a motion to approve the annual food truck permits for Kona Ice and D&D Goodies. Danny Rubio seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Marla Vagts made a motion to approve the food truck permits for BD Sammies, Pretty Great Cheesecake, Griddle on the Go, and El Jefe for the Spring Food Truck Night and waive the permit application fees. Danny Rubio seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

The City Council reviewed the 2022 Annual Report for the City of Farmington Fire Department. Charles Seipel-Teng noted that the annual report includes the formula for calculating the annual fee for fire service.

It was reported that there continues to be a nuisance violation on the property at 3702 Upper 204th Street. The City Council reviewed a letter to the property owner that will be sent via certified mail or delivered in person to the property owner.

The City Council reviewed invitations for the Flint Hills Community Outreach Tour and the Met Council WWTP Tour. The Council recommended trying to schedule the WWTP tour for Tuesday, April 25th at 5:00 PM.

FYI:

None.

Marla Vagts made a motion to adjourn. Tom Kaldunski seconded.

The City Council Meeting ended at 8:00 PM.

Trent Larson, Mayor

Charles Seipel-Teng, Clerk – Administrator