

Council Present: Lisa Peterson-Acting Mayor, Emily Edwards, Adam Finney, Wendy Bennett; absent- Mayor Dana Ziegler

Staff Present: PW Supervisor Mark Willette, Clerk-Treasurer Diane Roelofs

Others Present: Tim Stromer-MR Messenger, Pat Krosch, Amanda Schwanke, Cathy Kietzer, Calvin Baarts, Eng. Chris Knutson; and last part of meeting Shirley Randt, Kevin Wilde, Norma Heckman

Acting Mayor Lisa Peterson called the meeting to order at 6pm.

**Agenda:** Summer Help to Public Works #8, VC Post Office and Park Bench to Miscellaneous #14, 102 West St. N. to Public Works #8. Councilor Finney made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

**Consent Agenda:** Consent agenda included minutes from 4/4 & 4/13/23, Checks for Month for March showing \$43,871.37 deposits and \$57,108.89 checks, April Cash Balance investments report, City Savings and Loan excel report, March Bank Recons, May & June Calendar of Events, BE County Call Log, April FD report, Clerk notice of retirement, LMC Safety & Loss Workshop notes, **Res. 2023-10 Approval of Transfer from 401 Gen Govt Capital Reserves Savings to 401 City Checking**, LMCIT WC Statement of Premium Audit Adjustment, SLFRF Compliance Report (Annual March 2023), and SMIF letter to council. Councilor Bennett made a motion to approve the consent agenda. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Finney, all approved, motion carried.

**Public Comment:** none

**Citizen Concerns:**

207 East St. S.: This property was sent a notice of violation last month. The property owner called the city and said everything was taken care of. The concern notices updated that some of the issues have not been dealt with. The property still has an old recliner, front yard full of junk, etc. Council directed clerk to contact Deputy Blakesley to reach out to them.

402 First St. E.: 2 separate concerns were turned in about the property owner's dogs running at large, defecating on other properties, barking consistently thru the night, growling at neighbors and chasing their cars. Council directed clerk to send a notice to the property owner.

304 Hilltop St.: This property had concerns and are the first concerns for the year 2023. The concerns consist of trailer full of trash, tires, LP tanks, misc. trash, lumber pile and a red car that needs to be verified if licensed. Council directed clerk to send a notice to the property owner.

**Ord. #93 Water & Wastewater Rules & Reg update:** Acting Mayor Peterson reported Council of the committee findings for ordinance changes requested. It was agreed that the Point-of-Sale Certifications could change from 3 to 5 years, did not agree that the city should pay for the fee for inspections because the city is requiring a licensed plumber and that Section 8 concerning the Discharge of Surface Water property on West St-owner has been given a deadline. A decision was made that due to the time and cost of changing just 1 item does not warrant amending the ordinance at this time and is tabled.

**Infrastructure Project:** Eng. Knutson presented the Pay App #4 from Holtmeier, Const. in the amount of \$44,206.49 to be approved by council and then presented to Judd Schultz of MAVC so that he can submit a payment request from MMB. Councilor Bennett made a motion to approve Pay App #4 pending the MAVAC approval in the amount of \$44,206.49. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Finney, all approved, motion carried.

**Project Update:** Eng. Knutson reported that he has been in contact with BEC Eng. Ryan Thilges because First St. will not be able to be completed this year. This is due to the fact that legislature has not yet passed the language change for the City of Vernon Center 2020 State Bonding. The BEC work will be completed in 2024 but the county will be doing Good Thunder work at the same time. A meeting is set up-PW Supervisor and Clerk will be invited to the meeting. The updated plans have been sent to USDA-RD, the project will total \$8.1 million for the base, \$8.3 million with alternates added bringing the grand total including the DEED project just finishing to \$8.9 million. PW Supervisor Willette pointed out to Eng. Knutson that he expects Railroad St. to be returned to the in the same condition as before they started the DEED project. Eng. Knutson acknowledged the statement and also told council that temporary seeding will be done at this time until the larger project completes permanent seeding.

**Easements:** Easements will be tabled until June meeting to make sure all are complete and signed by the property owners.

**Public Works:**

**Summer Hire:** With no project starting during the summer, PW Supervisor does not feel there is a need for summer help this year.

**102 West St. N:** Acting Mayor Peterson reported that a June 30, 2023 deadline has been sent for the sump pump to be diverted out into the property instead of being diverted into the wastewater sewer system. This property also has to cap the old sewer line at the building foundation by June 30, 2023.

**Public works update:** the street sweeper had a shaft break and PW Supervisor will get the shaft repaired; meanwhile, Winnebago public works will come up to sweep/pick up the streets and gutters on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Additional Bills:** The additional bills showed \$7,490.58 for April and \$30 for upcoming bills in May.

Councilor Edwards made a motion to approve the additional bills. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Finney, all approved, motion carried.

**Garbage & Recycling RFP's:** Acting Mayor Peterson opened 2 proposals for a contract starting on July 1, 2023. The proposals were from Waste Management of Mankato and LJP Waste Solutions of Mankato. The proposals will be reviewed by Council individually after and selected at the June 6, 2023 meeting.

**Fireworks:** The proposed Fireworks location map was reviewed. The property in direction of the shoot will be added to the Additional Insured on the Insurance Certificate. The property owner was notified by the city of this proposed site. The concerns of the property owner were that of garbage left behind by the fireworks and by spectators and that he does not give his blessing to have the fireworks shot off of city property next to his. MPCA was contacted and reported that there is nothing in the city's permit prohibiting near/next to (not on property), but that the city should consider potential for damage and implications. Chief Jesse Kietzer was okay with location provided approval of the city and PW. Councilor Finney stated that the city wants to be a good neighbor and that there should be a way to help with the cleanup. The rain date would be July 5<sup>th</sup>. After discussion of whether or not to approve the location, Councilor Bennett made a motion approve the location of the fireworks to be by the Wastewater ponds. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Finney, 2 approved with aye and 1 nay.

**Res. 2023-09 Approval of Fireworks Display:** Councilor Finney made a motion to approve Res. 2023-09. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Bennett, 2 aye and 1 nay.

Cathy Kietzer who is heading up the 4<sup>th</sup> of July will get a dollar amount to Clerk Roelofs and then paperwork will need to be submitted to J&M Displays prior to June.

**Spring Walk of Town:** Council lists were provided to Clerk Roelofs for her to send out notices for ordinance violations. A reminder that June 24<sup>th</sup> is the Spring Clean-up.

**Miscellaneous:**

**Vernon Center Post Office:** Acting Mayor Peterson covered the information given by the clerk about the local post office. The post office is closed when it is not business hours due to vandalism of 3 attempts in the last 2 years and people defecating in the lobby. The Supervisor in Lake Crystal in charge of Vernon Center Post Office was called and she stated they did not call local authorities because they have their own Federal investigation team. A camera is above the authority of the local postmistress. Council discussed how they could possibly help the post office out. One suggestion was to install a camera at the city park. Council directed clerk to contact upper management and ask how the city can help. Security camera information should be brought back to the June 6, 2023 meeting.

**Residents** N. Heckman, S. Randt and K. Wilde asked about the citizen concerns. They were then filled in on what council action is for the properties of concern. Norma Heckman asked about the property of the old locker and what is happening with it. City/Council has not received any information about it.

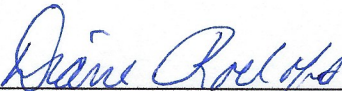
**Park Bench Donation:** Councilor Bennett has been working with the Betty Bergeman family. They have picked out a buddy bench for approx. \$1100; there would be additional charges for installing and cement. The family will be giving \$3000 as a memorial. Councilor Bennett made a motion to approve paying for a bench out of Park funds until donations are made. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Finney, all approved, motion carried.


PW Supervisor said that Eng. Knutson told him he would reach out to the city if a special meeting is needed prior to the June meeting. The pedestrian signs keep getting knocked down. PW will try putting the signs back up after planting season. Clerk should reach out to the State about permanent signs on the side of the roads without the speed signs.

**Next Meeting:** June 6, 2023 at 6pm

**Adjourn:** Councilor Bennett made a motion to adjourn at 7:17pm. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Finney, all approved, motion carried.

Respectfully approved by:

  
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Diane Roelofs, Clerk-Treasurer

  
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Dana Ziegler, Mayor

6-1-23  
Date Approved