

Echo City Council
Monday, August 12th, 2024

The regular city council meeting of the City of Echo Minnesota was called to order by Mayor James Busack at 7:00 pm at the Community Center.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Mayor James Busack, Councilman Mark Schettler, Councilman Darren Gjerset, Clerk Brian Pitzl, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen, Fire Chief Matt Dunphy. Absent was Councilman Larsen and Councilman Hanson.

Citizens/Guests: Rita Riggs, Brady Panitzke, Gayle Pederson

Open Forum: Rita Riggs addressed the council regarding a tree on the boulevard in front of her house that is in bad shape. There are a couple of other trees on that block that could be taken down for safety reasons. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset seconded by Councilman Schettler to have the same tree service that removed trees in the park to remove 2 or 3 trees. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen and Councilman Hanson absent. Brady Panitzke was present to update the council on the Lead Service Line and TIF projects. Lead service line information has been sent to the Department of Health. There were about 15 properties that were not accessible. TIF inspections are done and Bollig is fine-tuning the reports. Gayle Pederson talked to the council again concerning the condition of the property next to his. The city has sent the owners letters and will send a final notice to clean up or legal action will be taken.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, July 9th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen and Councilman Hanson absent.

Motion to approve the resolution 2024-008 Accepting Donations was made by seconded by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried with Councilman Larson and Councilman Hanson absent.

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy: Received the gloves that the department ordered for help using extrication device. The department had been asked to consider doing training at the old Rock Valley store. At the last council meeting it was discussed that there were a couple issues that would need to be addressed before it could happen. After further evaluation, it was determined that it would not be feasible to train on the structure. The department was pleased with the attendance at the pork chop feed. There is another house on the edge of town that will be used for training, with Belview and Wood Lake also possibly attending. The fire

department will have events at the Echo Days Celebration. Was asked about pressure testing hoses. The chief is working with Wood Lake to bring the hoses there when they are doing their testing. Turnout gear is probably good for another 7-8 years. Does not see any major purchases concerning the 2025 budget.

First Responders – Chief Chastity Kuehn:

Maintenance Supervisor – Bryan Nielsen: Bryan will be gone for vacation October 18-26. He will not be able to return if there are any issues. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve having Tim Dhoore cover with water/wastewater for Bryan for the week while he is gone. Motion Carried with Councilman Larsen and Councilman Hanson absent. Took 5 hours to mow at the Zabel property. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve charging \$200 per hour for the mowing and cleanup of the property. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen and Councilman Hanson absent.

Mayor Busack – Followed up with Mike Vick who is doing the cement patch work in front of the community center. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve the quote for patching of the sidewalk. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen and Councilman Hanson absent.

Councilman Schettler –

Councilman Gjerset –

Councilman Hanson – Absent

Councilman Larsen- Absent

Clerk Pitzl –Primary Election is August 13th at the Community Center. The clerk is looking into utility billing software options as the current software the city is using will be obsolete at the end of the current year. Brian has had demonstrations from 3 different companies and is looking into one more. Since there wasn't a full council present at the meeting, they felt it would be beneficial to table the decision at the September meeting. The office laptop computer has been in use for 5 years and was a refurbished model when purchased. The clerk also learned that this current laptop will not be able to be updated after October of next year. The price of a new laptop with a docking station would be about \$1000. Again, the council decided not to make any decisions until the September meeting regarding this matter.

Old Business:

A quote was given for the painting of the kitchen cabinets. The council decided not to do any updating at this time as they feel that they have been making other areas of the community center more of a priority.

New Business:.

The 2025 proposed budget was given to the council for review. The clerk did not raise the amount of the levy at this time. The proposed budget needs to be submitted to the county by the end of September. The council will assess the budget and make recommendations and a decision at the September meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve the consent agenda consisting of Bills, Payroll, and Bank Information. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen and Councilman Hanson absent.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Schettler, and second by Councilman Hanson to adjourn regular meeting at 8:05 pm, motion carried with Councilman Larsen and Councilman Hanson absent.

Acting Mayor Darren Gjerset

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl