

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council
Tuesday, February 14th, 2023**

The regular city council meeting of the City of Echo Minnesota was called to order by Mayor James Busack at 6:00 pm at the Community Center.

Present: Mayor James Busack, Councilman Mark Schettler, Councilman Reid Hanson, Councilman Darren Gjerset, Councilman Dan Larsen, Clerk Brian Pitzl, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen, First Responders Chief Chasity Kuehn

Citizens/Guests:

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, January 17th, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Larsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy: In absence of Chief Dunphy, Bryan Nielsen informed the council that at least 2 fire fighters will be attending training in Moorhead in March.

First Responders - Chas Kuehn: Ordered a new battery for the AED in the community center. Will be attending an EMS class on February 21st and would like the city to pay the \$25 fee for attending. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Hanson to pay the fee. Motion carried unanimously. She will be attending a 2-to-4-hour AED class in April in Marshall and in return will receive a free AED which will be put for use in the fire rig. Informed the council that the ditch bags the responders use to hold supplies are too small for all the items required to have in them. New bigger bags are around \$38 for each. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve the purchase of 7 bags. Motion carried unanimously. Brought attention to the fact that the first responders currently only have high visibility vest for use while on call. Would like to get high visibility jackets for winter use. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve the purchase of 6 jackets with a cap of \$75 each. Motion carried unanimously. Asked who the city had as a Emergency Manager. It was decided that Mayor Busack would be the Emergency Manager for Echo.

Maintenance Supervisor – Bryan Nielsen: Will be attending the Water/Wastewater Conference March 6-9. Gave a short tool update, saying that the inventory hasn't changed much but had purchased a 6 ft step ladder, battery charger and a valve key wrench, and will be purchasing a new welding helmet. The city truck currently has approximately 31,000 miles on it. Discussed the possibility of purchasing a torch for the shop. Bollig Engineering informed the city that they would be willing to conduct an inspection of the lead and copper system in the water lines. They would need approval by the city to do this. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded

by Councilman Gjerset to approve Bollig to do the inspection as long it has no cost to the city. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Busack –

Councilman Schettler –

Councilman Gjerset – Inquired about the city garbage contract. The contract goes until October of 2023. Would like to look into other options as he feels the big trucks now being used are doing damage to the city streets. City clerk will contact other vendors and get quotes. Asked about the city wide clean up. The council decided to make the City-Wide Clean-up date as April 29th. Will figure out the best way to get citizens to participate. Would like to know the amount required to be set aside for water and sewer for future replacement. Clerk will look into this.

Councilman Hanson - Brought up concerns of excess non licensed vehicles on certain properties. Will check into city ordinances and options for sending letters to residents. The council will discuss the issue in the coming months when the conditions are more conducive to see what is out there.

Councilman Larsen- Referring to a recent burial at the city cemetery, suggested that there be no winter burials when the city has a bad winter.

Clerk Pitzl – The Board of Appeals and Equalization meeting will be held April 12th, 2023, at 6:30 pm at the Echo Community Center. Clerk will not be able to attend the March Meeting. A Council member said he would also not be able to attend. The council decided to move the March meeting to Tuesday, March 14th. Since the individual that the council later in the meeting wanted to attend the next meeting in regard to the TIF district wasn't available, the council moved the meeting to Thursday March 16th. The clerk will be on vacation from March 21st to March 30th. The city office will be closed March 21st to March 30th.

Old Business:

Aged balance report for past due water bills was discussed. Clerk was instructed to send out letters of disconnection to customers with water bills over 90 days past due.

New Business:

The council discussed the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district expansion in the city from the previous night's work session. They felt that they did not get the answers they were looking for. Would like to have another representative who can better explain the details of the process. The clerk will contact the individual to see if he is available to attend the March meeting to better inform the council.

Tax increment financing (TIF) is a public financing method that is used as a subsidy for redevelopment, infrastructure, and other community-improvement projects in many countries, including the United States. The original intent of a TIF program is to stimulate private

investment with a blighted area that has been designated to be in need of economic revitalization.

Consent Agenda:

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

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Schettler, and second by Councilman Larsen to adjourn regular meeting at 7:45, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jim Busack

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl