

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council
Tuesday January 14th, 2025**

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Mayor Nichole Kepler, Councilman Mark Schettler, Councilman Darren Gjerset, Councilman Wyatt Bendix, Councilman Dan Larsen, Clerk Brian Pitzl, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen, First Responders Chief Chastity Kuehn

Citizens/Guests:

Open Forum:

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, December 10th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the Resolution 2025-001 Designating the Acting Mayor Dan Larsen made by Councilman Bendix, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen abstaining. Selecting Citizens Alliance Bank as depository of city funds made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Bendix. Motion carried unanimously. Appoint Matthew Gross as city attorney made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Bendix. Motion carried unanimously. Tri-County News as official city newspaper was made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Schettler, Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-002 accepting donations was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Bendix. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Bendix to approve the Resolution Approving County Project Within Municipal Corporate Limits. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve consent agenda stating that all city council members will be responsible for all City Council Committees, including Street/Sidewalk, Parks/Recreation, Water/Sewer, Cemetery, Wed Inspector, and Ordinances, appoint Dan Larsen as grave Marker for the cemetery, was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Bendix. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen abstaining. Motion to approve rate fees with changes to community center rent fees as follows: Main Hall \$100 with \$200 damage deposit, Main Hall-Liquor \$200 with \$200 damage deposit, Back Room only \$50 with \$25 damage deposit. Was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried unanimously. Motion

to change fire call fees to \$1000 per call was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Larsen. Motion carried unanimously. Motion to increase sewer usage fee to \$.51 per 100 gallons was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Bendix. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Matt Dunphy- Fire Chief:

Chastity Kuehn, First Responders Chief- Chastity will be returning any equipment that was ordered that did not fit the blood pressure machine and will find alternative places to order the correct equipment. Taneka Olson has started classes with no cost to the city as the classes are covered by a grant. Asked about getting jackets for the three new members. At the last meeting the council voted to hold off on ordering the jackets until the new members have been certified. 2 of the 3 are already certified. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Bendix to order the jackets. Motion carried unanimously. The first responders are sitting ok with having enough pagers. Councilman Gjerset inquired about if the responders do lift assists and about if they charge for calls. Was informed that they will do lift assists if needed, and do not charge for services but often get donations from individuals.

Maintenance Supervisor Nielsen- Repairs have been done on the plow that had hinges bent. Informed the council that there was a fire on the generator for the lift station. Is working with the company to have them look into the cause and will turn findings into insurance. Will be gone fishing January 25-29. Will be at Wastewater Conference March 3-6. Bryan will reach out to people who can be called in case of any issues that arise in his absence. May need to have tires put on fire trucks.

Mayor Kepler-

Councilman Schettler

Councilman Gjerset –

Councilman Bendix – Brought up the idea of having a generator for the community center in case there would be a need for one in an emergency. The maintenance supervisor will look into prices. Also inquired about the city well. Asked if it was able to be used if there would be a need. The maintenance supervisor will contact a couple companies that handle wells and get them to check it out. Requested that the city add a yard light to the campground. There are no exterior lights to help campers who are using the restrooms after dark. Bryan will get prices for lights by the restrooms, and the shelter.

Councilman Larsen –

Clerk Pitzl – Informed the council that the city does have 2 councilmembers who have completed the Board of Appeal and Equalization training and are certified until 2026. Discussed with the council that the moratorium on cannabis that was implement at a prior meeting

expired on January 1st, 2025. The clerk is looking into options on what needs to be done going forward. The city received a letter regarding a conditional use permit for a feed lot located south of town. The city should not be affected by this. Updated the council on the latest Proposed Property Taxes.

Old Business:

New Business: Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Bendix to remove James Busack and Darren Gjerset as signers of the bank accounts and approve Mayor Nichole Kepler, Acting Mayor Daniel Larsen, and Clerk Brian Pitzl as check signers, Motion carried with Dan Larsen abstaining.

Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to remove James Busack as signer for the city CD and add Daniel Larsen to the signature card. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen abstaining.

Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Schettler to remove James Busack as signer of the Safe Deposit Box and add Mayor Nichole Kepler and keep Clerk Brian Pitzl as signers. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Larsen, and second by Councilman Bendix to adjourn regular meeting at 7:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Nichole Kepler

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl