

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council
Tuesday, July 11th, 2023**

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 said.

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

Citizens/Guests: Ray Sweetman: Sweetman Sanitation, Tayler Williamson: West Central Sanitation, Daneen Dhoore

Open Forum: Daneen Dhoore was present in regard to a building permit she had been approved for at an earlier meeting and stated that she is still looking at options as to what she would like to do and will keep the council updated as needed.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, June 13th, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-800 Accepting Donations was made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-25 Parking Restrictions on City Streets was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

Discussion was held regarding the parking of trucks on the corner of 2nd Ave and 4th St. by the coop prohibiting the view of cross traffic. A council member will talk to the coop about it and no further action has been taken at this time.

Reports:

Matt Dunphy, Fire Department – N/A

Chastity Kuehn, First Responders – The 1st responders will be having a hamburger and hot dog feed at the upcoming Echo Days Celebration. She informed the council of several donations that were received to help with costs associated with this event. Presented an inventory of the first responder's rig to send to the insurance provider to update the policy. Inquired about the refrigerator in the community center kitchen. Temperature has been up and down. Will keep an eye on it and act as needed.

Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Nielsen– Sweeper attachment for the payloader was shipped and should be in in a couple days. Has been trimming trees along the boulevards to avoid damage to city snow removal equipment this winter and also cleaning up around town in advance of Echo Days. Looked at snowplows offered by the State of Minnesota that were being taken out of service. The plows would be too tall for the city shop and have other issues that would not be a good fit for the city. The city will continue to look at other options and decide if a backup plow is even needed. Brought up the park reservation policy which currently states that there is a \$50 fee for the park rental with a \$200 damage deposit. The park is first come first serve, but if an individual would like to ensure the park is available, then the fee is needed. Motion by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler to remove the damage deposit and adjust the fee to \$25 to reserve the park for a private gathering. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

Mayor Busack – Brought up issue of dog and cat licenses for residents as well as the city fire pit ordinance. Clerk will send out a letter to remind residents to register for a pet license and to also inform them of changes to the park policy and remind residents of the fire pit policy.

Councilman Schettler – Had a resident inquire about the possibility of removing part of a curb to install a driveway entrance. The council would like to receive more details about the project before acting on the matter. Has concerns about the new state law legalizing cannabis. The council will hold a special meeting concerning city ordinances on July 24th at 7:00 pm at the Echo Community Center.

Councilman Gjerset – N/A

Councilman Hanson – N/A

Councilman Larsen – N/A

Clerk Pitzl – Informed the council that the city received their 2021 second half LGA of \$46,060.00 that was withheld for reporting reasons. The city also received their first half TIF District funds in the amount of \$31,833.92. The winning bid for the city payloader was \$15,520. The clerk has started working on the budget for 2024. The proposed levy needs to be reported to the county by September 30th. Checked with other cities to see what they were charging for mowing city lawns that were not in compliance with the city ordinance. The rates range from \$50 to \$150 per hour. Motion by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by councilman Hanson to set the rate for mowing noncompliant lawns at \$100 per hour with a minimum of \$100. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent. Met with the city auditor regarding past tax filing. Looks like the city overpaid taxes and may be able to receive some of the money back.

Old Business

N/A

New Business:

Ray Sweetman of Sweetman Sanitation was present to address the council on behalf of the RFP that was submitted to the city for refuse and recycling services. Sweetman recently started a sanitation business and is looking to grow his business. Tayler Willianson was also present to address the council concerning the RFP for refuse and recycling services. He stated that his company is the current hauler for the city and would like to continue to serve the city in this capacity. The city council will make their decision on the matter at the August meeting.

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

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 Councilman Larsen absent.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Schettler, and second by Councilman Hanson to adjourn regular meeting at 8:30, motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

Mayor James Busack

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl