

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council
Tuesday May 13th, 2025**

The regular city council meeting of the City of Echo Minnesota was called to order by Councilman Darren Gjerset at 7:00 pm at the Community Center.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Councilman Mark Schettler, Councilman Wyatt Bendix, Councilman Darren Gjerset Clerk Brian Pitzl, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen, Fire Chief Matt Dunphy, 1st Responders Chief Chastity Kuehn. Absent was Mayor Nichole Kepler and Councilman Dan Larsen.

Citizens/Guests: Wayne Petit, Ray Sweetman: Sweetman Sanitation, Sara Oberloh: Oberloh and Associates, Jim & Paula Busack

Open Forum: Ray Sweetman from Sweetman Sanitation was present to discuss dumpsters in town. 3 dumpsters are full and need to be dumped for sanitary reasons. Sweetman Sanitation is working on policies to reduce the amount of time a dumpster is located at a property without being dumped and create unsanitary conditions. Jim Busack raised concerns over a burn ban for the county with residents having campfires. Council informed Jim that the ban does not pertain to such fires. Paula Busack inquired about spraying for dandelions at the cemetery. The city maintenance supervisor informed her that he was waiting for a part for the sprayer and will have it sprayed as soon as he gets the part. Paula also asked about campers parked on people's property and if people living in them is allowed? No verification of people actually staying in the campers. Sara Oberloh presented to the council the 2024 Audit Report. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Bendix to approve the city audit. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, April 8th, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Bendix, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

Motion to approve April 16th, 2025, Board of Appeals & Equalization Meeting Minutes was made by Councilman Bendix, seconded by Councilman Schettler, motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

Reports:

Matt Dunphy- Fire Chief: Sacred Heart asked if there was a hose that our Fire Department picked up at a recent fire. They have 2 hoses of the Echo department, and the departments will get the hoses to the right place. The department tested some hoses and had 3 that didn't pass. The fire hydrant by the fire hall has a leak. City maintenance supervisor will look into it. The department is looking into purchasing some portable lights to help when working at night. The

department would also like to purchase a new chainsaw as the current one was having trouble at a recent call. The council advised the department to use funds raised from their pork chop feed to purchase the items. Drop tank was delivered to Wood Lake and the city received one from them. Council members are willing to help the department in any way they can.

Chastity Kuehn- The 1st Responders are working on setting up a mock accident scene to do training. Looking at possible sights to do it, with the Lions Park parking lot a good choice so the air ambulance can land at the ballfield. Looking at having participants return to the fire hall after the training to discuss the training. There are currently 8 first responders on duty.

Maintenance Supervisor Nielsen- Bryan has been spraying dandelions. Everywhere is sprayed except the cemetery, which will get done when the sprayer is fixed. The new generator has been installed at the lift station. Still waiting for the initial start up to get it up and running. Looking to have the control company come look at water flow touch screen which is having issues. Still waiting on a quote for a generator for the community center. Off Thursday afternoon for dentist appointment.

Mayor Kepler-

Councilman Schettler –.

Councilman Gjerset –

Councilman Bendix –

Councilman Larsen –

Clerk Pitzl – The city received a letter from the Department of Transportation informing the city that they did not receive a grant that was applied for to repair the sidewalk in front of the Post Office. The city office has switched to summer hours of Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, Thursday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and closed on Fridays. The clerk will be off on May 15th, and the city office will be closed.

Old Business: A letter was sent to the owner of the old gas station located on 2nd Ave. requesting their presence at the May city council meeting regarding the condition of the property. The owner made no contact with the city or appear at the meeting. A council member will try to call the owner and get any information as to the intentions of the property.

New Business: The issue of the mayor missing the March and April city council meetings as well as the May meeting was addressed. According to the League of Minnesota Cities, if an elected official fails to attend meetings for a 90-day period, the council can deem the position vacant. The clerk will contact the city attorney to confirm this and proceed from there.

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

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Bendix, and second by Councilman Schettler to adjourn regular meeting at 8:15 pm. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

Mayor Nichole Kepler

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl