

Echo City Council
Tuesday, May 14th, 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, Councilman Dan Larsen, Councilman Reid Hanson, Clerk Brian Pitzl, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen, Fire Chief Matt Dunphy.

Citizens/Guests: Randy Panitzke: Bollig Eng., Sara Oberloh, Steve Paskewitz, Michelle Paskewitz, Jaden Thedans, Wayne Petit, Paula Busack, Otto Luepke, Jane Garvin, Darlene Dirnberger, Bonnie Viergutz, Roger Win, Alec Dirnberger, Jody Chmelar,

Open Forum: Discussion was held regarding the kitchen in the community center. Quotes were received from two contractors for countertops and/or cabinets. Council will maybe set up a meeting with one of the contractors to further discuss in detail the quote received. The piano in the community center has a bad leg and could be replaced. Suggested that if anyone has a piano, they would like to donate, the city would appreciate it. Brady Panitzke from Bollig Engineering addressed the council regarding the ongoing lead service line inventory project. He said there are about 20 houses to inspect yet, but it looks like there are no lead lines in any properties. Brady also talked about the TIF district expansion process. Inspections have been done and Bollig is putting the information together. Bollig will be finalizing the findings and creating reports for the scope of the infrastructure project. Sara Oberloh of Oberloh and Oberloh Inc. presented the 2023 audit for the city. The city had a clean audit with no issues. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve the audit. Motion carried unanimously. Steve Paskewitz was present to request a building permit to extend the fence on his property and add one to the east side of the property. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Larsen to approve the permit. Motion carried unanimously. Steve also asked about if the city had a limit of number of storage buildings on a property. The city does not. Also has issues with the property next to his. The owner of the property has been sent letters regarding the condition of his property. The council gave the owner of the property 30 days to make significant progress on cleaning or the city will go through the city attorney to have it cleaned up. A number of citizens also expressed concern about the failure to enforce city ordinances. The mayor and clerk will drive around to look at properties and send letters to residents about ordinance violations related to lawn mowing. Jody Chmelar was present to ask about bringing water lines to h9s property. No action taken at this time.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, April 9th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Larsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve, April 10th, 2024, Appeals and Equalization Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-006, Accepting Donations was made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy: Firemen did some maintenance and cleaning at last meeting. The department may have another house to burn for training.

First Responders –

Maintenance Supervisor – Bryan Nielsen: Has been mowing in town. Will spray for weeds next week. Received a quote for removal of 6 trees by the ballpark from Leenerts for \$7,900, which doesn't include stump removal. Council asked if Matt Dunphy was willing to do the removal and requested that Matt look into insurance for himself for the project. Matt will check into insurance and let the council know. Bryan will be out of town the weekend after Memorial Day. Dentist appointment on the 23rd.

Mayor Busack –

Councilman Schettler – Brought up the idea of a daily work journal for Bryan previously discussed by the council but wasn't voted on. Would like to see this done. No vote was taken on the matter.

Councilman Gjerset –

Councilman Hanson – Talked about storm drain cleaning. Issues on second Ave. The drain was jetted by the county and has been ok since.

Councilman Larsen-

Clerk Pitzl – Informed the council that the city office has changed to summer hours, which include 7:30 am to 3:30 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Tuesdays. Closed Fridays. Will be attending the League of Minnesota Cities Conference at the end of June.

Old Business:

At the April council meeting, the council instructed the city clerk to send a letter to a resident regarding a car parked on the city street in violation of a city ordinance. The car has not been moved in a timely manner and the council instructed the clerk to have it towed.

One application was received for the summer help position. No action taken at this time

New Business:

Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve a Temporary Liquor License for the Echo Legion for the upcoming Lions Ribfest. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen complaint was brought to the council. Council recommended the individual should call the sheriff if the problem continues.

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 Schettler to adjourn regular meeting at 9:00 pm, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor James Busack

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl