

Echo City Council
Tuesday, September 10th, 2024

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Mayor Acting Mayor Darren Gjerset, Councilman Mark Schettler, Councilman Dan Larsen Councilman Reid Hanson, Clerk Brian Pitzl, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen, Fire Chief Matt Dunphy. Absent was Mayor Busack.

Citizens/Guests: Jaden Thedans, Gayle Pederson

Open Forum: Gayle Pederson addressed the council regarding the property next to his. The council informed him that the residents at the property have been sent letters to clean up the property several times. The city has few options, since the city has no police, other than continuing to send letters to residents who violate ordinances.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, August 12th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the resolution 2024-010 Adopting the Yellow Medicine County Hazard Mitigation Plan was made by seconded by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy: Made a request to have James Wiess-Dunphy put on the Fire Department roster as he is interested in joining. James will be enrolled in training along with 3 other members who need to finish the training. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Acting Mayor Gjerset approve of the request pending James passing a physical. Motion carried unanimously. The department trained in Wood Lake with extrication equipment and were pleased with what they learned. Scheduled for December 7th to burn and train in a house near town. Can do multiple trainings in the house before as well. Ordered batteries for handhelds and pagers. Possible that new turn out gear would be needed for new fire fighter.

First Responders – Chief Chastity Kuehn:

Maintenance Supervisor – Bryan Nielsen: Lawn mower is in the shop with a blown oil cooler line. Mower is still under warranty so any repairs will be covered. Will have them do an inspection as well to check things out. Bryan will be on vacation October 18th-26th. Tim Dhoore will be on call for any water/wastewater issues. Motion made by Councilman Hanson, seconded

by Councilman Larsen to pay Tim \$100 for being on standby and \$25 per hour for any time incurred. Motion carried unanimously. Bryan is doing fall work getting ready for winter. Received a quote for removing 3 trees along boulevards that are considered a hazard. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Hanson to accept the quote and have the trees removed. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Busack – Mayor Busack was absent but left a note with several issues with properties in town. Some of the issues have been corrected since this meeting was held.

Councilman Schettler –

Councilman Gjerset –

Councilman Hanson –

Councilman Larsen-

Clerk Pitzl – Will be adding money to his HSA account from deductions in his paycheck which the city will send payment to the holder of the account.

Old Business: Acting mayor Gjerset proposed setting the 2025 budget levy at \$170,000, which is a 3% increase from 2024. Motion made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by councilman Schettler to approve of the 2025 Levy at \$170,000. Motion carried unanimously. Discussed the utility billing software options. Upon recommendations from Clerk Pitzl, a motion was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Hanson to approve Banyon Utility Billing as the new software provider. Motion carried unanimously. City clerk is looking at updating the office laptop and will get quotes to replace the current one which will be unable to get updates starting next year. Received a request from Yellow Medicine County asking about the licensing of cannabis. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Hanson for the City of Echo will keep the cannabis licensing/permitting authority. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business: Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve a temporary liquor license to the Legion Club for the Lions Ribfest. Motion carried unanimously. Received a letter from the Cottonwood Ambulance seeking donations. The city is not allowed to donate.

Consent Agenda:

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

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Hanson, and second by Councilman Larsen to adjourn regular meeting at 7:50 pm, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor James Busack

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl