

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024 COLD SPRING CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Doug Schmitz at 5:00 p.m. The following City Council members were found to be present: Acting Mayor Doug Schmitz and Council Members Mike Fall, Ryan Hennen, and Fran Ramler. Absent: Mayor Dave Heinen. Others present: Kris Dockendorf, Jason Blum, Sam Butler, Charlie Voight, Ryan Holthaus, Luke Vossen, Vicki Jungles, Jan Decker, John Decker, Adam Lubbers, Adam Ripple, Jeff Kraemer, Nate Bell, Jim Smith, Cliff Johnson, Eric Boucher, Angie Mueller and Joe Jelovnick.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Cliff Johnson from the Cold Spring Area Historical Society stated that they would be cohosting an event on December 11, 2024, titled The U.S.S. Ward at Pearl Harbor: Minnesota Sailors Fire the First Shot of the Pacific War.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY FALL, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes – October 23, 2024 Regular Meeting and October 30, 2024 Special Meeting

MOTION WAS MADE BY FALL, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

FIRE STATION CHANGE ORDER NO. 2

Nate Bell from Donlar Construction presented and explained Change Order No. 2. He stated while digging the footings for the Fire Station, they ran into granite, that it would need to be blasted and an additional manhole would need to be added as a result. He stated that shifting the building would not be an option, nor would raising the building. Dockendorf stated that there was a contingency of approximately \$557,000 built into the budget for covering such unforeseen costs during construction.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO APPROVE PENDING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 FOR GRANITE BEDROCK REMOVAL AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE FIRE STATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$89,606.00, AND TO APPROVE CLOSING MAIN STREET FOR GRANITE BLASTING, AS NEEDED. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

DISCUSS FIRESIDE ROAD AGREEMENT

Adam Ripple and Ryan Holthaus explained a requested revision to the agreement for Fireside Road, with regard to the costs for making the connections to city owned streets. The connections would be for Meadow Lane and 2nd Avenue SE, with the connection to the future segment of the road to the existing cul-de-sac of 2nd Avenue SE by the end of 2026 at the latest and connection to Meadow Lane by the end of 2027 at the latest. The connections would be city costs and not assessed to the north or south adjoining properties. A brief discussion occurred on the estimates of the construction costs for street connections and the option of interim construction connections.

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY FALL, TO APPROVE THE REVISED AGREEMENT FOR FIRESIDE ROAD AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

CANVASS GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO APPROVE THE RESULTS OF THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

HEARING ON DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

Acting Mayor Schmitz opened the hearing for the delinquent accounts at 5:27 p.m. He called three times for those wishing to speak, after hearing and seeing none, he closed the public hearing at 5:28 p.m.

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2024-38, A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID CHARGES. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

APPOINT RYAN HENNEN TO TOWNSHIP FIRE CONTRACT COMMITTEE

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY FALL, TO APPOINT RYAN HENNEN TO THE TOWNSHIP FIRE CONTRACT COMMITTEE, TO SERVE WITH MAYOR HEINEN AND ADMINISTRATOR DOCKENDORF. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

APPOINTMENT TO FIRE DEPARTMENT HIRING COMMITTEE

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY FALL, TO APPOINT COUNCIL MEMBER RAMLER TO REPLACE COUNCIL MEMBER FALL ON THE FIREFIGHTER HIRING COMMITTEE. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Request to Hire Part-Time Plow Drivers

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY FALL, TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF MARK HENNEN, ERIC BOUCHER, CHARLIE VOIGHT, JASON BUERMAN, AND RON FUCHS AS PLOW TRUCK DRIVERS FOR 2024-2025 WINTER AT THE PAY RATE OF GROUP 4, STEP 0 OF THE PAY SCALE. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

CITY ENGINEER REPORT

A. Project Updates

Butler stated that Lift Station #1 Rehab start up happened the last week of October and is running well. He stated the old lift station has been taken out of service. He stated that they are working on the concrete sidewalks in River Links 5th and 6th Addition, and the wear course of street paving will be done in the spring. He stated that the base slab has been poured for the Backwash Tank and the walls will be next. Lastly he explained that the 30% design proposal for the Wastewater Treatment facility will be presented at the first meeting in December.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. Changes to Water and Stormwater Rates

Dockendorf stated it was staff's recommendation to increase the water rates for 2025 due to the new well needing to be drilled and the Backwash Tank Project. She explained the proposed rate increases and that the last rate increase was in 2022. The Council discussed the rates at length, including the base rate, apartment buildings and commercial rates. The Council was in favor of the proposed increase to the Stormwater Rate.

B. Changes to Fee Schedule

Dockendorf stated that during budget discussions there were several fees within the fee schedule that were being proposed to be increased. She went through a few of them including park rentals, peddlers licenses, hazardous materials exposures, pool fills, and demolition permits. She stated the proposed fee schedule changes would come back in the form of an ordinance amendment in December.

C. Cannabis Ordinance

Dockendorf stated that low potency hemp edibles and drinks are legal and already being sold. She stated starting January 1, 2025 cannabis sales will also be legal and that the state will be issuing those licenses. She stated there would be three ordinances that the City will need to adopt in the coming months. One will be to adopt a cannabis ordinance relating to sales and limit the number of retail businesses in the City. The second will be to establish a city registration fee and yearly renewal fee for sales. The third would be relating to zoning, as to where these businesses could be located within the established zoning districts. She stated that Stearns County has been allotted 13 licenses by the State. She stated that staff is recommending that the City cap the number of licenses in Cold Spring to one. She stated that the Planning Commission will be reviewing the proposed ordinances at their November meeting.

D. Other

Council member Fall stated that the portion of roadway replaced on Red River Avenue South, to the west of the Co-Op construction site, is poor quality and requested it be looked at by staff, and brackets removed from the roadway that were used for their road closure signs.

LIST OF BILLS AND ADDITIONS

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO REVIEW AND ACCEPT PAYMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ACCORDING TO THE LIST TOTALING \$699,307.10 AND SUPPLEMENTAL LIST TOTALING \$57,186.16 AS PRESENTED BY CITY STAFF. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

ADJOURN

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO ADJOURN AT 6:06 P.M., SEEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

Doug Schmitz, Acting Mayor

Kris Dockendorf, City Administrator