

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024 COLD SPRING CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Heinen at 6:00 p.m. The following City Council members were found to be present: Mayor Dave Heinen and Council Members Mike Fall, Ryan Hennen, Doug Schmitz and Fran Ramler. Absent: none. Others present: Kris Dockendorf, Jon Stueve, Sam Butler, Brandon Drontle, Demi Roering, Chris Roering, Richard Gallea, Don Winter, Kathy Winter, Alana Bromenschenkel, Rylan Sabo, Bryn Sabo, Neil Haugerud, Brandon Anderson, Amanda Hillman Roberts, Greg Berg, Daryl Steil, John Maile, Patrick Delles, Dwight Putzke, Brenda Herubin and Joe Jelovnick.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY SCHMITZ, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes – November 27, 2024 Regular Meeting

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY FALL, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

TRUTH IN TAXATION MEETING FOR 2025 BUDGET AND LEVY

Dockendorf presented a review of the 2025 proposed budget and levy. She stated that since the preliminary levy was approved, staff was able to purchase Christmas lights at a reduced cost and therefore she recommended approving the levy rate at 10.35% instead of the 10.45% rate proposed during the preliminary levy. Public comments were called for but there were none.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2024-39, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FINAL 2025 COLLECTIBLE TAX LEVY, ALONG WITH THE FINAL GENERAL FUND, WATER, SEWER, EDA, STORM WATER, AND PRE-TREATMENT FACILITY BUDGETS FOR 2025.

Councilor Fall stated that he would like to keep the original rate of 10.45% so there would be money in the budget for repairs to the Christmas lights. Councilor Ramler and Hennen, amended their motion to include the 10.45% increase to the tax rate and to leave the Christmas lights in the budget.

MOTION PASSED 4-1, ROLL CALL VOTE, AYES – HENNEN, RAMLER, HEINEN, FALL, NAYES – SCHMITZ.

PRESENTATION ON LOOKOUT PARK

Rylan Sabo explained the work that the FFA and other volunteers have done to remove buckthorn and restore the park to its former glory. He stated that there is still more work to be done but is proud of the 700 pounds of debris removed so far. He stated that they are working towards having MNDOT re-evaluate the site to receive a designation of eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Alana Bromenschenkel stated they would like to have a re-opening ceremony for the park in the spring of 2026, which would be the park's 90th Anniversary.

SAUK RIVER DAM MODIFICATIONS

Greg Berg from Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District discussed the proposal to remove the dam on the Sauk River and replace it with a Rock Arch Rapids. He stated that the cost for the Phase I Feasibility Study for the project could range between \$20,000-\$80,000. He stated they need a local partner and were seeking support from the Council. He stated that the Sauk River Lake Association has already provided a letter of support. He stated that the dam has a 50-year life span and that infrastructure failures have been increasing with the large rain events which are becoming more common, making it dangerous. Various members of the audience spoke at length about concerns of lake levels if the dam is removed. Mayor Heinen stated that he doesn't see anything wrong with the dam and it functions well, therefore he would not be in support of removing it.

MOTION WAS MADE BY FALL, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO APPROVE SENDING A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR REMOVING THE COLD SPRING DAM AND

REPLACING IT WITH A ROCK ARCH RAPIDS. MOTION PASSED 4-1. ROLL CALL VOTE, AYES – HENNEN, FALL, SCHMITZ, RAMLER, NAYES – HEINEN.

ORDINANCE NO. 420, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING WATER RATES

Dockendorf presented the proposed ordinance changing the water rates for residential and commercial users. Councilor Fall stated he was not ready for approval and wanted to see modeling on removing the base rate charge, and stated that commercial users should be charged more. Councilor Hennen suggested that those issues are valid but could be looked at fundamentally through the coming year. There was further discussion on the base rate charge and it’s purpose.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 420, AN ORDINANCE ADJUSTING THE WATER UTILITY RATES. MOTION PASSED 4-1. ROLL CALL VOTE, AYES – HEINEN, HENNEN, SCHMITZ, RAMLER, NAYES – FALL.

ORDINANCE NO. 421, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FEE SCHEDULE

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 421, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CODE OF COLD SPRING BY ADJUSTING THE VARIOUS RATES AND FEES. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Updates

Stueve stated many compliments are coming in on the larger and brighter bulbs on the Christmas decorations. He thanked Nancy Frie for the donated wreath. He gave an update on the Maintenance Shop stating that the lid will be put on next week and concrete after that. He stated the ice rink will be open soon.

CITY ENGINEER REPORT

A. Lift Station #1 Improvements Change Order No. 1

Butler gave a recap of the items that were included on Change Order No. 1.

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,461.50 FOR HYDRANT UPGRADE, PIPE INSULATION AND GENERATOR REVISIONS. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

B. Project Updates

Butler stated that they are finishing up the 30% design proposal for the Wastewater Treatment Facility that they will be presenting at the December 23rd Council Meeting. He stated that Rockville has been informed of the meeting as well. He stated that 95% of the concrete work is complete at the Backwash Tank. He stated next they will do a leak test and then begin using it. He stated that in January he will have a proposal to approve advertising for bids for the 2025 Improvement Project.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. Cold Spring Fire Station – Approval of Technology & Security System Proposals

Dockendorf stated bids were obtained separately for the technology and security systems for the new Fire Hall, from existing contractors that the City already uses in their current buildings. She stated these bids came in well under the amount budgeted by Donlar.

MOTION WAS MADE BY FALL, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO APPROVE THE PROPOSALS FROM WINDAHL TECHNOLOGY FOR \$4,793.00 AND SAFEGUARD SECURITY FOR \$33,496.90 TO PROVIDE TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY SYSTEMS FOR THE NEW FIRE STATION. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

B. Other

Dockendorf stated that she has been in contact with Heidi Pepper at Stantec for the purposes of talking with legislators about funding requests for the bonding bill in 2025. She also requested input on re-scheduling the second December meeting for 2025. The Council agreed they would like to hold the meeting on Tuesday, December 23, 2025 and that it should start at 5 p.m.

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 \$1,011,069.49 AND SUPPLEMENTAL LIST TOTALING \$124,882.19 AS PRESENTED BY CITY STAFF. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

ADJOURN

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO ADJOURN AT 7:56 P.M., SEEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

Dave Heinen, Mayor

Kris Dockendorf, City Administrator