

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2022 COLD SPRING CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Heinen at 6:30 p.m. The following City Council members were found to be present: Mayor Dave Heinen and Council Members Mike Fall, Ryan Hennen, Fran Ramler and Doug Schmitz. Absent: None. Others present: Kris Dockendorf, Andrea Robinson, Jon Stueve, Dan Weber, and Joe Jelovnick. Present by video: Brian Lintgen.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Andrea Robinson stated she felt she was being treated unfairly by the delivery of public services. She stated that the City snowplow is depositing snow into her driveway at a greater level than any other property. She stated she created a TikTok about the inequity which she stated is unacceptable. She also discussed issues with snow parking violations.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY FALL, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE DECEMBER 27, 2022 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes – December 13, 2022 Regular Meeting

B. Amend minutes of 7-22-22 meeting with the following insert during the Construction Committee Report: Fall asked Murphy if there's been any movement from Coldspring on the price of the Granite Landing lot. Murphy stated that there has been movement, and that they need an appraisal and then up to probably \$250,000 total, but they need the appraisal to be over that amount so that they can have a tax benefit for it.

C. Resolution No. 2022-36, A Resolution Accepting Donations

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

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Dockendorf explained the budget amendments as presented. Councilor Fall questioned the COBRA revenue and expenditure, and why the squad car and semi-tanker had not been sold in 2022. Dockendorf explained that the former employee had decided to no longer want COBRA, and Stueve stated that they were still working on logistics for hauling sludge late in the year and therefore had not gotten around to the sale of the semi-tanker.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2022 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE BUDGETS AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Dan Weber stated that they had 60 calls in November. He stated that their end of the year for calls is on November 30th and they ended up with a total of 601 calls in 2022, compared to 470 in 2021. He stated there have been 34 calls so far in December. Chief Weber thanked the area fire departments for their assistance on the structure fire downtown in November. He added that he will be working in the near future with Dockendorf to amend the language for residency requirements for membership.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Maintenance Building Furnace

Stueve explained that they were able to repair the motor on the furnace at a cost of \$450.00 instead of purchasing an entirely new unit.

B. Other

Stueve responded to the viral TikTok video that had been created about the City snowplowing. He explained that properties that are located on the corner of a right hand turn end up receiving more snow in their driveways than other properties. He stated that it is not something that is intentionally done to any specific property owners. He stated that the only way to avoid it from happening is to change the entire snow plowing scheme. He went on to explain that blowing and hauling out snow is time consuming, requires more employees and more equipment, along with additional spaces to store snow.

C. Wakefield Township Road Maintenance Agreement

Stueve stated that there are five exhibits to the Maintenance Agreement and that he felt that the Wakefield Township Board Representatives at the last meeting were misunderstanding the language in the agreement. He stated that the portion of Chapel Hill Road, which is being discussed for reconstruction in 2023 would be a 50/50 split. He stated that the Wakefield Township Road Maintenance staff member was well aware of the road reconstruction project as he was in the discussions of straightening the roadway. Stueve stated that additional communication between the Wakefield Township staff may be needed.

CITY ENGINEER REPORT

A. Water Treatment Plant

Lintgen stated that they will be coordinating start-up of the plant.

B. Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment

Lintgen stated that the walls and roof panels are up and interior work is being done.

D. 2023 Reconstruction Project

Lintgen stated that the notice for the improvement hearing has been published and sent to property owners. The Improvement Hearing is scheduled for the January 10, 2023 meeting.

E. Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facility

Lintgen stated that the tours of other facilities went well to see how they are handling their solids. He stated that discussions are continuing with Rockville on their future capacity needs.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. Information on Equity and Inclusion

Dockendorf explained that she had spoken with the dedicated staff member at the League of Minnesota Cities about the processes that the City has taken so far and sent her a copy of the study completed by DeYoung. Dockendorf explained that their staff member would review the information and develop a plan to provide suggestions which could be reviewed at the next meeting.

B. Water and Sewer Rate Increases

Dockendorf explained that she had provided several spreadsheets showing the impact of proposed rate increases. She stated she had met with staff and they agreed to recommend no increases to those rates. She stated that they are recommending increases to the sewer rates since there are upcoming projects for the wastewater treatment plant and lift station rehabilitation. She explained two scenarios, one was a five percent increase to the rates would generate approximately \$100,000 and a ten percent increase would generate \$200,000 per year. The Council discussed the recommendations and several members felt like a five percent increase was preferred and that it be done in 2023 and another 2024 to stretch out the increases. Other members of the Council felt that the per gallon usage rates should be increased but the base rate should be decreased. The Council requested additional information on those scenarios and discussed different rates for commercial users versus residential users.

C. Granite Landing Lot Update

Dockendorf explained that after discussing the Phase II Study with Coldspring, rather than creating an agreement for the study, Coldspring stated that they would order and pay for the Phase II Study on their own. She stated that the study should be completed in six to eight weeks. Councilor Hennen inquired whether any agreements were needed to protect the City from the land being sold to another buyer, and through general consensus the Council agreed that they didn't think that was necessary as they felt Coldspring would inform the City if another interested buyer pops up.

COMMISSION UPDATES

A. Planning Commission

Mayor Heinen stated there was no meeting.

B. EDA

Councilor Schmitz stated there was no new update.

C. Park Board

Councilor Hennen stated they did not meet.

D. Rocori Trail

Councilor Schmitz stated that the wear course will be applied to the trail in the Spring. He stated that the fencing will be completed before the end of winter.

LIST OF BILLS AND ADDITIONS

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY SCHMITZ, TO REVIEW AND ACCEPT PAYMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ACCORDING TO THE LIST TOTALING \$778,976.58 AND SUPPLEMENTAL LIST TOTALING \$91,008.70 AS PRESENTED BY CITY STAFF.

Councilor Schmitz inquired about several bills and encouraged staff to buy locally if possible. Councilor Fall inquired about the Stantec invoice for \$56,000. He brought up the discussion of taking requests for proposals for both the engineering firm and the city attorney firm. Mayor Heinen explained that the Council had done that recently, within the last two years, and that after reviewing the proposals the Council decided to continue with the firms as established. The Council went on to discuss the matter at length including the idea of the City hiring their own Engineer to be a staff member. Other members felt there is a value in keeping the current firms and believed that the city is receiving a high-quality work product for the fees paid. Councilor Fall stated that every year the firms should be reviewed, and proposals sought to make sure the City is doing it's due diligence.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY FALL, FOR STAFF TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE CITY ENGINEER AND CITY ATTORNEY FIRMS AND ONCE THE PROPOSALS ARE RECEIVED THAT A WORKSHOP BE SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSALS. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

The Council then voted on their motion on the floor for the approval of the bills. The motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURN

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO ADJOURN AT 7:46 P.M., SEEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

David Heinen, Mayor

Kris Dockendorf, City Administrator