

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 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 Jayme Knapp, Shannon Miller, Doug Schmitz and Gary Theisen. Others present: Brigid Murphy, Kris Dockendorf, Katie Riegelman, Wes Smith, Jeremy Mathiasen, Dan Weber, Sue Dege, Jason Blum and Angie Mueller. Also present by video/phone: Tammy Paczkowski, Jessica Green, Kristi Marhon and Jon Stueve.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY THEISEN, SECONDED BY KNAPP, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes – September 8, 2020

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX ABATEMENT FOR PILGRIM'S PRIDE

The public hearing was opened at 6:31 p.m. Wes Smith from Pilgrim's Pride explained that they are moving forward with their facility expansion project and are requesting tax abatement to provide funding assistance. He stated that the expansion will allow them to produce more consumer retail products. Jessica Green from Northland Securities explained the tax abatement process and three scenarios that the Council could consider for tax abatement which would range in the assistance amount of \$272,960 to \$545,920. The three scenarios were based on the duration of the term, either ten, fifteen or twenty years. She stated that the estimated market value increase associated with the expansion project is anticipated to be \$4 million. She also explained that the county and the school district are also considering the request for tax abatement. Councilor Schmitz indicated he would be in support of a term no longer than ten years. Councilor Knapp inquired why assistance was being asked for when Pilgrims is donating a large amount money to the community. Smith explained that the Hometown Strong Program that is providing donations to communities in which Pilgrim's Pride has facilities and the tax abatement request are two completely separate and independent programs. He stated abatement is being requested due to the large capital cost for the expansion and the Hometown Strong program provides an immediate impact to communities and is not guaranteed to happen every year. Mayor Heinen called three times for public comment, after hearing none the hearing was closed at 6:48 pm.

MOTION WAS MADE BY KNAPP, SECONDED BY THEISEN, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2020-48, A RESOLUTION APPROVING A BUSINESS SUBSIDY REQUEST FROM PILGRIM'S PRIDE FOR A MAXIMUM TERM OF 20 YEARS. COUNCILOR KNAPP, AND COUNCILOR THEISEN THEN RESCINDED THEIR MOTION.

MOTION WAS MADE BY KNAPP, SECONDED BY THEISEN, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2020-48, A RESOLUTION APPROVING A BUSINESS SUBSIDY REQUEST FROM PILGRIM'S PRIDE FOR A MAXIMUM TERM OF 15 YEARS. ROLL CALL VOTE, AYES – HEINEN, KNAPP, MILLER, AND THEISEN. NAYES - SCHMITZ. MOTION PASSED 4-1.

ADOPT PROPOSED PRELIMINARY LEVY – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-49

Finance Director Kris Dockendorf gave a recap on the budget meeting process and stated that the preliminary levy for 2021 would be an increase to the tax rate from .45 to .47%. She stated the increase to the levy rate from last year is 3.41%.

MOTION WAS MADE BY THEISEN, SECONDED BY KNAPP, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2020-49, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PRELIMINARY 2021 TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN 2021.

MOTION PASSED 5-0.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Monthly Report

Chief Dan Weber reported that they have responded to 30 calls so far for the month of September. He said there have been 323 calls for the year, which puts them on track for a similar total call load as last year.

B. Fire Prevention Month

Chief Weber stated they will still be promoting fire prevention month to students in October, but in a different method than in the past. He reminded everyone to practice their fire safety plans.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Stueve gave a brief update on the industrial wastewater pretreatment project. He also reminded residents not to blow their grass clippings or leaves into the street because it will clog the storm drains.

CITY ENGINEER REPORT

Jeremy Mathiasen from Stantec gave an update to the Council on the various engineering related items.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Monthly Report

Chief Blum gave a report on the monthly calls for August.

B. Buckle Up for Safety Initiative

Chief Blum stated that through a partnership with Stearns/Benton County Towards Zero Deaths Coalition, Rocori School District, the Public Works Department and the Police Department, painted stencils will be applied in the school district parking lots reminding motorists to use their seatbelts. He stated a photo will be taken and press releases will be sent to the local media groups. He invited members of the Council to attend the event.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. Resolution No. 2020-50, Additional CARES Act Funds Use

Murphy explained that exhibit A lists the expenditures to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 to public safety, public works and maintain public access to City Hall. She stated that exhibit B lists the grants to local businesses for business interruption expenses allowed under the CARES Act. She stated the total amount of funds given to the City of Cold Spring under the CARES Act is \$316,504, of which \$151,145.77 will be used for Exhibit A and the remaining amount will be for Exhibit B. She added that Stearns County is providing additional funding to maximize the up to \$15,000 per business grants for Cold Spring businesses.

MOTION WAS MADE BY THEISEN, SECONDED BY KNAPP, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2020-50, A RESOLUTION APPROVING ADDITIONAL CARES ACT FUNDING USE AND DISTRIBUTION TO LOCAL BUSINESSES AND TO INCREASE FUNDING SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF GRANTS UP TO \$15,000 PER BUSINESS. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

B. Draft Agreement with Stearns County for the CARES Act Small Business Relief Program

Murphy stated that the agreement with Stearns County is for the additional funding that they are providing for the Small Business Relief Program to maximize the amount that local businesses can receive which is up to \$15,000.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY MILLER, TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH STEARNS COUNTY FOR THE CARES ACT SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND MAYOR TO SIGN THE DOCUMENT WHEN THE FINAL CALCULATION OF THE AMOUNT IS DETERMINED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

LIST OF BILLS

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY KNAPP, TO REVIEW AND ACCEPT PAYMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ACCORDING TO THE LIST TOTALING \$273,594.47 AND SUPPLEMENTAL LIST TOTALING \$176,820.12 PRESENTED BY CITY STAFF. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

CLOSED MEETING

Mayor Heinen announced at 7:18 p.m. that the Council would be moving into a closed session for the following:

- A. Closed Meeting pursuant to Minnesota State Statute 13D.05 subd. 3(c)(3) to consider an offer to purchase property within the city of Cold Spring, specifically, parcel with P.I.N. 48.29705.0002.
- B. Closed Meeting pursuant to Minnesota State Statute 13D.05 subd. 3(c)(3) to consider an offer to purchase or to develop a counter offer on property within the city of Cold Spring, specifically parcels with P.I.N. 48.29316.0943, 48.29316.0909 and 48.29316.0910.
- C. Closed Meeting pursuant to Minnesota State Statute 13D.05 subd. 3(b) attorney-client privilege.

MEETING OPENED

At 8:04 p.m. the meeting was re-opened by Mayor Heinen. The results of the closed meeting that can be recapped will be discussed at the next city council meeting.

ADJOURN

MOTION WAS MADE BY THEISEN, SECONDED BY KNAPP, TO ADJOURN AT 8:04 P.M., SEEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

David Heinen, Mayor

Brigid Murphy, City Administrator