

Hadley City Council, Hadley Minnesota

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 9, 2024

Members Present: Rick Like, Henry Veldhuisen, Jill Pieske, John Brouwer

Members Absent: Bonnie Petersen

Others Present: Riley Engbarth, Clerk/Treasurer, Myron Bennett, Liquor Store Manager

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Like at 6:30pm.

Welcome Guests: No guests were present with Open Forum requests. Rhonda Wynia, Dawn Shumaker, Allan Shumaker and Muriel Pearson were present.

Agenda Approval: The council was asked to review the meeting agenda and suggest any additions or corrections. Council Member Veldhuisen requested to add 2024-2025 Snow Removal under New Business. With no further additions or corrections, MSP by Council Member Brouwer and Council Member Pieske to approve the meeting agenda, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of August Minutes: The council was asked to review the August meeting minutes and suggest any additions or corrections. With no further additions or corrections, MSP by Council Member Brouwer and Council Member Veldhuisen to approve the regularly scheduled meeting minutes from August 12, 2024, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of August Special Session Minutes: The council was asked to review the August special session meeting minutes and suggest any additions or corrections. With no further additions or corrections, MSP by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Pieske to approve the special session meeting minutes from August 19, 2024, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Liquor Fund: Myron reported that all floors in the building have now been stripped and waxed, following the completion of the Community Center Hall Floors a couple of weeks ago. Sahlstrom's Heating, Cooling & Refrigeration was also on site to complete a fall equipment service and inspection, so an invoice for this can be expected. With no further questions or discussion, MSP by Council Member Brouwer and Council Member Veldhuisen to approve the Liquor Fund, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of General Fund: The Uncategorized Income and Insurance Proceeds income line items were clarified further by Riley. Uncategorized Income was a deposit from the Hadley Community Center Improvement Committee covering half of the cost (\$1,108.86) to install new concrete steps and railing at the rear entrance of the hall. Insurance Proceeds is the receipt of monies totaling \$8,511.00 from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust for the tractor loader claim previously filed and settled as a total loss, however these monies are still due to C&B Equipment Inc. Riley stated that he has been waiting for confirmation on where the check should be sent, as both the Slayton and Edgerton locations have been involved in the claims process, and a check will be issued for the total receipt amount plus the \$250.00 deductible once a confirmation is received. Council Member Veldhuisen requested the

claims adjuster contact information from Riley, as he would like to follow up on the possibility of the city buying the damaged tractor loader back. With no further questions or discussion, MSP by Council Member Brouwer and Council Member Pieske to approve the General Fund, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Water/Sewer Fund: The aged balance report was presented and reviewed, with one immediate shutoff noted. A utility disconnection for this property will be initiated on 9/15/2024, if a payment in full has not been received. The previously requested Murray County Sheriff's Office citations for unlawful reconnection were also discussed in detail, as Riley received an update from Sheriff Landsman regarding each of the two cases. The Skillings case is working its way through the court system currently, as citation was previously issued and taken to the courts. The Jacob case had yet to be followed up on by an officer at the time of the update, so Riley spoke with the assigned deputy who immediately issued a petty misdemeanor for theft of service (unlawful reconnection). This aligns with MN Statutes and supersedes our city ordinances. There are additional claims currently against this party, so it may take some time for the case to be resolved. With no further questions or discussion, MSP by Council Member Brouwer and Council Member Pieske to approve the Water/Sewer Fund, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

- Water & Sewer Committee: Mayor Like reported that Meter Reader David Voss is going to be on vacation from October 1-18, 2024, so a replacement meter reader will be needed during this time. Any council member help is appreciated and should be tracked for payroll reporting.
- Streets Committee: There was no new information reported during the meeting.
- Personnel Committee: There was no new information reported during the meeting.
- Park & Recreation Committee: Mayor Like noted that the cement pad for storage garage has been poured in the NW corner of the park, and Darin from Hadley Farmers Elevator in conjunction with Hadley Steel plan to move the garage from its present location using a bin mover from Hadley Steel. Jeff Grieme has also built and installed the previously approved seating area near the ballfield. It was noted that it was constructed with wood instead of the proposed concrete and Council Member Veldhuisen will follow up on it to ensure that animals cannot inhabit the area directly underneath the seating platform. Mayor Like asked for any council member objections to allowing the Hadley Lutheran Church to move and borrow several picnic tables from the city park ahead of their upcoming 150th Anniversary Celebration on 9/15/2024, to which there were none. It was also mentioned that Myron's sprinkler hose attachment was stolen from the garden hose located at the ballfield.

Old Business:

- Community Center Rain Gutters: Mayor Like recently met with Bill Ellefson and Dan Janssen to discuss final plans for gutter installation and a drain dugout along the north side of the building for the down spouts. Hopefully by this time next month, there will be rain gutters installed

alongside the north end of the Community Center. The current plan is for Dan to look into gutter installation on the south side of the building after the north side has been completed.

- **Pump House Insulation:** Mayor Like reported that he had to obtain dimensions of the Pump House building for the quote he is awaiting, so he is going to see what happens with the quote now that the dimensions have been submitted. Guest Rhonda Wynia asked about spray foam insulation as an alternative, as she knows of a contractor, Chad Schreier, who specializes in this type of insulation. Mayor Like agreed that the city also request a quote on this type of insulation, and Rhonda provided the necessary contact information to Mayor Like.
- **City Garage/Shed:** Since the last meeting, a check was issued to RFC Portable Buildings for half the purchase price of the new storage building, as a down payment to start the building process. Dan Blankenship has poured a new cement pad in the NW corner of the city park, for the existing storage garage to be moved and placed on. Bill Ellefson is scheduled for concrete removal at the existing garage site, after the garage moved to the park. Once this concrete is removed, Dan Blankenship will be pouring a new cement pad to the specs of the new storage building to be delivered yet this fall.
- **Hanson Property Raccoons:** Mayor Like stated that he has spoken with Corey Johnson and there are live trapping measures currently in progress at the Hanson property. He still intends to follow up with Allan Clauson on the raccoons spotted entering and exiting his storage building. The council also requested and authorized that Riley send an informative letter to Mr. Clauson regarding the raccoons, so additional action can be taken by the property owner.
- **City Brush Site Dirt Pile:** During the previous meeting, the council discussed and approved having Kevin Wynia complete the necessary work to level out the dirt pile located at the brush site, however Doug Halbur later offered to remove and utilize the dirt for personal use, covering any removal costs, so the council allowed him to do that. Guests present commented that it looks much better. The brush site has stayed where it was located as Doug didn't have a way to get in there and pull any unburned items out. Riley informed the council that he intends to send a fall cleanup reminder flyer with the next utility billing to customers. Council Member Veldhuisen recommended re-installing the trail camera for brush site surveillance.
- **2024 Election Updates:** Riley reported that the filing period has now closed, with all candidates up for re-election running unopposed, with the exception of any write in votes. He has approved the ballot layout for printing, and all registered voters should be receiving their ballots by mail soon.

New Business:

- **2025 Murray County Preliminary Levy:** Riley presented the 2025 Preliminary Levy for discussion and approval. This amount can be lowered if desired when approving the 2025 Final Levy. After discussion, MSP by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Pieske to set the 2025 Preliminary Levy at \$54,000.00, up from \$50,000.00 in 2024. Motion carried unanimously. Riley will complete and submit the required certification form for the Murray County Auditor/Treasurer's Office ahead of the September 30th deadline.

- 2025 Township Rental Contracts: With the new contract year approaching, Riley requested input from the council related to Township Rental Contract rates for 2025. The current contract rental rate is \$40.00 per month. Following discussion on increased operating and maintenance costs, MSP by Mayor Like and Council Member Veldhuisen to increase monthly rental rate for the 2025 contract year from \$40.00 to \$45.00. Motion carried unanimously. Riley will process 2025 contracts for mailing to Leeds and Lowville townships in early-October, with an acceptance due date of 12/1/2024.
- Recycling Shed: Council Member Pieske requested to discuss the current state of the county recycling shed located in Hadley and what options might be available for it, as whenever she delivers recycling to the shed, it is always very full, disorderly, and dirty. She requested Riley send a notice to residents containing general reminders and proper recycling etiquette. It seems the amount of recycling delivered to the shed has outgrown the size of the current shed. Riley will also send an email to Jon Bloemendaal with Murray County to see about obtaining some additional information on the recycling shed itself, emptying schedule, sorting signage, etc.
- 2024-2025 Snow Removal: Council Member Veldhuisen reported that he talked to Barry Hanson this past weekend and he expressed interest in handling the street snow removal for the City of Hadley for the upcoming season. The council was happy to hear of his interest, and didn't feel the need to solicit bids, as there has not been any other outside interest and he could potentially be hired as an employee or contractor. Council Member Veldhuisen requested that Riley send him the required paperwork to apply for the position and he will visit with Barry again ahead of the next meeting.

MSP by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Brouwer for payment of unpaid bills, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MSP by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Brouwer for meeting adjournment. Motion carried unanimously. With no further business, the regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned by Mayor Like at 7:41pm.

Riley of Engbarth

Respectfully Submitted by Riley Engbarth, Clerk/Treasurer