

Hadley City Council, Hadley Minnesota

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 20, 2021

Members Present: Rick Like, Bonnie Petersen, Henry Veldhuisen, Jill Pieske

Members Absent: John Brouwer

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 for open forum.

Agenda Approval: The council was asked to review the meeting agenda and suggest any additions or corrections. Council Member Veldhuisen received a clogged water filter from a concerned resident and suggested this be noted for discussion. With no further additions or corrections, the meeting agenda was approved, as amended.

Review of August Minutes: The council was asked to review the August meeting minutes and suggest any additions or corrections. With no additions or corrections, the regularly scheduled meeting minutes from August 9, 2021 were approved, as presented.

Review of Liquor Fund: The financials again looked good for the month of August. Myron reported that he has been in contact with Culligan Water Conditioning of Slayton regarding an estimate for the installation of a new RO System in the Liquor Store. A representative from Culligan Water Conditioning will be out to assess this situation tomorrow and provide an estimate. He also reported that there were some repairs required to the big freezer following Labor Day weekend, which are reflected in the August financials. It was also noted that the Community Center A/C unit has been installed, along with a new digital thermostat at the same time for better efficiency. With no further questions or discussion, the Liquor Fund was approved, as presented.

Review of General Fund: The professional expense was questioned by Council Member Petersen. Riley explained that the majority of this amount is from the QuickBooks Payroll software upgrade for electronic tax form processing access. The remaining difference was for the annual Webroot Internet Security subscription renewal. With no further questions or discussion, the General Fund was approved, as presented.

Review of Water/Sewer Fund: The aged balance report was presented and reviewed. A utility shut off was initiated for the property discussed during the August meeting. Following payment, water was turned back on with a \$50.00 re-connection fee assessed, per policy. With no further questions or discussion, the Water/Sewer Fund was approved, as presented.

Old Business:

- Generator: There was nothing new to report related to the generator purchase at this time. Proceeding with this project is dependent on the outcome of the street repairs/parking lot resurfacing project.
- Water Testing Results/Recommendations: There was nothing new to report related to the Water Testing Results/Recommendations as the council is awaiting presentation from Darrin Haroldson and David Boucher on the current water chemicals and possible recommendations for improvement. Riley checked in with Darrin again regarding their attendance at an upcoming meeting, or the possibility of a conference call in the event that are not able to physically attend. Darrin was going to check back with David to see if he could attend, but Riley did not receive an update prior to the meeting. Darrin did suggest earlier that winter might be a better time for David to attend a meeting, since it seems he is pretty busy currently. Mayor Like is going to attempt to contact David directly to see what his schedule looks like so the council can proceed accordingly.
- Street Repair/Parking Lot Resurfacing – Engineering, Possible Grant Option: There was additional discussion centering around the Street Repair/Parking Lot Resurfacing project. Council Member Pieske updated the council with an email she received from a prior grant contact regarding the small cities' development program application. Riley also received an email on this and provided each council member with a copy of the application during the discussion. Applications are due no later than November 17th and must be submitted by mail, should the council want to look into applying for this grant. Riley also brought forward a question he received via email related to the upcoming street work, from a resident with property on Heritage Trail. The question asked if consideration would be given by the city to pave Heritage Trail during the CSAH 29 improvement project, since this is a gravel road currently, within city limits. The CSAH 29 Improvement Project is being entirely funded by state aid (vehicle tab/registration revenue, vehicle sales tax, etc.). The benefit of this is that Hadley will be gaining a nice new main street with sidewalks, curb appeal, etc. at no cost to the city or taxpayers, however this also means that Main Street is the only street receiving improvements under the project scope. The city is currently searching for possible grant/low interest loan options to improve some of the streets in Hadley. The council has been in communication with several companies who assist in searching for possible options and completing applications, over the past couple of months. Street improvements are costly to the city, so hopefully something will come of these discussions in the near future. Following in depth discussion, the council agreed that they need to start with getting an estimate for the official costs and discuss this with Hadley property owners to gauge the level of interest in repairs/replacement of streets. Council Member Pieske asked Mayor Like if he could discuss the estimate process with Randy Groves, Murray County Engineer, since he has been in contact with Randy over the course of the CSAH 29 project thus far. Additionally, it was mentioned that estimates could be obtained from local contracted paving companies ahead of contracting for the CSAH 29 project for Murray County, for comparison. Mayor Like will check with Randy on the best next steps.

- Map of Water Valve Shut-Off's: Mayor Like did not have any updates on the water valve shut-off map. Council Member Petersen inquired at Finley Engineering following the August council meeting but is awaiting response from a representative there.
- 2020 Small Cities Audit – Follow Up Item: There were no updates regarding the 2020 Small Cities Audit – Follow Up Item. The involved party was not able to attend this month's meeting due to a conflict, so additional discussion is planned for the October council meeting.
- Property/Vehicle Ordinance Violations/Nuisances: At the council's request during the August council meeting, Riley drafted and sent follow-up letters to property owners Chuck Sechser and Theresa Hughes, requesting they provide the council with a progress update within the next 60 days (prior to October 16th) to prevent further adverse actions from being taken. Additionally, the council was provided with an update on Dean Larson's nuisance ordinance violations for the unlicensed vehicles located on his property. Due to a lack of response from Mr. Larson during the requested time frame, Riley was asked by the council to contact the Murray County Sheriff's Office regarding next steps. Riley was able to contact Deputy Isder and receive an update on this case. Mr. Larson is in the process of licensing the vehicles in violation, however at the time of the update Deputy Isder stated that he was still in violation of Ordinance 18-004, Section 6B, 3 C and D, in addition to Section 7B. The vehicles are currently parked on grass, as opposed to pavement or gravel, which is required by the ordinance. Mr. Larson was instructed to move the vehicles onto pavement or gravel. Additionally, he was reminded that he needs to take care of the dead evergreen tree that is located on his property, which was a prior ordinance violation for the dilapidated structure previously located on it. He was asked to remove the tree from the property. The council was informed about two vehicles owned by Hadley Farmers Elevator Company that are currently unlicensed with expired registration. With the council being made aware of these vehicles in violation of ordinance, it was determined that a letter should be sent, following ordinance procedure. MSP by Council Member Pieske and Council Member Veldhuisen allowing Riley to draft and send a letter to Hadley Farmers Elevator Company requesting the licensure or removal of the referenced vehicles within 30 days. Motion carried with Council Member Petersen abstaining.
- Storage Garage Damage: There is slow progress being made regarding the damaged storage garage. Mayor Like requested an estimate from Bill Ellefson to remove the lean to and concrete foundation. The allowable debris could be pushed into the existing bank building hole for burning before this hole is filled in. Other removal for the shingles will be arranged. Additional repairs will be necessary to move the door, re-side and modify the roof line following demolition of the lean to, which would result in additional costs. With area contractors being so busy currently, the council felt having Bill do the removal would be a good start before winter. MSP by Council Member Petersen and Council Member Pieske to approve the estimate from Bill Ellefson to remove the lean to and accompanying concrete foundation, with the debris being burnt out of the existing bank building hole. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Like will inform Bill that he can proceed with the project.

New Business:

- **CSAH 29 Street Improvement Project Resolutions:** A special community meeting was held on September 7, 2021 for the purpose of reviewing and discussing the proposed MnDOT Main Street improvement project. Following this meeting, at the request of Murray County Engineer Randy Groves, two resolutions were required to be adopted prior to the continuation of the project. Resolution 2021-2 “Approving County Project Within Municipal Corporate Limits” and Resolution 2021-3 “Parking for CSAH 29” were presented for adoption by the City of Hadley. Following discussion, MSP was made by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Petersen to adopt Resolution 2021-2. Motion carried unanimously. MSP also made by Council Member Pieske and Council Member Petersen to adopt Resolution 2021-3. Motion carried unanimously. With the successful passing of resolutions, Mayor Like will deliver the signed copies to Randy Groves so the project planning can continue.
- **City Brush Site Misuse Observed:** Mayor Like has recently reviewed captured footage from the camera that is out at the brush site, which alerted to misuse. Additionally, non-compliant items, such as construction debris and trash were found at the site. The camera will be remounted for observation of misuse and inappropriate dumping. Additionally, the council agreed that with fall cleanup season upon us, it is a good time to remind residents of what is allowed at the brush site. This amenity is for city residents/businesses only and should only be used for tree branches, leaves, grass clippings and general yard and garden waste. Fines will be issued to those in violation of the brush site rules. Additionally, if the rules are not followed, the MN DNR could also enforce fines or disallow the dump site in Hadley. The council asked Riley to include a notice regarding fall clean-up and brush site rules with the September utility statements.
- **Minnesota Mayors Association:** Riley brought forward what appeared to be an invoice from the Minnesota Mayors Association for 2021-2022 membership dues. He wanted approval prior to paying, as he wasn’t sure if the city or Mayor Like had been a part of this in the past. Mayor Like does not recall paying for this membership in the past. After discussion, it was decided to pass on this membership for the 2021-2022 renewal.
- **Committee Updates:**
 - **Water/Sewer:** Council Member Veldhuisen received a clogged water filter from a concerned resident, which he brought to the meeting for viewing, per the resident’s request. The filter appeared very dirty and clogged, however the council didn’t know the length of time filter was used prior to changing or where this filter was from inside the home. This clogged filter only re-iterated the importance of meeting with Darrin Haroldson and David Boucher to discuss the water testing results and recommendations, which has been an ongoing agenda item for some time. This discussion will help determine the best next steps for Hadley’s water quality and chemicals. The council appreciated receiving this filter, so they could see what’s occurring firsthand. Mayor Like is planning to reach out to David directly to hopefully schedule time during an upcoming meeting, so there will be further discussion on this topic in the near future.

- Weed Inspector: Recently, the city Weed Inspector surveyed Hadley for properties lacking the necessary lawn maintenance and upkeep. During the survey, overgrown grass, weeds, lack of weed eating, and downed branches or trees were noted for the properties owned by Theresa Hughes and Ryan Vos, which prompted discussion. The council agreed that it is the responsibility of each property owner to maintain their property and that a letter should be sent to each property owner. It is requested that each property owner complete the necessary lawn maintenance or hire a maintenance professional to do so, prior to the next council meeting and in the future. In the event your property is not upkept, the City of Hadley will contract a maintenance professional to complete the necessary work, at the property owner's expense. MSP by Council Member Petersen and Council Member Pieske authorizing Riley to send letters to the referenced property owners for the purpose stated above. Motion carried unanimously.

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

MSP by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Petersen for meeting adjournment. Motion carried unanimously. With no further business, the regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned by Mayor Like at 8:15pm.

Riley Engbarth

Respectfully Submitted by Riley Engbarth, Clerk/Treasurer