

Hadley City Council, Hadley Minnesota

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 10, 2022

Members Present: Rick Like, Bonnie Petersen, Henry Veldhuisen, Jill Pieske, 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: Dean Larson, Hadley Resident, Peggy Mason, Hadley Resident and Muriel Pearson, Hadley Resident were all present for open forum.

Agenda Approval: The council was asked to review the meeting agenda and suggest any additions or corrections. Council Member Veldhuisen requested there be additional discussion on water treatment. Council Member Petersen wished to add 2022-2023 Snow Removal under New Business. With no further additions or corrections, MSP by Council Member Brouwer and Council Member Veldhuisen to approve the meeting agenda, as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of September Minutes: The council was asked to review the September meeting minutes and suggest any additions or corrections. With no further additions or corrections, MSP by Council Member Petersen and Council Member Veldhuisen to approve the regularly scheduled meeting minutes from September 12, 2022, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Liquor Fund: Myron reported that everything has been working good in the Liquor Store. Thursday night pool league starts next week, and he noted that we are full on teams. The Wednesday night pool league will be starting in a few weeks. With no further questions or discussion, MSP by Council Member Petersen and Council Member Pieske to approve the Liquor Fund, as presented.

Review of General Fund: The Repairs line items questioned by the council, with Riley confirming that these line items were comprised of expenses related to the Community Center updates and Garage lean-to removal/repair. All invoices related to these repairs have now been received and paid. With no further questions or discussion, MSP by Council Member Brouwer and Council Member Veldhuisen to approve the General Fund, as presented.

Review of Water/Sewer Fund: The aged balance report was presented and reviewed, with one immediate shut-off concern noted. If payment is not received prior to the October 15th billing due date, a shut-off will be initiated. Riley noted the upcoming property tax turnover if utilities are not brought current by the end of November, and he will be monitoring this closely. With no further questions or discussion, MSP by Council Member Pieske and Council Member Petersen to approve the Water/Sewer Fund, as presented.

Old Business:

- Water Valve Shut-Off Map: Mayor Like confirmed that the last locate on the side of the Community Center is still pending before the map is finalized for printing. He and Council Member Brouwer are still actively looking for the last shut off, now thinking it is closer to the road than they originally thought. They are still going to locate prior to map printing.
- Street Repair/Parking Lot Resurfacing – Engineering, Possible Grant Option: Mayor Like reported that the CSAH29 road improvement project is pretty much done. Sod and grass seeding has been put down and is being watered regularly. Council Member Brouwer questioned the street light upgrades previously discussed and Mayor Like is planning to follow-up with Xcel Energy on this. The council will observe the current lighting in Main Street following the meeting, when it is dark, to see where to place any additional lights and determine the level of brightness desired.
- Nuisance Property Ordinance Violations: Council Member Veldhuisen reported that he spoke to Darren Wajer, Manager of Hadley Farmers Elevator, a couple of weeks ago and he has removed the corn pile that was brought up as a concern last month. Additionally, one of the trucks has been removed from the property via flatbed trailer and the other is currently being worked on. It was noted that the debris located on the Sechser property have been cleaned up, however a dead tree is now occupying the property. Mayor Like is going to follow up with Mr. Sechser regarding the removal of this dead tree. The council was pleased with the progress made to the Hughes property, with new paint/siding on the house and dead tree cut and removed from the property.
- Water Treatment/Maintenance: Mayor Like reported that everything appears to be working fine again at the North Lift station. There was however a three phase electrical system that went down at the Pump House this afternoon, which prompted a check over by Slayton Electric Inc. The water was off for a couple of hours this afternoon. Doug shut everything down, rebooting the system. Everything appeared to be working as it should be following the reboot, however this will have to be closely monitored. Council Member Pieske questioned if a generator for the pump house should be re-visited as a purchase now that the road construction is complete, and winter is fast approaching. Council Member Veldhuisen mentioned that the quote from Slayton Electric Inc. is likely no longer valid, so this would need to be re-quoted if the council decided to proceed. It was thought of as a good idea to look into generators for all three pumps incase the power would be off for an extended period of time. Council Member Veldhuisen is going to take a look at the original quote and get an updated quote on separate generators for the lift station and pumps ahead of the next meeting. Council Member Veldhuisen also talked to Weston Mahon, City of Slayton, regarding options for water treatment as a follow-up to previous water concerns brought forward. He was told that People Service out of Fulda will maintain water, as opposed to Darrin Haroldson servicing, however they won't fix any current water issues and it could be pricey. Weston suggested contacting Rural Water to see about what can be done to the current system. The addition of a filter system was also discussed, which Iona and Avoca are both currently using. A system not as big as Slayton's (4 or 5 filters), would likely work well for Hadley (possibly a 2 filter system). Mayor Like suggested we check with Iona and Avoca cities to see what their system is like and to confirm the sizing/estimated cost. Council Member Veldhuisen is going to check with Iona and Council Member Petersen will check with Avoca.

Council Member Veldhuisen is also going to obtain vendor information and see if a representative would be willing to attend an upcoming meeting and present information related to the filtering system.

- Road Signage: MCSO Chief Deputy Heath Landsman stopped to provide information to Mayor Like on solar speed signs for the two entrances into town. There is a sale going on now that includes two solar signs and mounting hardware for \$6,200.00, which is \$1,000.00 off the normal retail price for two signs. There was discussion and Mayor Like noted that there may be organizations that would be interested in contributing to this purchase if the council decides to pursue. MSP by Council Member Pieske and Council Member Veldhuisen to proceed with purchasing the solar speed limit signs on sale, so the city can take advantage of the savings, with the understanding that Mayor Like is going to solicit funds from community organizations. Additionally, as a follow-up from the last meeting, reinstalling/replacing the no truck/weight limit signs was discussed for the roads off of Main Street, to prevent fast road deterioration. After discussion on what signage language to include and taking into consideration the garbage truck and school buses, it was decided to install signage with “no semi-trailers” on the applicable streets. MSP by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Pieske to proceed with installing/replacing the discussed signs on applicable roads off of Main Street.

New Business:

- Open Forum – Larson: Dean Larson presented another clogged water filter for council viewing. As recapped above, the council is currently looking into options for water treatment, in an effort to prevent frequent resident filter clogging. Mr. Larson also commented on Mayor Like’s property, referring to “trash” behind his house. Reference was again made to the Hadley Farmer’s Elevator unlicensed trucks; however, a progress update was previously given by Council Member Veldhuisen. Mr. Larson was questioning if the work on the baseball field dugouts was discussed and approved during a previous council meeting, since this is city property. These repairs are being handled by the Hadley Baseball Association.
- Open Forum – Mason: Peggy Mason was present to commend all who worked hard on the CSAH29 road improvement project. She was very impressed and is happy with how the project turned out. Ms. Mason quoted compassion, empathy and “MN nice” in her comments.
- 2022 Fund Balances – Quarter 3 Review: The council was presented with the quarterly fund balance spreadsheet for review. Riley noted that there is one CD that will be due for renewal in the next 30 days. After discussion on the current cash position and higher long-term CD special that is currently running, MSP by Council Member Pieske and Council Member Petersen to renew the 10/27/2022 CD into a 26-month term for 1.65% interest. Business Savings options were also mentioned by Council Member Pieske and Riley shared the rates he received when researching a couple of months back. CD’s currently have better rates than business savings accounts.
- 2022 Ambulance Agreement: Riley presented the 2022 Ambulance Agreement for review and approval. It was noted that there is an ever-growing need for ambulance services in our area, and the agreement payments go into a fund for rig replacement. MSP by Council Member


Petersen and Council Member Veldhuisen to approve the 2022 Ambulance Agreement for payment in the amount of \$580.00. Motion carried unanimously. Riley will cut a check and return the required contract.

- 2023 Property Tax Special Assessments – Aged Utilities: The special assessments policy and current delinquent utility accounts were discussed, in preparation for the upcoming 2023 Murray County Property Tax Special Assessments filing window. Riley will monitor the aged balances closely and if there are aged balances following the November billing cycle, these will be assessed to the property owner’s real estate taxes payable in 2023, subject to interest, per city policy.
- 2023 Budget: Riley presented the council with a starting 2023 budget template, which he updated to include the 2021 final and 2022 budgeted financials, along with an updated 5-year average. This was briefly reviewed and will be discussed in detail during the November meeting. Riley asked the council to thoroughly review this budget data over the next month, for input at the November meeting. The final 2023 budget will need to be approved in December, 2022, prior to required submission to the MN Department of Management & Budget’s portal.
- 2023 Board of Appeal & Equalization Training: Riley reminded council members of the link he emailed ahead of the meeting for the 2023 Board of Appeal & Equalization training. This training is required by at least one council member in order to continue having the annual meeting in Hadley; however, it is recommended that each member takes the short training. The training must be completed by February 1, 2023 for the 2023 meeting year.
- Book Exchange Station: Kyle Korver has made a Little Free Library resembling the Harry Potter house and was wondering if the council would allow him to install is near the community center. After discussion, MSP by Mayor Like and Council Member Petersen authorizing the installation of the Little Free Library at the intersection of CSAH29 and 2nd Avenue facing west. The installation of a post and platform will be at the expense of the city, with the Little Free Library box to be donated by the Korver’s. Appreciation was expressed to the Korver family for investing in the City of Hadley.
- Frontier Communications Service Consent Request: Riley presented a form that he received via email from Frontier Communications requesting consent from the City of Hadley to maintain their service lines within city limits for a term of two years (2022-2023). After discussion, MSP by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Pieske to approve the request for Frontier Communications to maintain their service lines within city limits. Riley will complete the consent form and return it to Frontier Communications.
- 2022-2023 Snow Removal: Council Member Petersen and Council Member Brouwer both questioned snow removal for the 2022-2023 season. Council Member Petersen has contacted Gordon Swan, who has previously removed snow from the city streets, to see if he was interested in plowing again this season. He indicated that he is planning on it, contingent on a reasonable rate increase, due to increased costs. The new sidewalks along Main Street as a result of the CSAH29 road improvement project were also extensively discussed since this is the first year with city sidewalks. Several different options were discussed for clearing snow from the sidewalks and the possibility of drafting a new ordinance related to sidewalk maintenance in

the future. Due to timing, and the potential for snow ahead of the next meeting, the council felt there should be a pro-active plan in place, in the event the need for sidewalk snow removal occurs. MSP by Council Member Pieske and Council Member Veldhuisen approving that the City of Hadley will contract sidewalk snow removal along Main Street (CSAH29) for the 2022-2023 season. Council Member Petersen will check with Jeff Boerboom on interest in this, as he currently handles snow removal around the Liquor Store and Community Center.

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 Petersen for meeting adjournment. Motion carried unanimously. With no further business, the regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned by Mayor Like at 8:05 pm.



Riley Engbarth

Respectfully Submitted by Riley Engbarth, Clerk/Treasurer