

Hadley City Council, Hadley Minnesota

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 14, 2023

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, Butch Herding, Rhonda Wynia, Steve Wynia, Sharon Johnson, Dawn Shumaker, Allan Shumaker, Muriel Pearson, Trish Grieme and Jeff Grieme were all present for Open Forum.

Agenda Approval: The council was asked to review the meeting agenda and suggest any additions or corrections. Mayor Like requested to add City Tree Trimming and Council Member Veldhuisen requested to add City Property Spraying, both under New Business. Mayor Like requested to move Open Forum after the review of agenda and minutes, on this agenda and all future meeting agendas. With no further additions or corrections, MSP by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Petersen to approve the meeting agenda, as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of July Minutes: The council was asked to review the July meeting minutes and suggest any additions or corrections. Council Member Veldhuisen requested a spelling correction of “life” to “lift” under Old Business: North Lift Station Pump. With no further additions or corrections, MSP by Council Member Brouwer and Council Member Pieske to approve the regularly scheduled meeting minutes from July 10, 2023, as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of July Special Session Minutes: The council was asked to review the July special session 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 special session meeting minutes from July 17, 2023, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Liquor Fund: Mayor Like commended Myron and his staff on another good revenue month. Council Member Veldhuisen questioned the revenue brought in from the Slayton Fire Department Street Dance. Myron commented on the success of the event and Riley confirmed \$4,755.00 in additional revenue. The Slayton Fire Department is in the process of booking the same band, PopROCKS!, for next year’s street dance and the City of Hadley contribution amount was questioned. Myron reported that a new additional part-time bartender is currently being trained in. With no further questions or discussion, MSP by Council Member Pieske and Council Member Petersen to approve the Liquor Fund, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of General Fund: Council Member Veldhuisen questioned the Repairs – Park expense line item totaling \$1,235.79 and Riley noted that this was pea rock delivered by R.A Muecke Sand & Gravel, which the Hadley Baseball Association reimbursed, however this reimbursement deposit crossed over financial

months. The reimbursement deposit will be reflected in the August financials under Uncategorized Income. With no further questions or discussion, MSP by Council Member Brouwer and Council Member Petersen to approve the General Fund, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Water/Sewer Fund: Council Member Pieske wished to discuss compensation for the Meter Reader position and those council members temporary reading meters in the absence of a hired Meter Reader. After discussion, it was determined that the \$15.00/day base rate should be paid to those covering the Meter Reader position duties on a temporary basis. MSP by Council Member Pieske and Council Member Petersen approving the compensation for Interim Meter Reader at \$15.00/day. Riley requested a log of the meter reading by day, on a monthly basis, so he can add the appropriate wages via Payroll. Mayor Like will put together this log for record. The aged balance report was presented and reviewed, with one delinquent account currently pending utility disconnection on 8/15/2023, if not brought current. 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 mentioned that he purchased a dehumidifier for the Pump House, per the recommendation by Darin Haroldson, with an immediate change in the moisture levels noted.
- Streets Committee: Mayor Like noted that Pearson Brothers, the street seal coating project contractor, delivered seal coating chips near the church. Riley asked about the preferred location for equipment drop off, potentially this Friday. Following discussion, it was decided that equipment be placed on the gravel to the north side of the Community Center.
- Park & Recreation Committee: There was no new information reported during the meeting.

Old Business:

- Community Center Rain Gutters: Additional estimates are still pending from Home Improvement Center/ABC Seamless. Council Member Pieske will follow-up with ABC Seamless and a couple of other vendors that estimates could be obtained from.
- Campground Commercial Utility Rate: Council Member Petersen reported that she has requested a bunch of information regarding the Campground Commercial Utility Rate from the City of Slayton but has not yet received it. With the absence of necessary information on this topic, further discussion was tabled, pending receipt of the requested information.
- North Lift Station Pump: Mayor Like hasn't been informed that the meter has been replaced at this time, however he has been getting inconsistent meter readings recently, so he is going to check with Duane Spartz for an update on the replacement.
- Summit Lake Dock: Council Member Pieske reported that she didn't have a formal estimate however she did ask Nick Pieske about the cost, who contacted Hoek Outdoors. The cost was estimated at \$350.00 for both bumpers. Following discussion, MSP by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Pieske authorizing the purchase of these bumpers from Hoek

Outdoors, to be installed on the Summit Lake dock. Motion carried unanimously. Riley confirmed that the invoice will be sent directly to the City of Hadley, if possible.

New Business:

- Dean Larson – Open Forum: Mr. Larson was present and made an agenda request to speak before the council during Open Forum. He questioned the outcome of the 2018 Audit and “what happened with the audit that the state auditor had to get involved”. Riley had no prior knowledge related to this, as he did not assume the Clerk/Treasurer role with the City of Hadley until October of 2020. Mayor Like stated that there was no awareness of the issue Mr. Larson was referring to and it would have to be researched further before additional information could be provided. When asked, Mr. Larson did not have anything else he wished to discuss during Open Forum.
- Xcel Energy Transmission Line Rebuild: Riley shared details from an email he recently received concerning the Transmission Line Rebuild taking place in the area by Xcel Energy. The project consists of rebuilding the transmission line between Lake Wilson, Hadley, Slayton and Currie MN and civil construction is anticipated to begin the end of August, with overall construction beginning the end of September, 2023. Project completion is slated for late spring/early summer of 2024. Riley noted that he intends to post the provided map prior to the beginning of this project.
- Nuisance Ordinance Review/Violations: Council Member Pieske reported that she was approached by a resident who shared concerns with a couple of properties in town, related to the current City of Hadley Nuisance Ordinance 18-004. Following this complaint, she surveyed the city, and also took note of violations on several of the properties referenced. She proposed having a blanket notification letter drafted and sent to all City of Hadley property owners, outlining the key points of Ordinance 18-004 and requesting property owners take time to examine their respective properties for potential violations regarding public nuisances. Riley will get this letter drafted and mailed by the end of this week, giving property owners three weeks to act. The city will be surveyed again prior to the next council meeting on September 11, where further discussion will take place on properties still out of compliance. Following discussion, MSP by Council Member Pieske and Council Member Veldhuisen authorizing Riley to draft and send an Ordinance 18-004 reminder letter to all property owners, requesting action prior to the next council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- Snow Removal Request for Bids: Riley presented a draft of the Invitation for Quotations for the Removal of Snow, for council review. He proposed a term of two years (2023-2024/2024-2025) for bids, so the City of Hadley wouldn't have to go through the bidding process every season and noted that this is the current standard in the area. With council approval to proceed, Riley intends to run the legal for two weeks beginning next Monday, 8/21/2023, with bidding open until October 5th at 4:30pm. The first review of bids is scheduled for October 9th at 6:30pm, during the regularly scheduled council meeting. Following discussion and council agreement with the specifications and proposed timeline, MSP by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council

Member Petersen authorizing Riley to proceed with the Invitation for Quotations for the Removal of Snow. Motion carried unanimously.

- PERA Eligibility Requirements Updates: Riley recapped recent legislative changes passed by PERA, changing the membership eligibility, vesting and reporting requirements. To recap, effective July 1, 2023 the annual earnings limit has been changed from \$5,100.00/year to \$425.00/month for enrollment eligibility and vesting years of service have been decreased from 5 years to 3 years. Riley wanted the council to be aware of this, as a couple of Summit Bar bartenders will be affected by these requirement changes. Riley will follow up with Myron on the employee(s) who meet the PERA membership eligibility and now require enrollment, making enrollment adjustments as necessary.
- Meter Reader Position: Following the personnel issue discussed during the special session meeting on July 17, 2023, Riley sent an email to Thomas Wornson accepting his resignation from the position of Meter Reader with the City of Hadley effective 7/13/2023, on behalf of the Hadley City Council. In the absence of a receipt confirmation to this email and following earlier unruly email correspondence from Mr. Wornson, MSP by Mayor Like and Council Member Veldhuisen to officially terminate Thomas Wornson from the position of Meter Reader with the City of Hadley effective 7/13/2023. Motion carried unanimously.
- City Tree Trimming: Mayor Like has observed trees overhanging in the alley behind the Municipal Liquor Store/Community Center, which are obstructing delivery trucks entering and exiting the Municipal Liquor Store. He also noted that there are other city property locations around town where trees could be trimmed, as a preventative maintenance measure. Following discussion, MSP by Mayor Like and Council Member Brouwer authorizing the hire of Peschges Tree Service to trim and clear the trees in alleyways and other city property as designated throughout town. Motion carried unanimously.
- City Property Spraying: Council Member Veldhuisen mentioned that he is planning to spray his yard for weeds again this fall and was wondering if the council thought it was necessary or beneficial to have the city property sprayed again as well. If so, he would be willing to take care of this in the weeks ahead. As a preventative maintenance measure, the council felt this is beneficial to the City of Hadley. MSP by Council Member Pieske and Mayor Like authorizing Henry Veldhuisen to spray weeds this fall on all city property. Motion carried unanimously.

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

MSP by Council Member Petersen and Council Member Veldhuisen for meeting adjournment. Motion carried unanimously. With no further business, the regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned by Mayor Like at 7:26pm.

Riley of Engbarth

Respectfully Submitted by Riley Engbarth, Clerk/Treasurer