

Hadley City Council, Hadley Minnesota

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 11, 2023

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: Missy Biren representing the Farmers Agency of Avoca, Chris LeTendre representing the Slayton Fire Department and Hadley Resident Dale Pavlis were all present with Open Forum requests. Hadley Residents/Property Owners Sharon Johnson, Allan Shumaker, Dawn Shumaker, Misse Swanson, Rhonda Wynia, Steve Wynia, Muriel Pearson and Dean Larson were also present.

Agenda Approval: The council was asked to review the meeting agenda and suggest any additions or corrections. With no further additions or corrections, MSP by Council Member Brouwer and Council Member Veldhuisen 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 Veldhuisen and Council Member Pieske to approve the regularly scheduled meeting minutes from August 14, 2023, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Liquor Fund: Council Member Pieske questioned the Pest Control expense line item, to which Myron confirmed that Ecolab Pest Elimination sprays the premises for bug and rodent control on a quarterly basis. Myron noted that there is a wedding scheduled in the Community Center this coming Saturday. 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: With no further questions or discussion, MSP by Council Member Pieske and Council Member Brouwer 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 confirmed shut-off that took place following the last council meeting, due to a delinquent balance. This account balance will be turned over as a special assessment to 2024 property taxes, in early December, if not paid current prior to the turnover date. 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 the mag flow meter has just recently arrived but has not yet been installed. Once this equipment has been installed and we have final

invoices, the pending insurance claim can be validated. Mayor Like also reported that he has been continuing to handle the daily meter readings in the interim, while the search continues for a replacement Meter Reader.

- Streets Committee: Mayor Like reported that the street sealcoating project has been completed and the excess red rock has now been swept up. If a future need should arise, we can access the swept red rock from the current storage site in Slayton.
- Park & Recreation Committee: Additional improvements to the dugouts and tiling during the baseball off-season were noted and discussed. There has been discussion amongst the Hadley Baseball Association to pour some additional cement pads around the ballfield and park in order to provide the necessary space for additional benches and places for spectators to sit during games. A couple of families have expressed the desire to make memorial financial contributions toward projects at the ballfield. Hadley Park & Rec is also planning to replace the shingles on the storage shed and repair or replace the existing picnic tables throughout the park.

Old Business:

- Community Center Rain Gutters: Additional estimates are still pending from Home Improvement Center/ABC Seamless. Council Member Pieske reported that she talked with a contractor who could possibly do the work, however not until next year and she did not have an estimate for review at this time. Research will continue ahead of the next meeting.
- Campground Commercial Utility Rate: Council Member Petersen was following up with this item of business, and as a result of her absence, further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- Summit Lake Dock: Council Member Pieske reported that the dock bumpers were ordered following the last meeting and she received an invoice for \$244.00 for the two dock bumpers, which was provided to Riley. Council Member Brouwer is going to pick up the dock bumpers when he is in the area, and Riley will wait to issue payment on the invoice until he receives confirmation that the materials have been received.
- Nuisance Ordinance Review/Violations: Following authorization during the last council meeting on August 14, Riley drafted and sent an Ordinance 18-004 reminder letter to all property owners, requesting action prior to September 8 (ahead of the next council meeting). A survey of concerning properties was completed ahead of this meeting, with little to no action taken on any of the potential violations previously noted. Council Member Pieske has taken the lead on this project, and presented before the council a list of properties she has received complaints about or felt required attention when the survey was conducted, along with references to sections of Ordinance 18-004 noted. She requested input from the council in determining which, if any, or all were violations that required further investigation/action. After reviewing the list of 10 properties, it was determined that all of those listed should receive a notice outlining the specific section(s) of Ordinance 18-004 currently in violation. Each property owner will be given the standard 30 days to make necessary corrections/repairs in order to bring their property into compliance with Ordinance 18-004, prior to additional discussion/action being taken. Following lengthy discussion, MSP by Council Member Pieske and Council Member Veldhuisen authorizing

Riley to issue violation notices with the terms outlined above, to all 10 property owners included on the list presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- Snow Removal Request for Bids: The Snow Removal Request for Bids has been published in the paper for 2 weeks in addition to being advertised on the City of Hadley Facebook page and on the city's website. Mayor Like reported that we have had one person express potential interest and Mayor Like talked with another party. Riley intends to run the legal for two weeks beginning next Monday, 9/18/2023, 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.
- Meter Reader Position: The open Meter Reader position has been advertised in the paper for 2 weeks in addition to being advertised on the City of Hadley Facebook page and on the city's website. Riley noted that there have been several people that have expressed interest with two submitted applications so far. Riley intends to run the help wanted ad one additional week, next Monday, 9/18/2023. The first review of applications is scheduled for October 9th at 6:30pm, during the regularly scheduled council meeting.

New Business:

- Property Insurance Coverage Updates: Missy Biren of Farmers Agency of Avoca was present to discuss the changes recently made to the City of Hadley's property coverage limits. She and Rick met to go through the insurance and property changes a few months ago and requested changes have now been processed. She reviewed the limits and adjustments made to the general property policy to adjust for changes in inflation and desired property to be covered. The lift stations were the primary increase in coverage. Mayor Like and Missy consulted with Duane Spartz regarding the value of these and found that the city was previously underinsured. Missy also noted that there will be a field coverage audit over the next few months, which she plans to attend with Riley and/or Mayor Like.
- 2024 Slayton Fire Department Street Dance: Chris LeTendre of the Slayton Fire Department was present to discuss the 2024 Slayton Fire Department Street Dance, which they have partnered with the City of Hadley on for the past several years. Chris was looking to confirm if the City of Hadley is willing to continue this event partnership for 2024, as they are beginning planning and will need to get the band booked soon. Myron questioned if a date had been set yet for 2024, which was tentatively confirmed to be Friday July 19th. Chris is going to contact PopROCKS! regarding date availability and confirm the booking price and he will be back over to discuss these details with the council. Per council member request, Riley will add discussion on the Slayton Fire Department Street Dance contribution toward band fees to next month's meeting agenda.
- Open Forum - Pavlis: Hadley Resident Dale Pavlis was present with a couple of questions he wished to ask the city council. Regarding the current open snow removal position, he was wondering if future snow removal for the City of Hadley would include Summit Lane and whether it would be completed using a blower instead of a blade. He expressed the need for a request to have a snow blower or someone contracted on an as needed basis, as he had difficulty accessing his horse pastures last winter due to the amount of snow that was piled up in

front of the gates at the end of Summit Lane. He feels this would not be as much of an issue if the snow was blown instead of bladed. The council explained that this would be discussed with the next snow removal contractor/vendor, as a possibility, however it was not a guarantee and depends heavily on the ability to find someone to remove snow, and also the equipment available to the contractor/vendor selected. Mr. Pavlis was also wondering if the recent discussion regarding Ordinances was actually going to be enforced this time. He stated that the ordinances have been in place since he was on the council, with several discussions regarding potential enforcement, however they never really seem to be enforced. Mayor Like thanked Mr. Pavlis for his input regarding this. Dale also questioned the Buttermakers Baseball van currently owned by the city and wondered why this couldn't be sold to them. Mayor Like stated that the van has previously been a topic of discussion several times and there are no issues with it being owned by the City of Hadley. The Hadley Baseball Association pays all costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the van, including tabs, license, insurance, repairs, etc.

- 2023-2024 Prepaid Propane Contract: Riley requested discussion and approval on contracting propane for the Liquor Store and Pump House through Chandler Coop for the 2023-2024 season. Riley had previously received quotes, discussed the 50/50 split in gallons between locations and confirmed the ability to move contracted gallons between accounts later in the season, if needed. He was quoted 2,000 gallons to break even with prior year usage but recommended increasing slightly to 2,200 gallons for cushion to avoid paying outside of contract. After much discussion, it was agreed that increasing the number of contracted gallons as suggested was a good idea, as there were invoices that fell outside of contract toward the end of the previous winter season. MSP by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Pieske authorizing Riley to contract 2,200.00 gallons of prepaid propane from Chandler Coop for the 2023-2024 season. Motion carried unanimously. Riley will contract and issue payment prior to the September 15th deadline. Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Pieske also wondered if a quote for insulating the Pump House should be obtained for discussion, as this building uses about as much propane as the Liquor Store/Community Center currently. Mayor Like and Council Member Veldhuisen will work on obtaining quotes for this project.
- 2024 Murray County Preliminary Levy: Riley presented the 2024 Preliminary Levy for discussion and approval. This amount can be lowered if desired when approving the 2024 Final Levy. After discussion, MSP by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Pieske to set the 2024 Preliminary Levy at \$50,000.00, up from \$48,000.00 in 2023. 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.
- 2024 Township Rental Contracts: With the new contract year approaching, Riley requested input from the council related to Township Rental Contract rates for 2024. The current contract rental rate is \$40.00 per month. Following discussion, MSP by Council Member Pieske and Council Member Brouwer keep monthly rental rate unchanged for the 2024 contract year. Riley will process 2024 contracts for mailing to Leeds and Lowville townships late-September, with an acceptance due date of 12/1/2023.

- Wellhead Protection Plan: Riley distributed a flyer he received on the Wellhead Protection Plan and discussed the upcoming process with MDH to develop this required plan. An initial meeting is currently being planned for the Water Superintendent, Clerk/Treasurer, Mayor, MDH Representative and Water Hydrologist to attend. More detailed information will be provided in the future; however Riley wanted the council to be aware of these plans.

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

MSP by Council Member Brouwer and Council Member Veldhuisen for meeting adjournment. Motion carried unanimously. With no further business, the regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned by Mayor Like at 7:45pm.

Riley Engbarth

Respectfully Submitted by Riley Engbarth, Clerk/Treasurer