

Hadley City Council, Hadley Minnesota

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

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

Others Present: Riley Engbarth, Clerk/Treasurer, Rebecca Towne, CPA - Kinner & Company Ltd

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

Welcome Guests: Dawn Shumaker and Dean Larson were present with Open Forum requests. Rhonda Wynia, Steve Wynia, Allan Shumaker, Muriel Pearson and Sharon Johnson 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 Petersen to approve the meeting agenda, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of April Minutes: The council was asked to review the April meeting minutes and suggest any additions or corrections. With no further additions or corrections, MSP by Council Member Petersen and Council Member Pieske to approve the regularly scheduled meeting minutes from April 8, 2024, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Liquor Fund: The Refund income line item was questioned, and Riley responded that this was received as a result of the annual Workers Compensation Audit. With no further questions or discussion, MSP by Council Member Brouwer and Council Member Petersen to approve the Liquor Fund, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of General Fund: With no further questions or discussion, MSP by Council Member Petersen 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 no immediate shutoffs noted. There was additional discussion following confirmation of an unlawful utility reconnection at the property occupied by T. Jacob. Following the provisions of city ordinance 23-001 "Utilities" Section 4.03 Subd. 7.3, MSP by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Petersen to proceed with legal action against T. Jacob, 351 1st Street E to the fullest extent of the law. Riley also confirmed that legal action had been initiated against B. Skillings, 331 1st Street E, for the same reason, following recommendation at last month's council meeting. With no further questions or discussion, MSP by Council Member Pieske and Council Member Brouwer to approve the Water/Sewer Fund, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

- Water & Sewer Committee: There was no new information reported during the meeting.
- 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: There was no new information reported during the meeting.

Old Business:

- Community Center Rain Gutters: Mayor Like reported that he has had a conversation with Dan Janssen from Lake Wilson regarding the Community Center Rain Gutter project. Dan is in the process of getting accurate measurements in order to put together a current estimate. He has asked Riley to add Dan Janssen to the June, 2024 meeting agenda, as he will be present to review the findings and estimate and answer any questions of the council concerning this project. While discussing Community Center related items, Council Member Pieske also asked for an update on the storage room clean up that was discussed and approved last month. This project has been completed with the referenced items to be removed being dealt with as approved/appropriate.
- Pump House Insulation: There were no new updates reported on this during the meeting, as Mayor Like is still awaiting an estimate for labor and materials for this project from Oslund Construction LLC.
- Community Center Insulation: Mayor Like reported that Oslund Construction LLC noted insulation has been previously added to the Community Center, so there is more insulation there currently than he was aware of. This item of business is being tabled for the time being.
- City Garage/Shed: Council Member Veldhuisen reported that he received a quote from Oslund Construction LLC for \$60,000.00 - \$70,000.00, which would include materials and labor for the shed and cement. At this time, he is awaiting a couple of additional quotes for comparison.

New Business:

- Presentation & Review of 2023 Small Cities Audit: Rebecca Towne from Kinner & Company Ltd was present to present a draft of the 2023 Small Cities Audit for the City of Hadley. She distributed copies of her report for each council member and reviewed it with the council in detail, answering questions as needed. There were minimal changes noted from the prior year. Rebecca noted that the City of Hadley again had an unmodified opinion for the year, which is the highest level of opinion that an entity can receive. She also commented that Riley keeps very clean and thorough books throughout the year, and this is aiding with the efficiency of the audit process. Following review and discussion, MSP by Council Member Pieske and Council Member Brouwer to accept the 2023 Small Cities Audit, as presented. Riley will sign the required paperwork to approve the audit and return this information to Rebecca via email following the meeting.
- Open Forum – Dawn Shumaker: Mrs. Shumaker was present with a couple of questions and follow up items to bring before the council. She first questioned if the city would again be toured for potential ordinance violations, so any necessary follow up action can be taken on properties currently believed to be in violation. Council Member Pieske responded that a review would be conducted within the next month with the annual Community Spring Clean Up Week now past. Next, she questioned why items stay listed under “Old Business” on the meeting agenda for so long, as it seems that few updates ever occur related to these items. She was

wondering if there was a timeline on when some of the aged items will be completed or dealt with. Specifically mentioned were the pending quotes on the City Garage/Shed, Community Center Rain Gutters, Pump House Insulation and Community Center Insulation. Council Member Veldhuisen and Mayor Like both provided details related to some long awaited quotes for the garage/shed and insulation items of business. Additionally, Council Member Petersen stated that Riley keeps any unfinished business under “Old Business” until resolved or deemed for removal, as a tracking reminder for all council members. Finally, she brought up the topic of grass clippings being blown on the road/sidewalks and the hazard it poses to motorists and pedestrians. She feels that City of Hadley Ordinance 18-004 “grass clippings in street and sidewalk and suggestions

- Open Forum – Dean Larson: Mr. Larson was present with complaints concerning the baseball field maintenance expenses, Xcel Energy meter expenses on the concession stand, prior investigation from 5+ years ago, mowing expenses for the outfield, etc. His complaints were addressed with input from various council members and the Clerk/Treasurer. With the complaints centering around the Hadley Baseball Association, Mayor Like began by again recapping the benefits baseball brings to Hadley – economy, recreation, etc. Additionally, the Hadley Baseball Association covers all costs related to their operations with requested reimbursement for city expenses directly relating to their activities. The mowing of the outfield and concession stand building electricity are considered to be city property, as they are part of the city park. Riley explained that the concession stand is not on a separate meter, as the city is billed for the park location as a whole (restrooms, security lights, ball field, concession building); and therefore the city covers this expense. Mr. Larson presented an investigation report questioning if it was read entirely, however this was from before Riley was Clerk/Treasurer and Council Member Pieske read aloud the last page stating that the investigation was complete and no additional action would be taken against the entity, to which Mr. Larson responded, “not yet”. Riley also spoke in response to the emails he had been receiving from Mr. Larson throughout the month leading up to tonight’s council meeting. He noted a response in a timely manner to each of the data requests, however stating that he did not have information to provide due to the unrelative nature of the requests and ongoing annual audit. Although effort was made, Mr. Larson proceeded to call the Data Practices Office on Clerk/Treasurer Engbarth, which resulted in a discussion concerning the nature of these types of requests and appropriate response time.
- 23-001 “Utilities” Ordinance Revisions: Riley reviewed some of his compiled notes concerning potential revisions to Ordinance 23-001, however he noted he has not yet had a chance to format them into the ordinance for distribution to council members, prior to final revision approval. He is in the process of working on this; however, has had other emergent projects take precedence and requested more time from the council. A revised draft of the ordinance will be distributed for council member review, as time allows.
- Murray County Assessment Agreement: Riley distributed the Murray County Assessment Agreement he received via mail, which he is recommending approval on at an annual cost of \$1,056.00. An invoice for assessing expenses is received annually, and this contract is new,

outlining the scope and terms of the Murray County Assessor's Office duties for the City of Hadley. Following discussion, MSP by Council Member Pieske and Council Member Petersen to approve the Murray County Assessment Agreement, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- Donation/Sponsorship Request: Riley presented a mail donation/sponsorship request from the Murray County Fair, for council review. In prior years, the City of Hadley has done a \$100.00 sponsorship. The council agreed to continue this sponsorship for 2024. MSP by Council Member Petersen and Council Member Pieske authorizing Riley to issue a check payable to Murray County Fair for a \$100.00 Patron Sponsorship for the 2024 event. Motion carried unanimously.
- Hadley Lions Club Park Benches and Tree Saplings: Mayor Like reported that the Hadley Lions Club has approved the purchase of two memorial park benches for placement in the city park. With the final details still being worked out, the benches should arrive within the next couple of months for installation. Additionally, the district governor of Lions Clubs International distributed silver maple saplings to each of the Lions Clubs, so Hadley Lions received about 25 of these saplings for community use. Mayor Like reported that a row of these saplings has been temporarily planted along the edge of the south lift station, however there are still some to be planted. If any council member or community member notices a place where there is a need for one or several, the Hadley Lions Club will gladly assist with the planting. Aligning with this discussion, Council Member Veldhuisen questioned if the council felt it would be appropriate to consider slowly removing some of the ash trees in the city park grove, following the letter/discussion last month on future Emerald Ash Borer concerns. Following discussion, MSP by Mayor Like and Council Member Pieske to authorize Council Member Veldhuisen to supervise the removal of ash trees from the city park grove, if the desire arises. Riley will work on creating content for the city website and social media regarding tree/firewood removal.
- Road Gravel Replacement: Mayor Like received a request from Dale Pavlis for discussion concerning the gravel levels on Summit Lane. Our road grading vendor, Leysen Construction, has requested new gravel be added to all gravel roads in Hadley, as over time the existing gravel is bladed away and needs to be refreshed. Following discussion, MSP by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Petersen to apply new coating of gravel as needed on the gravel streets in town, as a preventative maintenance measure. Mayor Like will arrange this with R.A Muecke Sand & Gravel, the City of Hadley's preferred vendor.
- Environmental Services Cannabis Regulations: Riley read aloud an email from Jean Christoffels, Murray County Environmental Services Office Zoning Administrator, containing questions for input on upcoming Cannabis Regulations. Questions related to allowing cannabis businesses, public interest in the installation of a cannabis business, and interest in attending a future public official meeting concerning cannabis regulations were discussed, with input from both council members and community members present. Riley will compile the responses determined and submit the information to the Murray County Environmental Services Office.

MSP by Council Member Veldhuisen and Council Member Petersen 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 7:39pm.

Riley Engbarth

Respectfully Submitted by Riley Engbarth, Clerk/Treasurer

FINAL