

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA  
September 1, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Zenzen via Zoom Meeting at 7:00 PM.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Zenzen, Council Members Reinert, Backes, Schulzetenberg and Genereux; Attorney Couri, Engineer Boots; Fire Chief Tabatt, Fire Lieutenant Claseman, Butch Stang, Assistant Chief Jerry Orth, Treasurer Rasmuson and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Hartkopf, Lexann Reischl, Lee Meier, Nick Muller, Jennifer Mat, Cindy Kurilla, Eric Stine, Matt Voigt, Monica Pogatchnik, Collier, Jennifer Matzke, Matthew Voigt,

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. McCabe indicated he wanted to add one bill, to Community Technology Center in an amount of \$8,954.50 for the Chrome Books and other miscellaneous items to the consent agenda.

**A motion was made to approve the consent agenda items 3A – 3D by Mr. Genereux, second by Ms Schulzetenberg. Motion carried 4-0.**

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, August 4, 2020.

Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated September 1, 2020 and for US Bank payment and Checks #23643 – 23708.

City Council Agenda, September 1, 2020

Resolution #2020-13, Authorizing Inter-Fund Transfers.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** Mr. McCabe indicated that the report would be given next month.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S  
REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe presented the updated spreadsheet indicating there were 17 permits issued in August, including 3 single family dwellings.

**A motion was made to approve the building inspector's report as presented by Ms. Schulzetenberg, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried 4-0.**

**FIRE DEPT.  
REPORT:**

Chief Tabatt presented the monthly report for July indicating there were five calls, bringing the total for the year to 70. Monthly training was done in house and was on defensive driving.

**A motion was made to approve the report by Ms Schulzetenberg, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried 4-0.**

Butch Stang was in attendance representing the Fire Relief Association and requesting an increase in the annual benefit level from \$1,100/year to \$1,250/year.

**A motion was made to increase the annual benefit level for the relief association members to \$1,250/year by Ms. Schulzetenberg, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.**

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**Mr. Backes entered at 7:15pm. \*\*\*\*\***

Lt. Claseman presented a quote for a new radio indicating this cost is included in the 2020 budget.

**A motion was made to approve the purchase of the radio in an amount of \$2,683.98 from Motorola Solutions by Mr. Reinert, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.**

Lt. Claseman presented a quote to provide new pagers (5) and batteries (47) for the existing pagers. The quote for the pager needs to be multiplied by 5, because they don't offer volume discounts at this time. He stated the funding for this purchase came from the Center Point Energy and DNR Grants that were already received. (\$4,970)

**A motion was made to approve the purchase of the pagers/batteries by Ms. Schulzetenberg, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.**

**OPEN FORUM:**

Jen Sell Matzke, along with a number of her neighbors from Terrace Hills were in attendance to discuss their internet access. Mr. McCabe presented an email from Igor Lenzner stating his displeasure with the existing service. Ms. Matzke indicated they are currently getting up to 7 mgb/second and averaging 4 to 5mgbs. She stated the neighborhood should be upgrading but service is actually deteriorating. Ms. Matzke indicated other providers not willing to come in and asked for advice on how to rectify. She offered an option from governor for partnering with Stearns county for tele-commuting. Mr. McCabe said he is on the board of the Minnesota Association of Small Cities (MAOSC) mainly because of this topic and he is finding communications with companies difficult. Lexann Reischl said her experience with internet is impacting her ability to do her job at home. Ms. Matzke asked to help identify a solution to get someone to help find a solution and whom to contact. Mr. Couri said a number of townships established a special revenue district that could be implemented, thus requiring the neighborhood to start a petition asking for the district and agreeing to pay the costs via a financing mechanism similar to a special assessment. There is no risk to the City, as the city would be the

intermediary collecting the “special assessments” to pay the cost of bringing the service to the neighborhood. Mayor Zenzen said he’s been talking about broadband in the state and because this is a rural issue but it does seem like St. Augusta is close enough to find a remedy. Mr. McCabe said throughout the city there are issues with internet. Consensus was the neighborhood would work with Mr. McCabe to start the process of establishing the special revenue district.

**ENGINEER’S  
REPORT:**

Mr. Boots presented a letter along with a copy of the survey on the ditch near the Hartkopf property. He indicated there were three options, to do nothing and provide periodic cleaning of the existing ditch, to raise the pond outlet and give a .3% minimum slope to the existing culvert or to lower the existing culvert and raise the existing pond outlet as was shown in the previous exhibit from Staff. Mr. Hartkopf asked which would be the best long term solution. Mr. Boots said it functions currently, at .3% slope sediment will still build up, lowering the culvert will cost a lot. Mr. Reinert asked about upstream ramifications. Mr. Boots responded it won’t affect them. Mr. Hartkopf’s wondered if the slope on Jesse’s property could be lowered. Mr. Backes suggested we raise the outlet from the pond and regrade the ditch. Consensus was this is what would be done, Mr. Boots was directed to bring an estimate to the October meeting so the work could be done before freeze up.

**CARES ACT EXPENDITURES/  
COVID-19  
DISCUSSION:**

Mr. McCabe presented another Resolution for CARES Act spending along with quotes for individual voting booths, a Unimac Washer and Drying Cabinet for the fire hall, and needle point bipolar ionization systems for City Hall and the Fire Hall. Total amount \$22,000. Remove item #5.

After discussion Couri asked to remove sections 3, 6 and 9 on the project term conditions.

**A motion was made to approve Resolution #2020-14, Stating Findings of Fact and Approving the CARES Act Expenditures and listing individual voting booths (11), the UniMac Washer and Drying Cabinet, the Needle Point Ionization System for City Hall and the Needle Point Ionization System for the Fire Hall on a motion by Ms. Schulzetenberg, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.**

**KIFFMEYER PARK BRIDGE  
PLANK**

**REPLACEMENT:** Mr. McCabe presented a quote to supply the needed planks and for the installation and removal of the existing planks on the bridge in

Kiffmeyer Park. Mr. McCabe indicated that sometime this summer, it appears someone had kicked through one of the existing boards and the others were starting to show signs of serious deterioration.

**A motion was made to hire ODESA II to supply planks along with labor and hardware to replace the decking on the Kiffmeyer Park Bridge by Mr. Reinert, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION #  
2020-15, APPROVING PRELIMINARY  
2020 LEVY COLLECTIBLE IN**

**2021:** Mr. McCabe presented Resolution #2020-15, indicating the preliminary levy was set at a 2% increase over the 2020 levy. He indicated he would like to schedule a workshop meeting to review the preliminary budget. The meeting is set for September 30, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

**A motion was made to approve Resolution #2020-15, approving the preliminary levy by Mr. Backes, seconded by Ms. Schultzenberg. Motion carried unanimously.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER**

**PURVIEW:** Mr. Reinert wondered if we had rescheduled our clean up day and Mr. McCabe stated we were going to do it in the spring.

Mayor Zenzen indicated he has seen other cities host movies in the park and asked that we have the Park Board look into this possibility.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

**REPORT:** Mr. McCabe presented the request from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities.

**ADJOURMENT:** **A motion was made to adjourn at 8:51pm by Mr. Reinert, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Meeting Adjourned.**

Approved this 6<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2020.

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Michael G. Zenzen, Mayor

Attest:

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William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator