

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
March 1, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Zenzen at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Zenzen, Council Members Backes, Genereux, Coleman and Schmitz; Asst. Fire Chief Steinhofer, Fire Captain Voigt, Fire Captain Sandhurst, Water Operator Blashack, Attorney Couri, Stearns County Deputy Hemmesch, Stearns County Deputy Widmer and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sylvester Prom, Amy Golden, Jordan Golden, Jackie Steinhofer, County Attorney Janelle Kendall, Brent Ahmann

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. McCabe asked we add Resolution #2022-07, Reestablishing the Polling Place and precincts as item 3H. He also asked we add a payable to Smith Schafer and Associates for audit costs in the amount of \$10,150.

A motion was made to approve as amended by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, February 2, 2022

Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated March 1, 2022 and for US Bank payment and Checks #26994– 27039.

City Council Agenda, March 1, 2022

Liquor Licenses for Lux Rec Club and St. Augusta Sports, Inc.
Temporary Liquor License for Church of St. Wendelin (April 23.)

B. McCabe attendance at annual City Managers Association Conference

Hiring T. Waible as part time park employee at \$15/hour.

Resolution #2022-07, Reestablishing Polling Place and Precincts.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Deputy Hemmesch was in attendance and presented the Sheriff's report. He reviewed the call types and answered questions from the Council. He introduced Lt. Shawn Widmer as his replacement.

A motion was made to approve the Sheriff's report as presented by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S

REPORT: The 2022 building permit spreadsheet was presented. So far 11 permits have been issued, including 3 new single family permits.

**PUBLIC WORKS
UPDATE:**

Mr. McCabe presented a quote for the annual dust coating of the gravel roads. He indicated it was a slight increase from 2021.

A motion was made to table these issues to the next meeting by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux.

Mr. McCabe asked that we not act on the street sweeping quote as we haven't yet received the quote from the company who had done it the past couple of years.

Mr. McCabe presented quotes for some water and sewer items that could be allocated to our ARPA funding. He indicated our system was going on 20 years old and the existing meters and radios can start to go bad and a few actually have. The quote is to provide 500 meters and radios along with a new meter reading system that will reduce time in reading and offer more data when we do read. Mr. Blashack also discussed the quote for new pumps for the lift station. He indicated if we authorized 3 new pumps, we would be able to keep one or two of the used pumps as backups. Mr. McCabe explained the ARPA funding would total about \$420K, \$110K is committed to MIDCO for broadband expansion and if the lift station pumps and water meters and reading materials are authorized, we would still have about \$50-\$70K for other water, sewer or broadband projects.

A motion was made to approve the quotes to Core and Main and to Minnesota Pump for 3 pumps by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRE DEPT.
REPORT:**

Assistant Chief Steinhofer presented the January monthly report indicating there were nine calls for the month. This compares to six at the same time last year. Monthly training was provided by Fire Inc. and was on arson awareness and scene preservation.

A motion was made to approve the report by Mr. Backes, seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion carried unanimously.

Captain Voigt presented the quotes on equipment and a truck for a proposed new grass unit to replace the tow van. He explained what was necessary for the truck. Mr. Genereux was concerned where the funds were coming from. Mayor Zenzen stated he wants to increase the budget for future years.

A motion was made to approve the purchase of the grass rig in an amount not to exceed \$73,905 by Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM: no comments offered.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY
PROSECUTION
UPDATE:**

County Attorney Janell Kendall was in attendance to go over the 2021 prosecution contract. Ms. Kendall reviewed the types of crimes and how those numbers compare with other years. She indicated the county saw near record numbers of felony convictions.

**ENGINEER'S
REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe presented an email from the City of St. Cloud requesting we share in a reconstruction of 250th Street. He indicated we have been asking for this for some time and was surprised by the message as the last he heard it was removed from their CIP. Consensus was this would be a good project for our 2023 CIP budgeted funds.

**PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATIONS –**

**BUEMER
VARIANCE:**

Mr. McCabe indicated the planning commission unanimously recommended approval of the variance and he presented Resolution #2022-05 granting the variance.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #2022-05, granting a corner side yard setback variance of no more than 10' by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

PROM VARIANCE: Again, Mr. McCabe indicated the planning commission unanimously recommended approval of the variance allowing an addition to an existing accessory structure that exceeds the maximum square footage by up to 1,388 square feet.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #2022-06, granting an accessory structure size variance of up to 1,388 square feet by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.

**STORAGE CONTAINER
ORDINANCE:**

Mr. McCabe explained this was first discussed in 2017 and we just needed to adopt the correct version, which includes all zoning districts.

A motion was made to adopt Ordinance #2022-01 as amended, relating to storage containers by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made to publish the ordinance in summary by Mr. Backes, seconded by Ms. Coleman.

COUNCIL MEMBER

PURVIEW:

Mr. Genereux wondered about the pond near Kiffmeyer Park and if the County has a plan on cleaning it up.

Mayor Zenzen wants to discuss increasing the budget for the fire CIP for truck by double and make sure there is a reserved amount of \$80K annually.

Mayor Zenzen wanted to discuss the corner side yard setback and why it equals the front yard setback.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

REPORT:

Mr. McCabe presented the final tax rate information from Stearns County.

Mr. McCabe reported the audit field work was completed last week and we hope to have the final presentation in May.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:45 by Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved this 5th day of April, 2022.

Michael G. Zenzen, Mayor

Attest:

William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator