

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
February 7, 2023**

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, Hommerding and Schmitz; Fire Chief Kramer, Asst. Fire Chief Steinhofer, Fire Captain Voigt, Attorney Couri, City Engineer Boots, Stearns County Deputy Widmer, and Clerk/Administrator McCabe. Ms. Coleman was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Gapinski, Jackie Steinhofer,

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. McCabe asked that we add another temporary liquor license for St. Wendelin on March 18 and that we approve the attendance of Lauren Bahr, Butch Stang and Jeremy Huehn to the Moorhead fire school on March 24-26th and the attendance of Chief Kramer, Assistant Chief Steinhofer, Captain Voigt, Captain Sandhurst and Lt. Cordie to the fire officer school in Duluth March 17th -19th.

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, January 3, 2023.
Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated February 7, 2023 and for US Bank payment and Checks #24676e – 24695e and #27915 – 27995.
City Council Agenda, February 3, 2023
Gambling Permits for St. Wendelin, St. Mary HOC and the St. Augusta Legion Auxiliary.
Temporary Liquor Licenses – St. Mary HOC (June 25), St. Wendelin (March 18, April 22 and July 30)
Paul Hollermann's and Chad Blashack's attendance at Annual Rural Water Conference.
L. Bahr, B. Stand and J. Huehn attendance at Moorhead Fire School March 24-26.
J. Kramer, S. Steinhofer, A. Sandhurst, B. Voigt and C. Cordie attendance at Duluth Fire Office School March 17-19.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Deputy Widmer presented the Sheriff's report. He reviewed the call types and answered questions from the Council.

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

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S

REPORT:

Mr. McCabe presented the building inspector's report indicating the new format is reflective of the new software being utilized by Inspectron. He noted there were a total of 9 permits issued in January – 4 building, 4 mechanical and one plumbing permit.

A motion was made to approve the building inspectors report by Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPT.

REPORT:

Chief Kramer presented the December fire report. He indicated we ended with a record 135 calls compared with 120 calls in 2021. He noted the training was a hazmat refresher course provided by Fire Inc.

A motion was made to approve the report by Mr. Scmitz, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Kramer asked that Jeremy Huehn and Derek Buck be removed from probation status.

A motion was made to remove the probationary status of Jeremy Huehn and Derek Buck by Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

Captain Voigt presented two quotes for new rear tires on the water tender.

A motion was made to go with the go from Heartland Tire in an amount of \$2,494.92 by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schimtz. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Kramer presented a quote to replace radios in an amount totaling \$5,895.01/radio. He requested we authorize the purchase of five at this time which will allow us to put the radios on a rotation.

A motion was made to purchase 5 radios from Granite Electronics totaling \$29,475.05 by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

Captain Voigt reported the department is working with neighboring department to write a grant for additional radios.

OPEN FORUM:

no comments offered.

STIFEL INVESMENT

PRESENTATION:

Steve Gapinski, representing Stifel was in attendance and presented an overview of the cities investment account at Stifel. He explained strategy and reviewed the goals of the investment portfolio.

**ENGINEER'S
REPORT:**

Mr. Boots indicated he had nothing to report.

**LOBBYING
CONTRACT:**

Mr. McCabe presented the proposed lobbying contract for the water treatment plant. He reported there was planning funds included in last year's bill that didn't pass. The bill has been reintroduced and is being considered.

A motion was made to enter into the lobbying agreement with O'Rourke Strategic Consulting by Mayor Zenzen, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL MEMBER
PURVIEW:**

Mr. Schmitz said we need to start looking at pump capacities with bigger buildings.

Mr. Backes thanked the Hayloft for dimming the lights.

Mayor Zenzen reported he got a call on park dedication fees.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR
REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe presented for the Council's information some historical county wide city tax rate information.

Mr. McCabe presented a letter and email from CentraCare in reference to a healthy rural Minnesota. He indicated they are just looking for a vote of support on the issue.

A motion was made to support Centra Care's Healthy Rural Minnesota Initiative by Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Mr. Hommerdng. Motion carried 3-1 with Mr. Backes voting no.

Mr. McCabe presented a letter he wants to send to residents who have sidewalk along their properties. He indicated before he sent it he wanted to have a discussion about the ordinance. Mr. McCabe specifically wanted to address Section 2 of the ordinance. He stated he doesn't believe we have adequate staff to do this every time it snows and wondered if there has to be a certain amount of snow before we would expect our staff to do this. The Council agreed the ordinance already states "may cause" and we don't have to do this.

Mr. Couri reported the Winkleman issue has been referred to mediation, with a trial to be scheduled at a later date.

ADJOURMENT:

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:00 by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved this 7th day of March, 2023.

Michael G. Zenzen, Mayor

Attest:

William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator