

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
February 2, 2021**

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; City Attorney Ruppe; Engineer Boots; Engineer Ostendorf, Fire Chief Tabatt, Assistant Chief Orth, Fire Captain Steinhofer, Fire Captain Kramer, Fire Lieutenant Claseman, Fire Lieutenant Savage, Fire Lieutenant Voigt, Fire Lieutenant Sandhurst, Fire Department L. Stang, Fire Department Cordie, Stearns County Deputy Hemmesch, Treasurer Rasmuson and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Justin Lysen, Sherry Stang, and County Attorney Janelle Kendall

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. McCabe indicated he has added the St. Mary HOC gambling permit under the consent agenda.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda items 3A – 3D by Mr. Backes second by Ms. Coleman. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, January 5, 2021
Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated February 2, 2021 and for US Bank payment, MN PFA Electronic payment and Checks #24021-24063.
City Council Agenda, February 2, 2021
St. Mary HOC Gambling permit.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Lt. Hemmesch presented the Sheriff's report. He indicated 42.75 hours were spent on the contract during the month. He also reviewed the call types and answered questions from the Council.

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

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. McCabe indicated a report was not provided as there was only the issuance of a plumbing and mechanical permit during the month.

**FIRE DEPT.
REPORT:**

Chief Tabatt was in attendance and presented the December run and training report bringing the total calls as of the end of the year to 130, compared with 120 at this time in 2019. Fire Inc., provided HazMat/ICS refresher training during the month.

A motion was made to approve the monthly fire report by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Tabatt provided two quotes to replace the backup generator at the fire hall as well as provide for an automatic transfer switch to replace the manual transfer switch.

A motion was made to approve the quote from Augusta Electric in an amount of \$29,020 by Mr. Backes, seconded by Ms. Coleman Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCabe provided a memorandum on the process used and recommendation for hiring a new fire chief. He indicated the committee appointed by the council in December is recommending promoting Captain Joe Kramer to Fire Chief effective upon Chief Tabatt's resignation/retirement (February 7).

A motion was made to appoint Joe Kramer fire chief effective February 7, 2021 by Ms. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was zoom bombed. Mr. McCabe ended the meeting and resent a meeting notification to everyone who was in attendance at the time the meeting was zoom bombed. This took place at approximately 7:32pm. The meeting resumed at about 7:45pm.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY
REPORT:**

Janelle Kendall was present to report on county prosecution activity. She began with a letter explaining the diversion program and it showed misdemeanors are down. Ms. Kendall presented on gross misdemeanors and felonies, throughout the county and St. Augusta specific. She answered questions and thanked the participants for their interest.

**ENGINEER'S
REPORT:**

Mr. Boots presented the bid tabulation along with a recommendation of Notice of Award for the 2021 Street Project. He indicated the bids came in well under the engineer's estimate, which was also included in the packets.

A motion was made to approve the bid and award the contract to Knife River Corporation in a construction amount of \$432,951.50

by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Boots and Ms. Ostendorf presented a proposal for renewing the MS4 permit. Ms. Ostendorf explained this is done periodically and laid out the project understanding and scope.

A motion was made to approve hiring Moore Engineering to renew the MS4 permit on a motion by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL MEMBER
PURVIEW:**

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR
REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe reported there were still approximately 40 residents who had never paid their storm water utility bill. There is also one resident who hasn't paid the water and sewer bill since February of last year. He suggested we call for a public hearing in April and he will send notices on or about March 1.

Mr. McCabe reported he is dealing with at least two businesses that will want to be on the next planning commission agenda for site plan reviews. One will also require a change in zoning. Both are along County Road 75.

Mr. McCabe reported he had been contacted by MIDCO and they intend to expand their service area this summer. They indicated they would send a map with the exact locations, but he hasn't received it yet.

ADJOURMENT: A motion was made to adjourn to the closed session at 8:54 pm by Mr. Genereux seconded by Backes. Meeting Adjourned.

Approved this 2nd day of February, 2021.

Michael G. Zenzen, Mayor

Attest:

William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator