

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA  
October 4, 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; Fire Chief Kramer, City Attorney Couri, City Engineer Boots, County Deputy Widmer; Water Sewer Operator Blashack, and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brent Ahmann, Scott Follett, Nathan Laurent, Colin Meisel, Mark Skaalerud

**CONSENT AGENDA:** **A motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.**

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, September 6, 2022  
Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated October 4, 2022 and for US Bank payment and Checks #27580– 27661 and for ePayments 24605e-24622e.  
Contract for Police Services with Stearns County  
Resolution #2022-14, Appointing Election Judges

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** The sheriff's report was included in the packet, Lt. Widmer was in attendance to answer questions. He indicated 44 contract hours were spent in the month and reviewed the call types.

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

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe presented the building permit spreadsheet, He indicated 44 permits were issued during the month of September, mostly re-roof permits.

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

**PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:**

Mr. Blashack was in attendance and indicated we had a bad quote for the water softener at the last meeting. He explained the approve bid was for a residential softener that wouldn't be sufficient for the fire hall. He suggested we revert to the quote offered by Erkins in an amount of \$4,699.

**A motion was made to purchase a new water softener from Erkins in an amount of \$4,699 by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. McCabe asked that we move item 6B to after item 10C as it would make more sense to consider only if 10C is approved.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
REPORT:**

Chief Kramer presented the August fire department report stating there were 14 calls in the month bringing the total for the year to 93 as opposed to 72 at the same time last year. Monthly training was done in house with a Zoll rep training on the new monitor and training on technical rescue equipment.

**A motion was made to approve the report as presented by Mr. Genereux seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Zenzen inquired about the computers requested in the budget.

**ENGINEER'S  
REPORT:**

Mr. Boots said they are working on preparing the final pay app for the 2022 Street Project.

**A motion was made to approve the engineer's report by Mayor Zenzen, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ORDINANCE  
#2022-03, AMENDING  
COUNCIL  
SALARIES:**

Mr. McCabe presented the ordinance based on discussions held during the last two budget cycles. The increase was equal to what was proposed for the employees during 2021 and 2022.

**A motion was made to adopt Ordinance #2022-04, Amending Council Salaries by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.**

**PARK BOARD  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
HIDDEN LAKE PARK  
FENCING:**

Mr. McCabe presented a quote for additional split rail vinyl fencing along the path that leads to the shelter to block cars from parking on the grass and eliminate the chain that holds people back from driving up to the shelter. He stated he has received numerous complaints, but never really thought it was an issue. The recommendation from the park board passed on a 4-1 vote. Mayor Zenzen wondered if this had been thought through. Mr. Genereux stated he believed it was a perception issue because of the tarred area leading to the shelter.

**A motion was made to reject the recommendation by Mr. Backes, seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion carried unanimously.**

**DISC GOLF  
BASKETS:**

Mr. McCabe presented a quote to replace the baskets on the disc golf course. He indicated the recommendation from the park board was unanimous. Mr. Backes recommended we also add the number plate conversion kits for an additional \$540. Mr. Backes explained the new technology in the baskets. He also stated the disc golf club has volunteered to help with the installation.

**A motion was made to purchase the disc golf baskets along with the number plate conversion kits by Mr. Backes, seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion carried unanimously.**

**KIFFMEYER PARKING  
LOT PAVING:**

Mr. McCabe presented two quotes to pave the upper and lower parking lots at Kiffmeyer Park. He indicated the park board unanimously recommended doing this work along with a mill and overlay of the existing drive up the hill. He also suggested if this is approved, it would be appropriate to also do the mill patching at the lift station.

**A motion was made to approve doing the parking lot and lift station work for \$127,685 by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.**

**BROOKS SETBACK  
VARIANCE:**

Mr. McCabe indicated the planning commission unanimously recommended approval of the variance to allow the accessory structure to be built in the front yard of the house at 2502 Gableview Circle.

**A motion was made to approve Resolution #2022-15, approving the front yard setback variance for an accessory structure by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.**

**F STREET DEVELOPMENT  
VARIANCE AND SITE PLAN  
APPROVAL:**

Mr. McCabe indicated the public hearing was held and both the site plan and variance were unanimously recommended for approval. Mr. Laurent and Mr. Meisel representing F Street Development were in attendance to answer questions.

**A motion was made to approve Resolutions #2022-16 and #2022-17 as amended approving of the site plan and granting a 3 foot variance to the height of the building by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.**

**OPEN FORUM:** Barry Belknap was in attendance and thanked the Council for their time. He talked about the ethic he wanted to bring to the Stearns County Commission.

**COUNCIL MEMBER**

**PURVIEW:** Mr. Genereux inquired about the THC ordinance. Mr. Couri stated he would get us something soon.

Mr. Schmitz talked about a garbage truck that was leaving garbage throughout the community.

Mayor Zenzen indicated he and Mr. Couri met with the individual we are discussing clean up with. Mr. Couri stated he wants to have a closed session at our November meeting. He gave a brief update on the progress.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR  
REPORT:**

**A motion was made to adjourn at 8:40 pm by Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.**

Approved this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2022.

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Michael G. Zenzen, Mayor

Attest:

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William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator