

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA  
September 5, 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, Schmitz, Coleman and Hommerding; Fire Chief Kramer, Asst. Fire Chief Steinhofer, Stearns County Deputy Hoffman, Engineer Boots, Attorney Couri, and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mark Ostendorf, Randy Fordice, Matt Langan, Shane Zahrt, Jackie Steinhofer, Sheri Stang, Patty Kronnenberg, Amy Brand, Rep. Bernie Perryman

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

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, August 1, 2023.

Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated September 5, 2023 and for US Bank payment and Checks #24818e – 24844e and #28449 -28500 and #25001-25027.

City Council Agenda, September 5, 2023

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** Sgt. Hoffman presented the Sheriff's report. He indicated 46 hours were spent on the contract in the month and reviewed the call types and answered questions from the Council.

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

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe presented the monthly building inspector's report. He noted there were 41 total permits issued during the month of August including six new home permits, two of which were issued prior and have been modified.

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

**FIRE DEPT. REPORT:**

Chief Kramer said they had 15 calls in July bringing the total to 71 for the year. Training was on pump ops refresher and EMR refresher.

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

Chief Kramer reported the fire hall has an electric issue that they are working on.

**Xcel ENERGY PRESENTATION on MINNESOTA ENERGY CONNECTION**

**ROUTE APPLICATION:** Randy Fordice along with Matt Langan and Mark Ostendorf were in attendance to give a presentation on the proposed routes for the Minnesota Energy Connection line from Becker to Lyon County. They explained the process and answered questions.

**CGMC PRESENTATION:** Shane Zahrt, representing the Coalition of MN Cities was in attendance to present a 2023 Legislative report, discuss their strategies for the upcoming legislative session and specifically talk about the benefits to the City of St. Augusta. He highlighted how St. Augusta benefited from the last session and answered questions.

**OPEN FORUM:** No comments offered.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Boots indicated we wouldn't be including any alternates in the 2024 street project as the engineering cost alone will bring the total project considerably higher. Mayor Zenzen asked about how long those plans would be good for. Consensus was to include it now as we will pay it eventually.

**PRELIMINARY BUDGET/ RESOLUTION #2023-13 APPROVING PRELIMINARY**

**TAX LEVY:** Mr. McCabe had presented the preliminary budget along with Resolution #2023-13. He asked that we schedule a budget workshop.

**A motion was made to approve Resolution #2023-13 as amended by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consensus was established that we would hold a budget workshop meeting on September 19 at 5:30pm.

**SIGN ORDINANCE #2023-04:**

Mr. McCabe presented the draft ordinance along with the changes from the previous draft and Ms. Nash's memo on the process. Mr. Couri indicated billboards will be up rather quickly and we could not revoke them. He also indicated we should adjust the height of billboards along State Highway 15 from 20 feet to 40 feet.

**A motion was made to adopt Ordinance#2023-04 as amended and publish in summary by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER**

**PURVIEW:**

Mr. Hommerding wondered about the check to Rollie Werner Well as it says Kiffmeyer Park.

Mr. Hommerding asked if we would have another public hearing on the mining application. Mr. Backes says he is willing, but wonders what new comments will be brought forward. Mr. Schmitz and Ms. Coleman both felt we have already heard the comments and reiterated what would be new. Consensus was to not do another hearing.

Mr. Schmitz wondered about a resident who wants the 911 sign moved.

Ms. Coleman said she isn't doing COVID again. Mr. Couri stated the only way that was allowed before is because of the emergency declaration.

Mr. Backes asked about the storage sheds on Highway 15 and was told the plan is changed enough to require a new site plan.

Mayor Zenzen indicated he has received complaints about updating the website.

Mayor Zenzen inquired about spraying apple trees and around the creek.

Mayor Zenzen read a thank you letter from the St Wendelin Parish Festival to the Council and Fire Department.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

**REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe reported he had been in an email dialog with the little league after he asked them to remove their equipment from the ball field maintenance sheds. Mr. Couri explained the legality saying we could allow them to lease the space and even donate the space. There were still concerns with us being responsible for their equipment. Consensus was decided that it just wasn't a good idea.

**ADJOURMENT: A motion was made to adjourn at 9:35pm by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.**

Approved this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2023.

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Michael G. Zenzen, Mayor

Attest:

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William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator