

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
October 3, 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 Widman, Engineer Boots, Attorney Couri, and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jackie Steinhofer, Sheri Stang, Keith Winter, Dan Hiemenz, Jim Honer

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. McCabe asked that we add one payable to Xcel Energy in an amount of \$50. He also stated he had added the 2024 sheriff's contract to the updated packet that was sent out earlier today.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as amended by Mr. Backes, seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, September 5, 2023.
Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated October 3, 2023 and for US Bank payment and Checks #24845e – 24865e and #28449 -28500 and #25028-25121.

City Council Agenda, October 3, 2023
2024 Stearns County Sheriff's Contract

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Lt. Widman presented the Sheriff's report. He indicated 45 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 Mr. Schmitz. 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 September including four new home permits bringing the total to the year to 23. He noted we also have three new commercial buildings for the year.

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

Mr. McCabe indicated the inspector wanted direction on how often he should attend. Mayor Zenzen would like to see him more often during the busier months. Others thought it is not necessary as the written report tells them what they need to know.

**FIRE DEPT.
REPORT:**

Chief Kramer said they had 11 calls in August bringing the total to 93 for the year. Training was on auto extraction.

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

Chief Kramer stated he got a late quote for turn out gear.

A motion was made to approve the purchase of turn out gear in an amount of \$13,684 by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hommerding asked about the backup power; Chief Kramer stated it isn't done yet but it is being covered by warranty.

**PARK BOARD
RECOMMENDATION
SHED LEASE:**

Mr. McCabe stated the park board at their meeting recommended we lease space in the ball field sheds to the baseball teams for their equipment. Mr. Couri presented a draft agreement and explained it is a generic lease and the terms of the lease. Mr. Couri stated there wasn't a consideration included in the draft and what would the Council like to have as a contractual price. Mr. Backes wondered if we should allow them use for maintenance of the field. Mayor Zenzen wondered if we would have to lease to other organizations and stated he would be more open to allowing them to have their own shed. Mr. Winter, speaking for the St. Augusta Little League Association, talked about their plan moving forward. Mr. Schmitz brought up the fact that he thought this was discussed and decided last meeting. Mr. Winter stated he thinks it is a communication issue. Mr. Hommerding indicated they have a plan for expanding the parks. Ms. Coleman stated she would like to approve based on park board recommendation. Mr. Backes said consideration should just be routine maintenance (dragging the infield, tamping the pitcher's mound and batter's box, cleaning the dugouts and removal of garbage from the field

A motion was made to approve the lease as amended by Mr. Couri with SALLA once a corporation is established by Ms. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM: No comments offered.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Boots indicated he reviewed the F Street site and the work covered by the Letter of Credit is substantially complete and recommended we approve releasing the letter of credit.

A motion was made to release the F Street Letter of Credit by Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Boots indicated he along with Mayor Zenzen and Mr. McCabe met with a representative of Knife River after they once again withdrew their application for a mining pit on the Honer property. He indicated Knife River believed the requirement of supplying signed plans was the final straw as they wouldn't meet their target return on investment. Knife River stated the material available wasn't the high return rock and granite but low value sand and class 5. Mr. Boots explained to Knife River the City's MS4 permit requires them to document more than if we didn't have an MS4 designation and that is why signed plans are necessary. Knife River stated he thought it was redundant for permits they are already required to acquire from state agencies. Mr. Couri explained why the requirements are included in the ordinance and how that covers the City.

COUNCIL MEMBER PURVIEW:

Mr. Backes asked about the lights at the dog park and was told they are in and working.

Mayor Zenzen indicated he thinks we need to RFP our planning consultant. Mr. McCabe stated maybe we RFP just the comp plan review.

A motion was made to send an RFP for the comp plan review by Mayor Zenzen, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Attorney Couri stated he had visited the Winkleman site and he is not in compliance with the settlement agreement. He explained that he has visited with Winkleman and indicates he needs to clean up the garages. He provided pictures of the outside areas and explained the progress that is being made. Mr. Couri stated the court asked for an update and Mr. Couri explained that there is progress being made and he would visit with the Council to see their wishes. Mr. Couri

suggested to the Council that we ride the progress being made and allow time for additional progress. He indicated we could look again in a month or two. Consensus from the council was to allow the progress and not fight it out in court.

ADJOURMENT: A motion was made to adjourn at 8:45pm by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved this 7th Day of November, 2023.

Michael G. Zenzen, Mayor

Attest:

William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator