

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
November 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, Schmitz, Coleman and Hommerding; Engineer Boots, Attorney Couri, Assistant Fire Chief Steinhofer; Fire Fighter Butch Stang, Water Operator Blashack Stearns County Deputy Meeland, and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Arnie Esterbrooks, Paul Reinert, Alex Evavold, Brent Athmann, Paul and Jill Shea, Kevin Kellner, Judy and Bob Altis, Rebecca Hoye, Bridgette Braaten, Robert and Stephanie Connors, Brian and Kristi Lommel, Sue Athmann, Troy and Kristie Wetterling, Ronald Wolseth, Amy Brand, Annie and Matt Anderson, Jim Sartell, Paul and Teri Kremer, Kris and Jenni Berg, Nathan Johnson, David Voigt, Vicky Luedtke, Keith Heaton, Kathleen and Jerry Wellik, Jackie Steinhofer, Kay Halligan, Connor Decker

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Zenzen inquired as to the water and sewer spent and received and was told it was due to the Foley payment and the debt service.

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

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, October 3, 2023.
Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated October 3, 2023
and for US Bank payment and Checks #24866e –
24884e and #28449 -28500 and #25122-25186.
City Council Agenda, November 7, 2023

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Mr. Hommerding asked about CAD system and Deputy Meland

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 35 total permits issued during the month of September including four new home permits bringing the total to the year to 27.

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

**FIRE DEPT.
REPORT:**

The fire report was submitted indicating there were 13 calls for the month of September bringing the total to the year to 95. Training was done by Fire Inc and was a hands on class in master streams pumping.

A motion was mad to approve the fire report as presented by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.

Butch Voigt, representing the Fire Relief Association, was in attendance to request an increase to the annual benefit level to \$1,750 per year of service. He also presented a report that shows what would be paid out based on projected retirement dates.

A motion was made to increase the benefit level to \$1,750 per year of service by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Homerding. JaMotion carried unanimously.

**EMERALD PONDS
TOWN HOME
ISSUE:**

Mr. McCabe introduced the item by presenting a number of email complaints from residents of Emerald Ponds and stating he also received less than 5 phone calls on this matter. He indicated the developer's agreement was included with the packets along with pictures that were taken last week on Thursday morning showing the progress on the proposed buildings. Mr. McCabe further explained when the building permit application came in, he contacted Arnie Esterbrooks to make sure this was allowed in the subdivision. There was significant discussion on if the existing permits could be modified as to what was approved, if the existing construction could be modified to match what is allowed per the developer's agreement. General consensus amongst the neighbors is they don't want multi-family lots within the subdivision.

A motion was made to allow the existing, almost completed building, to negotiate an amended developers agreement with CAP Homes and force the two with only a foundations in to revert to the existing developer's agreement by Mr. Backes, seconded by Ms. Carlson. Motion carried 3-2 with Mayor Zenzen and Mr. Schmitz voting no. A motion was made to rescind the adopted motion by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried 3-2 with Mr. Backes and Ms. Coleman voting no. A motion was made that requires all 3 buildings to follow the developer's agreement by Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM:

No comments offered.

**ENGINEER'S
REPORT:**

Mr. Boots presented a new Master Service Agreement (MSA) for their contractual services.

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

Mr. Boots reported they are working on the 2024 Street and we should have plans ready to be advertised at our December meeting.

**PUBLIC WORKS
UPDATE, HLP
IRRIGATION
SYSTEM:**

Mr. Blashack was in attendance to present a proposal to draw water from Hidden Lake Park pond for the irrigation system around the shelter.

A motion was made to approve the quote of Traut Wells in the amount of \$3,470 to install a pump into HLP pond to draw water for the irrigation system for the shelter by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.

**PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION,
A & E STORAGE:**

Mr. McCabe indicated the planning commission recommended approval of the amended CUP and site plan at their meeting last night. He also indicated there was not a discussion on the variance as he believed the variance adopted in 2021 would still be good, unfortunately because no buildings have been constructed that variance became null and void.

A motion was made to table until next month by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mayor Zenzen. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING
VACATE DRAINAGE AND
UTILITY EASEMENT
KIFFMEYER AND
WHITE OAK
ADDITIONS:**

Mr. McCabe presented Resolution #2023-15 vacating the drainage and utility easements in the Kiffmeyer Addition as well as those on Lot 1 of the White Oak Addition in anticipation of Pleasure Land replatting all the lots on a Pleasure Land Subdivision. Mr. Couri stated we only want to adopt on the condition that the lots are re-platted and all necessary drainage and utility easements are included on the new plat.

A motion was made to table Resolution #2023-15 by Mr. Backes seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL MEMBER
PURVIEW:**

Mr. Hommerding asked about the woodchips at the playgrounds in the parks and was told they would be taken care of in the spring.

Mr. Schmitz stated he thinks we need to come to the meeting more prepared.

Mayor Zenzen stated the responsibility is on the Council to make sure staff is aware of what is being approved.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

REPORT:

Mr. McCabe presented an email from the City of St. Cloud requesting we appoint someone to a Homelessness working group.

Mr. McCabe indicated he and Mr. Schmitz met with Lynden Township on the joint road agreement, specifically to discuss 225th Street which is entirely within Lynden Township. He explained the township was not interested in renegotiating the agreement and said it was set up that way sometime back in the 90's. Discussion followed on the potential of making 225th street gravel and/or all of 13th Avenue gravel....

Mr. McCabe reported with the last legislative session there were things that would be needed to be added to our personnel policy and asked that we schedule a work session meeting to review the policy and the changes that will need to be made. A work session meeting was scheduled for November 21 at 5:30pm.

Mr. McCabe presented the probable tax rate information.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made to adjourn at 9:45pm by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved this 5th Day of December, 2023.

Michael G. Zenzen, Mayor

Attest:

William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator