

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
January 2, 2024**

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, Hommerding, Coleman and Schmitz; Fire Chief Kramer, Fire Captain Voigt, Attorney Couri, Engineer Hajicek, Engineer Morast and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

OTHERS PRESENT: see attached list.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. McCabe asked that we add payables to the AllStream in the amount of \$309.44.

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

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, December 5, 2023
Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated January 2, 2024
and for ePayments #24907e – 24929e and Checks
#25278 - 25367.
City Council Agenda, January 2, 2024
B. McCabe's attendance at the EDAM Winter Conference
Tri-County Humane Society Agreement.
City Council Minutes, December 11, 2023.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Mr. McCabe indicated he had not yet received the report so it will be added to next month's meeting agenda.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S

REPORT: Mr. McCabe presented the final spreadsheet for permits in 2023. He indicated there were a total of 423 permits issued including 28 new homes and three new commercial permits.

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

**FIRE DEPT.
REPORT:**

Chief Kramer presented the November monthly report indicating there were eight calls for the month bringing the total to 115 for the year as compared to 127 at this time in 2022. Monthly training was on small electric car training.

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

OPEN FORUM:

Dave Werschay, Werschay Homes questioned the process of getting the comp plan reviewed and the ordinances amended.

Amy Brand wanted to comment that people use caution on the sensitive issue that many are in attendance for.

**CAP HOMES
DISCUSSION/
REQUEST:**

Mayor Zenzen stated the materials provided by Mr. Evavold were for information purposes and his request was intended to reopen the discussion from the November meeting but staff is not recommending we reopen that discussion at this time. We will allow Mr. Evavold to present his costs and take those figures under advisement. Mr. Couri stated the City is under no obligation to pay these costs and explained his research on what happens if a permit is issued in error. Mr. Evavold wanted to know about the discussion from the last meeting. Mr. Couri said the onus is on the developer. John Uphoff, as a friend/consultant of the developer, brought the discussion back to amending the developer agreement by stating the intent to possibly walk away from the project.

ACTING MAYOR:

A motion was made to appoint Mr. Schmitz acting mayor by Mr. Backes, seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion carried 4-0 with Mr. Schmitz abstaining.

**BOARDS, COMMISSIONS,
OFFICIALS AND
COUNCIL**

REPRESENTATIVES: A motion was made to make the following appointments by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz:

Planning Commission: Ron Kraemer to an additional 3-year term.

Park Board: Don Meyer and John Olson, Jr. to an additional 3-year term.

Council Representative to Park Board: Marlin Hommerding

Council Fire Department Representative: Justin Backes and Jeff Schmitz.

City Assessor: _____, Stearns County Assessor's Office

City Attorney (Civil): Mike Couri – Couri and Ruppe

City Attorney (Prosecution): Jenall Kendal – Stearns County

Admin. Hearing Officer: Quinlivan and Hughes

City Engineer: John Morast – Moore Engineering.
Planning Consultant: Cindy Nash – Collaborative Planning.
Building Inspector: Mike Wallen, Inspectron
Electrical Inspector: Kelly Johnson
Weed Inspector: Mark Kiffmeyer
Assistant Weed Inspector: Paul Hollermann.

The motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION
#2024-01, SETTING
COMPENSATION:**

Mr. McCabe presented a resolution with wages as budgeted.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #2024-01, approving the salaries by Mr. Backes, seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion carried unanimously.

**SCHEDULE OF REGULAR
MEETINGS, OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER
AND OFFICIAL
DEPOSITORIES:**

A motion was made to declare the regular council meetings on the First and Third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm, the regular Planning Commission meetings on the Monday prior to the first Tuesday in each month at 6:00pm, and Park Board meetings as needed, EDA meetings as needed, to designate The St. Cloud Times the official newspaper Harvest Bank, Steifel, Hungtington Bank and US Bank as official depositories by Mr. Backes seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION #2024-02,
DESIGNATING
SIGNERS:**

A motion was made to approve Resolution #2024-02 designating officials authorized to sign approved checks by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION #2024-03,
DESIGNATING 2025**

POLLING PLACE: A motion was made to approve Resolution #2024-03, designating the 2025 polling place by Mr. Backes, seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion carried unanimously.

**ORDINANCE #
2024-01, ADOPTING THE
2024 FEE**

SCHEDULE: A motion was made to approve Ordinance #2024-01, adopting the 2024 Fee Schedule by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.

**DATA PRACTICES
POLICIES:**

A motion was made to approve the data practices policies as presented by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding; Motion carried unanimously.

**ENGINEER'S
REPORT:**

John Morast, with Moore Engineering was in attendance and introduced himself and gave a bit of his background. He reported that we are out for bid on the 2024 Street project and stated there was one slight adjustment to the schedule.

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

**COUNCIL MEMBER
PURVIEW:**

Mr. Schmitz asked about the noise complaint on trucks. Mr. McCabe stated he would follow up with DOT.

Mayor Zenzen asked about the representative to the "homelessness task force". Mr. McCabe stated we would get information on the task for those interested.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR
REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe reminded the Council of the Comp Plan interviews and planning commission meetings scheduled next week.

ADJOURMENT: A motion was made to adjourn at 7:45pm by Mr. Hommerding seconded by Mr. Schmitz.

Approved this 6th day of February, 2024.

Michael G. Zenzen, Mayor

Attest:

William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator

Others in Attendance: Paul Shea, Jill Shea, Jane Kellner, Sue Athmann, Bernie Perryman, Keith Ulrick, Eric Schultz, Robert Connors, Stephanie Connors, Dave Voigt, Paul Kremer, Terri Kremer, Al Evavold, Steph Evavold, John Uphoff, Todd Voigt, Nathan Reiter, Dale Reiter, Troy Wetterling, Kristi Wetterling, Amy Brand, Ryan Haehn, Kristi Lommel, Dave Werschay, Jim Sartell, Rebecca Hoye, Cody Mathiowetz, Vicky Luedtke, Logan Gohmann, Kris Berg, Jenni Berg