

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
August 6, 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, Coleman, Hommerding, and Schmitz; Stearns County Deputy Shawn Widmer, Fire Chief Kramer, Assistant Chief Steinhofer, Attorney Couri, Engineer Morast and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Brent Ahmann, Jackie Steinhofer,

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. McCabe indicated he has added a payable to Daryl Stang in the amount of \$822.64 as reimbursement for National Night Out supplies.

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

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, July 2, 2024
City Council Agenda, August 6, 2024.
Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated August 6, 2024
and for ePayments #25067e – 25090e and Checks
#25775 – 25896.
City Council Minutes, July 23, 2024
Temporary Liquor Licenses St. Mary HOC (Nov. 22, Dec. 13-14, Feb.
1 and Mar. 29)
Gambling Permits – St. Mary HOC (Oct. 11, Nov. 22 and Feb. 1)

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Deputy Widmer presented the sheriff's report indicating 43.25 hours were spent on the contract during the month of July. He reviewed the call types and other points of interest.

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

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S
REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe presented the July building inspector's report indicating there were 21 permits issued during the month including two new house permits bringing the total to fifteen for the year.

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 June monthly report indicating there were 14 calls for the month (one fire and 13 medical) bringing the total to 84 on the

year as compared to 56 at this time in 2023. Monthly training was done in house on ropes, knots, ladders and defensive driving.

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

OPEN FORUM:

Jill Shea was in attendance and indicated there was an AirBNB in her neighborhood. Mr. McCabe stated there was a brief discussion some years ago and the Council at that time decided not to take any action. There was a discussion on how this can be handled moving forward and if this could potentially be addressed in the comp plan review. There was a consensus that we should address this sooner rather than later as short term rentals will probably not be going away. Mr. Couri suggested we look at the Stearns County ordinance and see what we like and dislike on their ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARING, MORATORIUM ON CANNABIS:

Mr. Couri explained the proposed Ordinance #2024-03. Mayor Zenzen declared the public hearing open and asked for comments on the proposed ordinance. One question was what was driving this discussion and being proactive was the answer.

A motion was made to adopt Ordinance #2024-03, Imposing an Interim Moratorium on Cannabis Businesses by Mr. Backes, seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion carried unanimously.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Morast gave a brief update on the 2024 Street project before he presented pay application #2 explaining we would be holding back 5% in contingency of the work already completed.

A motion was made to approve the pay application in the amount of \$325,201.51 by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Morast also reported we have had a number of complaints about the gravel shoulder on the 2024 Street project, mainly from residents in Terrace Hills. He specifically indicated there were concerns about shouldering and mailboxes. He explained that the gravel shoulder was necessary to maintain the 20 year life of the road. A lengthy discussion took place with Mr. Morast explaining that the contractor will be required to come back and fix the issues with shoulder compaction, washing and cleanup. Resident voiced their frustration that the gravel shoulders do not look like what was there prior to the project. Mr. Morast explained the necessity of the gravel shoulders to protect the integrity of the road and thus extend the life of the project. There were further discussion on the possibility of adding topsoil over the gravel once it is properly installed and compacted. Mr. Morast will solicit quotes to determine what additional cost may be incurred for the topsoil and grass seed. Mr. Morast is going to schedule time to meet with residents to look at individual properties and issues with the project.

Mr. Morast reported that the Otto Seal contractor has finally signed the contract and will be proceeding shortly.

**COUNCIL MEMBER
PURVIEW:**

Ms. Coleman asked when the deadline to file for office was and was told Tuesday, August 13 at 5:00pm.

Mr. Hommerding thanked those in attendance for coming.

Mr. Hommerding asked about the AED for Hidden Lake Park and was told it had been ordered.

Mr. Schmitz asked if we had decided to purchase a smart board for city hall and Mr. McCabe responded that he would include in the 2025 budget.

Mr. Backes indicated that he doesn't always respond to comments and concerns shared online, but he wants everyone to know that he sees and hears the comments.

Mayor Zenzen thanked those in attendance.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR
REPORT:**

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made to adjourn at 9:20 pm by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Schmitz.

Approved this 3rd day of September, 2024.

Michael G. Zenzen, Mayor

Attest:

William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator