

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA  
September 3, 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 Rob Theisen, Fire Chief Kramer, Fire Captain Voigt, Attorney Couri, Engineer Morast and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Doug Kilanowski, Russ Bohm, Glenn Evans, Brent Ahmann, Mary Broda, Mike Toulouse, Cary Pogatchnik, Matt Voigt, Chase LeBlanc, Ron Kotzer, Wayne Koeplin, Bonnie Koeplin, Steve Hahn, Sheri Stang, Jackie Steinhofer, Kim Hurrle, Jerry Hurrle, Janelle Ahlert, Nancy \_\_\_\_\_, Mike Lepinski, Scott Fitzgerald, Tracy R\_\_\_\_\_, Don S\_\_\_\_\_, Jen Matzke, Bret Matzke, Kate Kotek, Jerry Kotek

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. McCabe indicated he has added a payable to Independent Testing Technologies in the amount of \$8,480 for the bituminous testing on the 2024 Street Project.

**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, August 6, 2024  
City Council Agenda, September 3, 2024.  
Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated September 3, 2024 and for ePayments #25091e – 25113e and Checks #25897 – 25980.  
City Council Minutes, August 20, 2024  
Temporary Liquor Licenses St. Wendelin September 13, 2024

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** Deputy Theisen presented the sheriff's report indicating 44 hours were spent on the contract during the month of August. He reviewed the call types and other points of interest.

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

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT:**

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

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

**FIRE DEPT.  
REPORT:**

Chief Kramer presented the July monthly report indicating there were 9 calls for the month bringing the total to 93 on the year as compared to 71 at this time in 2023. Monthly training was done in house with extrication hands on class on two vehicles. Fire Inc. also provided an EMR refresher.

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

Chief Kramer indicated the hiring committee interviewed Dustin Jante as a firefighter.

**A motion was made to hire Dustin Jante by Mayor Zenzen, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.**

**OPEN FORUM:**

**PARADE REQUEST:** Doug Kilanowski was in attendance and he stated he was representing a group looking to host a parade in 2025 supporting all local businesses. He asked that the City support the parade through a rider on the insurance and wondered also if the City would act as the funding mechanism. Mr. McCabe indicated many cities throughout the state do this and the financial end would entail just adding a fund in our accounting system. Mr. Kilanowski was asked to come back to the October meeting so we can look at what the costs could entail.

**A motion was made to approve the City as the lead entity for the 2025 parade with the insurance rider by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ENGINEER'S  
REPORT:**

Mr. Morast presented an estimate and options on the 2024 Street Project shoulder repairs as a follow up to the discussion at the last meeting. He went over the options that were discussed with the contractor. The contractor's estimates were significantly higher than engineer's estimate. Mr. Schmitz wondered why this wasn't caught prior to construction. Mr. Morast was instructed to solicit a new quote from another contractor. Mr. Backes asked about warranty and was told it is usually one year. Residents of the neighborhood continue to discuss the appearance of the gravel and the washouts that are occurring.

Mr. Morast presented a memo detailing the 2024 updated costs to the Preliminary Engineering Report for water and sewer improvements to Gaberdine Road indicating a 40.1% increase over the estimate that was done in 2021. Mr. McCabe jumped in and stated these estimated costs would not support an assessment project and suggested we look at what it will take to make street improvements alone, possibly for our budgeted 2026 street improvements.

Mr. Morast said the Otto Seal contractor is finalizing the contracts.

**RESOLUTION #2024-19,  
APPROVING THE PRELIMINARY  
LEVY:**

Mr. McCabe stated the levy was based on the preliminary levy that reflected a projected 2.6% adjustment to the salary scale based on the social security COLA. He further explained that the City will lose about 28% of our Local Government Aid and that figure was capped at the most we could lose in a year. The explanation for losing the LGA is all in the need factor of the formula as our low tax rate works against us on the state aid funding. He stated the projected levy increase was approximately 10%, but our increase in total tax capacity was also up approximately 10% holding our tax rate steady and meaning we will see further reductions in our LGA next year.

**A motion was made to approve Resolution #2024-19 by Ms. Coleman, motion failed to get a second and was withdrawn.**

**A motion was made to approve Resolution #2024-19 with a 15% levy increase by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER  
PURVIEW:**

Mr. Schmitz indicated he had a couple suggestions from residents on the dog park. One was wondering if we could put in a sandpoint so the dogs have water and one the other request was for additional shade structure at the dog park.

Mayor Zenzen asked about 238<sup>th</sup> and potentially doing some patch work. Mr. Morast said there is an alternate that is called a rejuvenator, which could possibly buy us 10 years before we have to do a complete reconstruct.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR  
REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe asked about budget workshop and suggested we meet at 5:30 on October 15.

**ADJOURMENT: A motion was made to adjourn at 8:30 pm by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Schmitz.**

Approved this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2024.

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Michael G. Zenzen, Mayor

Attest:

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William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator