

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA  
October 1, 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, and Schmitz; Stearns County Deputy Shawn Widmar, Fire Chief Kramer, Fire Captain Voigt, Attorney Couri, Engineer Morast and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Darrin Massmann, Peter Eltgroth, Kelly Eltgroth, Gary Meyer, Amy Brand, Fritz Voigt, Mason Voigt, Deb Clauson,

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. McCabe indicated he has added his and Jeff Schmitz's attendance to the CGMC Fall Conference to the consent agenda as item 3E.

**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, September 3, 2024
- City Council Agenda, October 1, 2024.
- Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated October 1, 2024  
and for ePayments #25120e – 25132e and Checks  
#26015 – 26068.
- City Council Minutes, September 17, 2024
- B. McCabe and J. Schmitz attendance at CGMC Fall Conference.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** Lt. Widmar presented the sheriff's report indicating 41 hours were spent on the contract during the month of September. He reviewed the call types and other points of interest. He also presented the new contract.

**A motion was made to approve the 2025 contract by Mayor Zenzen, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.**

**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 September building inspector's report indicating there were 23 permits issued during the month including three new house permits bringing the total to twenty 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 August monthly report indicating there were 12 calls for the month bringing the total to 105 on the year as compared to 82 at this time in 2023. Monthly training was done in house with prep work on Nation Night Out and a familiarization driving course.

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

Chief Kramer presented a quote for new boots indicating the existing boots are all expired per fire standards.

**A motion was made to purchasing the boots from Fire Safety USA in an amount of \$14, 325.00 by Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.**

**OPEN FORUM:**

Peter Eltgroth was in attendance and said he was a little concerned that his concerns at planning commission last evening were not addressed. He asked about the variance standards and was told the state changed that standard to a practically difficult standard.

Deb Clausen was in attendance to address parking requirements in subdivisions. She explained that it makes the entire neighborhood look trashy. There was additional discussion about amending the ordinance to make it easier to enforce.

**PUBLIC HEARING VACATE  
DRAINAGE AND UTILITY  
EASEMENT IN  
KIFFMEYER  
ADDITION:**

Mr. McCabe indicated this notice was published and sent to Pleasureland and is necessary for them to record the plat that was approved last year. It vacates the remaining interior drainage and utility easements that were missed with the vacation that was done last November.

**A motion was made to approve Resolution #2024-20 by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding on the condition the vacation resolution be filed immediately before the final Pleasureland Plat. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ENGINEER'S  
REPORT:**

Mr. Morast gave a brief update on the Otta Seal project on Beaver Lake Road and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He went over complaints that were received from the residents and explained what has been done to correct those mistakes. He also indicated the contractor has indicated they will have some extra emulsion at the end of the season and wondered if we would like to have it as a fog seal. Consensus was we would like to have that quote for our next meeting which will be on October 21.

Mr. Morast indicated he was waiting for the contractor on Terrace Hills to come out and remove the swing away mailbox posts.

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

**ORDINANCE #2024-03,  
AMENDING COUNCIL  
SALARIES:**

Mr. McCabe indicated the Council can only amend their salaries with a vote that is done prior to the next municipal election effective once the New Year and new council begin. He indicated the raise is equal to the last two years cost of living adjustment.

**A motion was made to approve Ordinance #2024-03 by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.**

**PLANNING COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION**

**ANNIS VARIANCE:** Mr. McCabe indicated the planning commission held the public hearing and unanimously recommended approval of the variance.

**A motion was made to approve Resolution #2024-21, granting a variance to Eileen Annis to allow a split of property onto a private road by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.**

**PLANNING COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION  
NOVA PROPERTIES**

**SITE PLAN:** Mr. McCabe indicated the planning commission reviewed the site plan and indicated Mr. Morasts concerns were addressed in the most recent plan set. He stated the approval should be contingent on any future variance (which is anticipated) would need to be approved or the site would need to be paved fully prior to a certificate of occupancy being issued. Mr. Hommerding wondered about the gate and was explained where the actual property line and gate were located.

**A motion was made to recommend site plan approval with the contingency identified by Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER  
PURVIEW:**

Mr. Schmitz indicated he had a request for speed limit signs on 230<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Schmitz asked about the shelter and sand point as discussed last month.

**A motion was made to approve the quote for the shelter at the Dog Park in the amount of \$13,016 by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Zenzen talked about fog seal and indicated he didn't see the Beaver Lake Road sign.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

**REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe asked about rescheduling the budget workshop from October 15 to after the planning commission public hearing on October 21. He also thought we could hold a special meeting on that day immediately following the planning commission public hearing to act on the planning commission recommendation and pay the bills we have in at that time, because if we don't, we will be going six weeks from tonight's meeting before we have another meeting scheduled due to the election.

Mr. Couri reported on the Winkleman property indicating the Court wants to know the status of the case. He indicated he visited the site earlier in the day and sees progress being slowly made. Mr. Couri suggested we allow the Court to close the case with the stipulation that if the progress stalls we reserve the right to reopen. Mayor Zenzen stated he isn't sure he wants the case closed, Mr. Couri indicated we either enforce now or close and allow it to keep moving along. Consensus was to allow to keep going and reserve the right to reopen if the progress stops.

**ADJOURMENT: A motion was made to adjourn at 8:25 pm by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Schmitz.**

Approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024.

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Michael G. Zenzen, Mayor

Attest:

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William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator