

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
December 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, Hommerding, Coleman and Schmitz; Fire Chief Kramer, Attorney Couri, Engineer Hajicek, Engineer Bunders, Water/Sewer Operator Blashack and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Brent Genereux, Amy Brand, Mark Skaalerud, Paul Shea, Jill Shea

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. McCabe indicated he would add his attendance at the 2025 Winter EDAM conference as item 2E. He also asked for approval on a rebate for an overpaid utility bill in the amount of \$203.04.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as amended by Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion carried 4-0.

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, November 12, 2024

City Council Agenda, December 12, 2024.

Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated December 3, 2024 and for ePayments #25158e – 25177e and Checks #26153 – 26234.

Tri-County Humane Society Contract.

Mr. McCabe's attendance at the 2025 Winter EDAM Conference.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Mr. McCabe reported that Lt. Widmer had contacted him and explained that because they have switched software, they wouldn't have a report ready for the meeting. He indicated they would double up the report next month.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S
REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe presented the November building inspector's report indicating there were 15 permits issued during the month including one new single family home bringing the total new single family home for the year to 21.

A motion was made to approve the building inspector's report as presented by Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion carried 4-0.

**FIRE DEPT.
REPORT:**

Chief Kramer presented the October monthly report indicating there were 12 calls for the month bringing the total to 127 on the year as compared to 107 at this time in 2023. Monthly training was a hands on LP tank fire class presented by Fire Inc.

A motion was made to approve the report by Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried 4-0.

OPEN FORUM: Ms. Brand thanked the Mayor and Mr. Coleman for their service.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Hajicek was in attendance to introduce Chris Bunders who would be replacing John Morast as our City Engineer. Mr. Bunders took a few minutes to cover his experience and background in engineering. He stated he looked forward to working with us.

Mr. Bunders gave a brief update on the Otta Seal project. He explained they will be working with the contractor on warranty issues.

Mr. Bunders also gave a brief update on the 2024 Street project and issues that are still open. Mr. Hajicek indicated they are working through pay requests.

A motion was made to approve the engineer's report

TRUTH-IN-TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING:

Mr. McCabe opened explaining the proposed 2025 final budget has a projected 13.54% increase in revenues and a 9.07% increase in expenditures. Both the revenue and expenditure increases are mostly due to the water and sewer funds and an update to historical revenues and expenditures versus budgeted numbers. The general fund revenues were projected to be up 13.58% compared to expenditures up 8.66%. He indicated the proposed levy was up 15% resulting in a 1.045% increase in the tax rate. Taxable values across the city have increased 10% from payable 2024 to payable 2025.

Mayor Zenzen declared the public hearing open and asked for comments.

Mayor Zenzen declared the public hearing closed.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #2024-26, adopting the final levy by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made to approve the final budget as amended by Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried 4-0.

WASTEWATER PUMP QUOTES:

Mr. Blashack was in attendance to present quotes to either repair or replace the pumps in the Kiffmeyer Park lift station. He stated the annual inspection shows at least one of the pumps in beginning to fail and talked about how they determined it was failing. He recommended we go with the quote to replace as it is close to the cost of replacement. He indicated the existing pumps have probably used up their useful life and answered a question on what the actual blow by entailed. Mr. Couri suggested that we

need a second quote, regardless if we go with repair or replacement. Mr. Blashack answered additional questions about the additional adder.

****** Mr. Backes entered the meeting at 7:35pm. ******

A motion was made to approve the replacement of the pumps at an amount not to exceed \$63,491. 52 and to authorize the use of ARPPA funds on the expenditure by Mayor Zenzen, seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL MEMBER
PURVIEW:**

Mr. Scihmitz thanked Mayor Zenzen and Ms. Coleman for their service.

Ms. Coleman echoed Mr. Schmitz's comment and congratulated the incoming council membes.

Mr. Backes and Mayor Zenzen also echoed the previous comments.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR
REPORT:**

Mr. Couri asked to have a brief discussion on what the Council wanted in the cannabis ordinance. He explained that the statute was going to be one of those that is not easy to enforce. There was discussion on what we would need to include in the draft ordinance as well as on our intention to enforce or to delegate our authority to the County. There was a general consensus on what we would like to see in the ordinance and Mr. Couri indicated he would have a draft soon for a public hearing at the next Council meeting.

ADJOURMENT: A motion was made to adjourn at 8:40 pm by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Schmitz.

Approved this 7th Day of January, 2025.

Jeff Schmitz, Mayor

Attest:

William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator