City of Vernon Center Council Meeting Minutes 2-3-22

Council Present: Mayor Dana Ziegler, Emily Edwards, Lisa Peterson, Eric Pederson, Wendy Bennett Staff Present: Clerk Diane Roelofs

Others: Jennifer Brookens, MR Messenger; Deputy Elijah Blakesley; Engineer Chris Knutson

Mayor Ziegler called the meeting to order at 7pm.

**Agenda:** Burkhardt & Burkhardt engagement letters was added to additional bills and Budget question was dropped off. Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Bennett, all approved, motion carried.

Public Comment: none

**Public Safety:** Deputy Blakesley presented January patrol hours resulting in 55.33 total hours working out to be 12.49 per week. Council instructed Deputy Blakesley, for future attendance, to only attend quarterly when it works out and/or when council asks him to be at a meeting.

## Infrastructure:

**Manhole on 3**<sup>rd</sup> **St**.: It was reported that Robert Schmiesing built the vault/manhole that contains the water meters for water lines to their properties. SEH has proposed to replace it during the project. After discussion, council asked that replacing the vault be left out of the project to be updated in the future by the city.

**Temporary Road:** SEH recommends to utilize the city-owned property for a staging area for construction companies that are awarded the bids for the project. A stipulation of building a temporary road to get to GMS and restoring back to the way it was would be included with contract requirements. Staging area would be for pipes and worker's vehicles. It was also pointed out that Schmiesing's would be concerned about liabilities. After discussion, it was decided to get an easement from the Robert Schmiesing family to build a temporary road from the Schmiesing bin site into GMS Industrial. The easement would also include a road to use to the wastewater plant during construction.

Res 2022-07 Municipal Consent to BEC for CSAH10 & CSAH72: After review, Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-07 municipal consent to BEC for CSAH10 and CSAH72, making sure to add the number 72 to include CSAH72 in the resolution. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Pederson, all approved, motion carried.

Mayor Ziegler asked where the project is for bidding and Eng. Knutson replied that MNDOT State aid review with comments deadline is Feb. 10. It is projected to put out bids by the end of February and open bidding in March. After the bid deadline, the city will have 60 days to award the bids. SEH should put together an alternate submission while ranking the projects so that if the project bids come in over the estimates, the city can take out what funding will not cover. A committee meeting will be set up for Friday, Feb. 11, 2022 at 3pm or 3:30pm.

USDA-RD Response to additional loans/grants: this information was not provided for the meeting.

## **Public Works: Supervisor Report:**

106 Kendall St.: With the documentation that Council received, at this time the sewer is not compliant because no one can prove it is not letting in ground water into the sewer system. The seller and buyer will need to work out who will be responsible.

Properties selling without notice to the city: letters should be sent to the current property owners letting them know of the 12-month time frame to correct any non-compliant sewer laterals.

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**Easement for 201 S Centre St.**; clerk will contact the family and PW Supervisor Willette or Mayor Ziegler to let them know the circumstances of the work to be done.

MPCA Plan to Mitigate I & I Update was reviewed by council and will be submitted to MPCA. MPCA new permit was provided to council.

**Consent Agenda**: Consent agenda included 1-4-22 council meeting minutes, checks for the month with \$23098.16 in deposits and \$140002.56 in checks, January cash balance investment report, 410 Fund excel report, December bank recons, calendar of events, notice of LMCIT Water Tower claim payment, MN DNR Water Permit invoice & report. Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

Additional Bills & Info: Councilor Edwards made a motion to approve the additional bills for January and upcoming in February. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Peterson, all approved, motion carried. Council approved the clerk to go to the MCFOA Conference. Council reviewed and discussed the Burkhardt & Burkhardt engagement letter and were concerned of the big increases. After further discussion, Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the Burkhardt & Burkhardt engagement letter. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

**Citizen Concern:** After review of the citizen concern about dogs not on leashes, the clerk was instructed to send a letter out to 203 S Centre St. informing them of the city ordinance about animal control.

**Fireworks:** 2 bids were presented, but a location was the big concern for the fireworks for this upcoming year. The \$5340 bid was the choice of council verses the \$9500. Councilor Bennett made a motion to approve the J&M Displays quote for \$5340 provided a location is secured for the shoot. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Pederson, all approved, motion carried. Mayor Ziegler will reach out to Crystal Valley Coop to see if they will allow shooting of the fireworks on their property as it has been done in the past. Other options discussed were south of the wastewater ponds, possibly the road out to the Lutheran Cemetery or the dumpsite 1 ½ west of the city.

**Fire Department**: Councilor Pederson reported that there were 3 medicals. Cordell Coult was appointed to be a training officer. <u>Councilor Peterson made a motion to accept Cordell Coult as a training officer.</u> 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Bennett, all approved, motion carried.

**Miscellaneous:** It was noted that there is no liability insurance on the dumpsite. The VC township put up the fence and therefore the liability coverage the city has on the dumpsite is sufficient.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 3, 2022

Respectfully Submitted by:

Diane Roelofs, Clerk-Treasurer

Dana Ziegler Mayor

Date Approved