

Echo City Council
Tuesday, April 9th, 2024

The regular city council meeting of the City of Echo Minnesota was called to order by Mayor James Busack at 7:00 pm at the Community Center.

Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

Present: Mayor James Busack, Councilman Mark Schettler, Councilman Darren Gjerset, Councilman Dan Larsen, Councilman Reid Hanson, Clerk Brian Pitzl, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen, Fire Chief Matt Dunphy, First Responders Chief Chasity Kuehn.

Citizens/Guests: Jaden Thedans, Wayne Petit, Kevin Remmele

Open Forum:

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, March 11th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Larsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-005, Accepting Donations was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy: Requested that Fire Fighter Russ Hennen be put on temporary medical leave due to a recent injury. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve the temporary leave until an approval note from a doctor to return is received. Motion carried unanimously.

First Responders – Chief Chastity Kuehn: Informed the council that she had not yet ordered a stair chair that was discussed at the March Meeting due to not finding one under the price allowed by the council. Chastity had found a chair that was not powered but had tracks, not metal slides, for \$4,895.00. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset and seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve buying a stair chair, if one suiting the responders' needs is found, with a max cost of \$4,000. Motion carried unanimously. The blood pressure machine that was recently ordered for the first responders has attachments that can be added. Chastity ordered some of the attachments with a cost of around \$350 more.

Maintenance Supervisor – Bryan was approached by an individual regarding community service hours needed. Council gave approval to allow the hours with stipulation of no driving of city vehicles. Inquired about summer help. Must be at least 16 but would prefer someone 18 or older. Motion made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to hire summer maintenance help for an average of 20 hours per week with pay of up to \$18 per hour based on

experience. Motion carried unanimously. Asked for approval for a gambling permit for the Lions Club for Echo Days. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve the permit. Motion carried unanimously. Councilman Gjerset inquired about the blue transfer pump and also, the PTO generator, Bryan will be taking the pump to the ponds to do a discharge to get some pump time on it. He will also check on the generator and the hook-up on the south side of the community center. Brought up the issue of a car that is parked on the street the wrong direction, is about 3 feet from the curb, and has expired tabs. The clerk will send a letter to the owner to remove the vehicle.

Mayor Busack –

Councilman Schettler – Spoke with the owner of a truck that has been notified several times to remove the truck due to ordinance violations. Was informed that the current truck sitting there is the owner's summer truck, and that when he gets this truck, there will be another truck parked there. The owner was asked if he mowed the property and he said he did, but the maintenance supervisor said that he only does it maybe once a year and the city is currently mowing the lawn. City maintenance was instructed not to mow the property any longer.

Councilman Gjerset – Discussed the condition of the old gas station building located on 2nd Ave. Several notices have been sent to the owner to remove the building with no action taken by the owner. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to give the owner until July 1st to have the building removed or the city will take appropriate measures to remove the building. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Hanson -

Councilman Larsen-

Clerk Pitzl – Appeals and Equalization meeting is April 10th, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the Echo Community Center. The city needs representatives who have completed training to be present. The council members who have completed the training will be able to attend the meeting. The city auditor will be at the May city council meeting to go over the city's 2023 audit.

Old Business: A quote for \$20,178.98 was received from Floor to Ceiling in Marshall for a cost to replace the counter tops in the Community Center kitchen and bathrooms. Council decided to table this plan for now or maybe do the replacement in phases and also get some other quotes. The township fire contracts were sent to townships for approval. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Larsen to approve of the 5-year extension for fire services to Echo and Sioux Agency Townships. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business: The council was made aware of a meeting regarding a conditional use permit for Meadowland Coop to build a fertilizer plant just west of town. No council members expressed interest in attending. Councilman Gjerset inquired about when the last time the community center floor was waxed. The company out of Sacred Heart that did it last time, will check with them about it.

Consent Agenda:

Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve the consent agenda consisting of Bills, Payroll, and Bank Information. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Gjerset, and second by Councilman Hanson to adjourn regular meeting at 8:03 pm, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor James Busack

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl