

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council
Monday, August 8th, 2022**

The regular city council meeting of the City of Echo Minnesota was called to order by Acting Mayor Jody Chmelar at 6:00 pm at the Community Center.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Acting Mayor Chmelar

Present: Councilman Mark Schettler, Councilman Jody Chmelar, Councilman Reid Hanson, Clerk Brian Pitzl, EMS Chief Chastity Kuehn, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen, Mayor Ray Sweetman arrived at 7:05pm

Citizens/Guests: Lynn Kuehn, Gail, Pederson

Lynn Kuehn was following up with the progress of fixing the street in front of her son's house. The city was still waiting for a person to come look at the problem and give a quote.

Gail Pederson was present to issues he had with the council not enforcing ordinances concerning properties in the city with tall grass, weeds, old tires, etc. Was informed that letters had been sent out, but the issues were still not resolved. Also issues with the water billing.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, July 12th, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Motion carried unanimously. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Hanson to approve Resolution 2022-102 Accepting Donations. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve consent agenda including Bills for Payment, Payroll, and Bank Information made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy: N/A

First Responders - Chas Kuehn, informed the council that there will be 2 EMS members attending the conference in September. Will get information to clerk to register and book hotel. The Echo First Responders will be holding an ice cream fundraiser at Echo Days.

Maintenance Supervisor – Bryan Nielsen: Received a quote of \$300.00 to replace concrete driveway in alley near funeral home. Council thought that it is a bit high. Councilman Hanson

will contact the contractor to discuss the options. Tree and shrub line near park have been concluded for now with the grass to be planted this fall. Spent about 4 hours doing property cleanup at a residence in town. Cost for property cleanup is \$100 per hour to be billed to the property owner. Brian's Tree Service will be coming to look at trees and brush that need to be removed from said property. Wyatt Bendix will be on call to handle any issues while Bryan is on vacation. Informed council that the street sweeper has a hydraulic hose leak and there is oil in the antifreeze. Was asked to get quotes for the sweeping of the streets from contractors. Council recommended the use of the city tractor with the brush sweeper on the front to go around and sweep the streets to help clean up before Echo Days. Will get quotes to have an outside company come in to sweep streets. There have been some air conditioner issues at the community center. An electrical board was replaced, and a new unit was installed. The old unit was under warranty yet. Painting of curbs and buildings have been completed. Was asked about the storm drain on east street. Said that it is just a slow running drain, as it has been jetted and cleaned.

Mayor Sweetman –

Councilman Chmelar – Heard concerns from residents about the blocking of the road by the train cars. The elevator has permission from the county to block the road when necessary.

Councilman Schettler – Inquired about the water bills. Readings were off again. Clerk will continue to see what the issue is and work with the software providers to correct the problems. Clerk will also send out letters to residents to inform them of adjustments to their water/sewer bills to better reflect the actual usage.

Councilman Hanson –

Clerk - Brian Pitzl: Informed the council that the Primary Election is scheduled for August 9th at the Community Center. Filing continues until August 16th for city council positions and mayor. The open council position will remain open until the special election in November. Told the council that LGA amount for 2022 is \$79,738.00 and for 2023 is \$80,395.00

Old Business:

A certified letter had been sent to a property owner regarding the condition of their property. The letter was returned to the city. After speaking to the city attorney, the next step is to present a resolution stating that the city will continue to clean up the property and will assess the costs to the property owner's property taxes.

New Business:

Aged balance report for past due water bills was discussed. Clerk was instructed to send out letters of disconnection to customers with water bills over 90 days past due.

Proposed 2023 Budget: Special meeting was set for Tuesday, August 16th at 7:00 pm to discuss the proposed 2023 budget.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Schettler and second by Councilman Hanson to adjourn meeting, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Mayor Raymond Sweetman

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl