

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council  
Tuesday, August 8th, 2023**

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 said.

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

**Citizens/Guests:** Ray & Shannon Sweetman: Sweetman Sanitation, Tayler Williamson, Don Williamson: West Central Sanitation, Helen Blue Redner, Jaden Thedans, Tammy & David Gilley, Wayne Pettit, Brent Guimond,

**Open Forum:** Helen Blue Redner was present representing E.C.H.O. Charter school. She stated that the school will be starting its 27<sup>th</sup> year as a charter school. She indicated that she supports an ordinance restricting the sale of cannabis. Informed the council that the staff at the school is continuing to do training regarding safety of staff and students. Back to school night is August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Students preparing for college are seeking volunteer service hours and are willing to help the city in any way. The mayor informed those in attendance who were affected by the outcome that the council would not be making a decision on the Garbage RFP at this time. Wayne Pettit addressed the council regarding vehicles on his property. Was informed that no one on the council contacted his landlord involving the issue. Jaden Thedans informed the council that progress will be made on removing vehicles from his yard. Brent Guimond addressed the council about putting a driveway approach from the street to his property where eventually he would maybe put up a garage. He would need to remove the curb and make the approach. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve the request with the owner doing proper investigation of the specifics of building the garage in the future. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:**

Motion to approve, July 11th, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve July 25<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes was made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Interim Ordinance No. 2023-900 Prohibiting Cannabis Sale was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-515 Use of Cannabis in Public was made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Reports:**

Matt Dunphy, Fire Department – Looking at burning a donated house down in November for training purposes. No final numbers yet on the pork chop feed.

Chastity Kuehn, First Responders – Not present but sent word of Dual First Responder training with Wood Lake. Brought up the issue of a person using the bathroom at the firehall that is not a firefighter. Council discussed the issue with no action taken.

Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Nielsen– Will be at training on August 31. Was approached by a resident regarding a property owned by the city. This resident is interested in purchasing the property. Was told to instruct the person interested in the property to make a proposal at the next city council meeting. Updated the council on the sale of city equipment. Equipment has been sold and all picked up except the plow. Some members of the council still feel the need for a plow truck to have a backup. Bryan needs more details on what to look for in a plow. Discussion was made for both sides on the issue. Motion made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Larsen to allow Bryan to order the plow blade for the payloader. Motion carried unanimously. Bryan will be taking time off in the next week or so to move. Summer help is done for the year.

Mayor Busack – Looking to have someone who can save or house rescue animals.

Councilman Schettler – Asked about trapping racoons near the school. There are other animals in town as well. Worried about busted storm drains in town. Would like to see some repairs done. Bryan will take some pictures of the issues and bring them to the next council meeting. Would like to see the fire hydrants flushed. Was informed that they are flushed twice a year.

Councilman Gjerset – Inquired about what letters were sent out to certain residents concerning violations on city ordinances. Clerk will send the appropriate letters.

Councilman Hanson –

Councilman Larsen – Inquired about the dead trees located near the railroad tracks west of the coop and east of Hwy 67. Feels that they have emerald ash borer and will take over the other trees in the park area. The property is owned by the railroad. A letter will be sent to the railroad requesting that they take the trees down.

Clerk Pitzl – Informed the council that the city received their 1<sup>st</sup> half LGA from the state in the amount of \$40,197.50. Clerk will be out of the office on August 9<sup>th</sup>, at a meeting the morning of August 15 and at training on August 17<sup>th</sup>. The microwave in the community center kitchen is not working. The refrigerator has still been acting up as well. Motion was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler to buy a new microwave and a refrigerator from Granite Hardware. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Old Business**

Aged balance report for past due water bills was discussed. The clerk was instructed to send out letters of disconnection to customers with water bills over 90 days past due with shut off with not paid in full. The council would like to change the payment policy to 30 days with shut off if not paid in 10 days. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler to change the payment policy to 30 days due with 10 day shut off with disconnect and reconnect fees applied.

**New Business:**

The council discussed a couple of complaints received from a citizen. Letters will be sent to residents regarding ordinance violations. Other issues with neighbors will need to be resolved by the parties involved.

A work session was scheduled for August 22 at 7:00 pm at the Echo Community Center to work on the 2024 budget. Motion to approve a work session for the city budget was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Larsen. Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

**Adjournment:** Motion was made by Councilman Schettler, and second by Councilman Hanson to adjourn regular meeting at 8:30, motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor James Busack

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City Clerk- Brian Pitzl