

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council
Tuesday, December 13th, 2022**

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Sweetman

Present: Mayor Ray Sweetman, Councilman Mark Schettler, Councilman Jody Chmelar, Clerk Brian Pitzl, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen, Fire Chief Matt Dunphy, First Responders Chief Chas Kuehn. **Absent:** Councilman Reid Hanson

Citizens/Guests:

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, November 9th, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Chmelar. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent. Motion to approve November 14th special meeting minutes was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Chmelar. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Consent Agenda:

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

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy: Updated the council on the status of the gras rig. Needs new pump. Quote from Heiman was around \$2000. Will still check out other options. Was informed that the Wood Lake Fire Department purchased a new Jaws of Life and are interested in selling the old unit to Echo. Quoted the price of \$3000 which includes the cutter, spreader, and other accessories. The unit is approximately 1 year old. Motion made by Mayor Sweetman and seconded by Councilman Chmelar to approve of the purchase pending the price is what was stated of \$3000. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler abstaining and Councilman Hanson absent. There will be officer training February 3-5 and March 17—19. There will also be training in Moorhead for the use of the Jaws of Life if purchased.

First Responders - Chas Kuehn: Informed the council on completion of a grant application. Will look into what it would be used for. Echo First Responders returned supplies used from the Cottonwood ambulance. First Responder rig is scheduled for an oil change and will get new

tires if needed. Brake lights were recently fixed as well. Inquired about being paid for the attending council meetings. Motion by Councilman Schettler and seconded by Councilman Chmelar to approve paying of First Responders Chief for attending council meetings. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Maintenance Supervisor – Bryan Nielsen: Started application for Wastewater Permit. Last time permit was renewed was 2011. The city has been allowed to use the old permit until the state updated policies. The current cost of the permit application is \$1240.00 and will now require renewal every three years. There will be Lead Copper rule revision coming in the near future. Bryan will update the council when he gets more information. Inquired who is responsible for the replacement of a water meter in a residence if it breaks. Resident is responsible as the heat was shut off and the resident did not inform the city. Will be off on December 22 and 27th. Has backups lined up in case of emergency.

Mayor Sweetman –

Councilman Chmelar -

Councilman Schettler –.

Councilman Hanson –

Clerk Pitzl – Informed the council the city will receive the amount of \$69,651.30 for the second half of property taxes. Tipping fees at the Lyon County Landfill are being raised, but not sure if this will affect the garbage rates for the City of Echo. Lincoln/Pipestone Rural Water is raising their rates effective July 1, 2023 in the amount of \$.21 per 1000 gallons. Council made no decisions on water rates at this time.

Old Business:

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. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Chmelar to accept Resolution Designating Polling Place as Echo Community Center, 342 2nd Ave W. Echo, MN 56237. Motion carried with Councilman Hanon absent. Mayor signed 2023 Yellow Medicine County Attorney Prosecution Services contract. Motion to set the 2023 Budget for the City of Echo at \$165,000 was made by Mayor Sweetman, Seconded by Councilman Chmelar. Mayor Sweetman and Councilman Chmelar voted yes, Councilman Schettler no, Councilman Hanson absent. Motion carried. Oberloh & Associates 29022 Audit Engagement Letter was presented to the council.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Schettler and second by Councilman Chmelar to adjourn regular meeting at 6:55 and go into closed session for employee year end

evaluations, motion passed unanimously with Councilman Hanson absent. Motion to adjourned closed session made by Councilman Chmelar, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Mayor Jim Busack

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl