

Echo City Council
Tuesday, December 10th, 2024

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Citizens/Guests: Paula Busack, Wyatt Bendix

Open Forum: Matt Dunphy brought up the issue of clearing sidewalks after snow, particularly by the school. The city finds it difficult to enforce the ordinance for residents to clear their sidewalks.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, November 12th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Motion to approve the resolution 2024-015 Designating Polling Place, was made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Motion to Certify Final Tax Levy for 2025 at \$170,000 was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Motion to sign Agreement for Prosecution services for 2025 with Yellow Medicine County was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-011 Accepting Donations was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Larsen. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy – The Fire Department recently did a house burn for training purposes. Several area towns also participated, and it was a good training exercise. The owners of the house donated \$1000 to the fire department for their services. The department will hold a retirement appreciation supper on January 11th for 2 recently retired firefighters along with past firefighters from the department, city council members, first responders and township officers.

First Responders – Chief Chastity Kuehn: Chastity was unable to attend the meeting but sent an email to the clerk with some information. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Schettler to accept the newly implemented by-laws for the First Responders. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent. Taneka Olsen will be starting her First Responder classes in January and there will be no cost for the classes as the Granite Falls Ambulance received a grant for this class. Would like to order 3 more safety jackets for the new members of the group. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to hold off on ordering jackets until the new members have completed training classes. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent. Chas is still working with a supplier regarding receiving the wrong blood pressure machine attachments and hopes to have it resolved by the end of the year.

Maintenance Supervisor – Bryan Nielsen – Bryan has been doing basic service to the payload. He will look into PMI service from the dealer to ensure the warranty is valid.

Mayor Busack – A recent dog attack on a resident's cat in the city was reported to the council. The dogs are considered dangerous dogs by the county and the owner will need to follow certain directives to continue to own them.

Councilman Schettler –

Councilman Gjerset – Will discuss the Community Center bathrooms at next meeting.

Councilman Hanson –

Councilman Larsen-

Clerk Pitzl - Reminded the council about the upcoming training for Board of Appeal and Equalization. The city is required to have at least one voting member finish the training within four years. There are currently 2 members of the council who have completed the training. Brian will be on vacation the week of December 23-27. The city office will be closed for that week. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve of the time off. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson Absent.

Old Business:

New Business: A building permit was requested by Helen Blue Redner for a fence on her property. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve the permit. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Consent Agenda: Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Larsen to approve the consent agenda consisting of Bills, Payroll, and Bank Information. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Motion to close the meeting for employee yearly evaluations was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Larsen. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Motion was made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to adjourn the closed meeting and reopen the regular council meeting. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

After the employee evaluations, a motion was made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve of a \$3 pay increase in pay for the maintenance supervisor and a motion was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve a \$6 pay increase for the city clerk. Motions carried unanimously with Councilman Hanson absent. The council stressed the importance of keeping employees to help with the stability of the city positions.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Gjerset, and second by Councilman Schettler to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:05 pm, motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Mayor Nichole Kepler

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl