

Echo City Council
Tuesday, February 13th, 2024

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

Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

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

Citizens/Guests: Ray Sweetman

Open Forum: Chasity Kuehn asked about information regarding putting up a fence on her property in town. Whether she needed a permit or not. Was told to get approval from neighbors as to how it will look to them, then come back for a building permit.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, January 16th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Larsen. Motion with Councilman Hanson absent.

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-004 Approving Election Judges for Primary Presidential Election was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Larsen. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy: The department will be doing training in a house on Saturday, 17th. The department was instructed to use slush fund money for any food or beverage purchase for fire fighters for the training. Looking to having other departments attend as well. Chief Dunphy will be taking the pumper to Sioux Falls on February 26th for service and pump test. Requested that the city contribute to the trip for time spent in town while the pumper is getting checked out. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve \$100 to cover expenses while in town. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent. The department would like to purchase some items needed. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve purchase of extra gas can, sledgehammer, fire hydrant wrenches and a tow rope to not exceed the amount of \$450. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent. CPR refresher courses and blood borne passages will be next month. Fire contracts with surrounding townships are up for renewal. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Larsen approve a 5 (five) year contract with a 2% increase per year with approval from the Echo and Sioux Agency townships with adjustments as needed for amount of coverage area. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent. Chief Dunphy will discuss the contracts with the townships. Purchased 6

batteries for the handheld radios. May need to replace some SCBA tanks in the near future. Looking at possible grants for this purchase.

First Responders - Chas Kuehn: Inquired about the use of public safety aid to purchase a new BP machine for the first responder rig. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve the purchase. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent. There are EMS classes starting in March for anyone interested in joining the first Responders. Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-10 pm. Asked if the council would want to screen potential individuals who would like to join First Responders? The council suggested that the First Responders chief would be better at who and who would not be a good fit. The First Responders have never been able to find any type of By-laws to follow. The council suggested looking at other towns for their bylaws and amend them accordingly.

Maintenance Supervisor – Bryan Nielsen: Bryan will be at a Training Conference in St. Cloud March 4th –7th. Received a quote to do the digging for replacement of a fire hydrant and install an isolation valve for \$1,640.70. Motion by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve the project cost. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Mayor Busack –

Councilman Schettler – Was updated on the process of removing an abandoned semi on a property in town. The semi in question is currently up to date on licensing so there isn't cause for removal. The license is set to expire at the end of February so the city will see if it is updated or not and make any decisions then.

Councilman Gjerset – Would like the city to look at replacing the counter tops in the kitchen and bathrooms of the community center and make some changes to the set-up of some sinks and appliances. Will get estimates. Received a quote for \$8,618.56 from Meadowland Coop to install cement in front of the community center between the sidewalk and road (approximately 180 feet). The cost does not include the removal of the amount of dirt needed to pour the cement. Maintenance supervisor said that the payload bucket is too wide to remove the dirt. Motion to approve the cement project to include the prep work needed at any additional cost was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Larson. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Councilman Hanson -

Councilman Larsen-

Clerk Pitzl – Received a letter from the Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway requesting donations to help promote tourism. The council saw no benefit to this for the city and declined to donate. The city office will be closed on Monday, February 19th for Presidents Day. The Presidential Nomination Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, March 5th from 7 am to 8 pm at the Echo Community Center. The city clerk will not be able to attend the March 12th Council Meeting due to prior commitment. The city council decided to change the March meeting to be

held on Monday, March 11th at 6:00 pm at the Echo Community Center. The city office will be closed March 19th to 22nd for the clerk to attend a conference in St. Cloud. The Appeals and Equalization Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10th at 6:30 PM at the Echo Community Center.

Old Business:

New Business: Ray Sweetman from Sweetman Sanitation inquired about setting a date for city-wide cleanup that the city does every spring. Motion by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve Saturday, May 4th from 9 am to 12 pm for the Echo Citywide cleanup. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent. Residents can contact the city office with any questions.

Consent Agenda:

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

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Larsen, and second by Councilman Schettler to adjourn regular meeting at 7:10, motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent.

Acting Mayor Darren Gjerset

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl