

Regular Meeting

Echo City Council
Tuesday February 15, 2022

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Sweetman

Present: Mayor Sweetman, Councilman Dehn, Councilman Chmelar, Councilman Schettler, Clerk Pitzl, Fire Chief Dunphy, EMS Chief Kuehn, Public Work Supervisor Nielsen, Absent: Councilman Hanson

Citizens/Guests: Bruce Helgeson of Helgeson Insurance, Nathan Feist of Bollig, Inc

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

January 10, 2022, Special Meeting and Regular Meeting – Motion to approve was made by Councilman Dehn, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion passed unanimously with Councilman Hanson absent.

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy: Chief Dunphy informed the council that 3 firemen went to officers training. Department setting up possible training at the elevator. Fire department will be having a retirement party for several firemen who are retiring and invited the mayor, council members, and clerk to the event on Friday, April 8th. Department voted to remove fireman Edward Zwetzig from duty for not attending 5 consecutive meetings. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Chmelar to accept the departments decision. Motion passed unanimously with Councilman Hanson absent.

First Responders - Chas Kuehn: Reported that items were purchased, and that the ambulance is now fully stocked. Informed the council of an ambulance fundraiser being held on February 26th at the Community Center.

Maintenance Supervisor - Bryan Nielsen submitted a tool inventory as requested by the council. Gave updates on equipment. Payloader has a part bypass, thinking it is a hydraulic pump lockout or a bad brake switch. Has been working fine since but will get replaced if they can find parts. Plow truck has a new electrical system, a replaced distributor and fuel pump and fixed a

kinked line. Put on new belts due to it not charging. Informed the council that he will be out of town at a conference February 28th to March 3rd. Wyatt will be on call.

Clerk: Brian Pitzl - Clerk Pitzl informed the council that he is making progress with training in his new position. Will be attending MCFOA Conference in March in St. Cloud and LMC Conference in June in Duluth.

Mayor Sweetman – Mayor Sweetman will testify at the hearing for Bill HF 2810 regarding the 2020 LGA second half payment for the city.

Councilman Chmelar – Had an issue with train cars blocking 4th street for an extended period. Council decided that it was a rare occurrence, and no action will be taken.

Councilman Dehn – Stated that there has been a couch on a property on 2nd Ave for several months. Council made decision to send a letter to owners stating that it should be removed within 7 days, or the city will remove it and bill the owner \$50.

Old Business:

A study will be done to determine updated water/sewer rates

Nathan Feist was present to update the city on TIF information. Nathan gave handout of city with cost for each street and 4 project options. Council would like to get more information on the amount of TIF Echo will be receiving before making any decisions on what the scope of the work will be, and which streets would be included.

New Business:

Bruce Helgeson presented group medical coverage plans for the city employees. 3 options were presented with a motion by Councilman Chmelar and seconded by Councilman Dehn to approve BlueAccess HSA Bronze Plan with premiums of \$1,118.33 for a \$7,050.00 deductible policy and the city will contribute \$2000.00 to an HSA account for each employee. Motion passed unanimously. Councilman Hanson absent.

Motion by Councilman Chmelar, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve the wage increase for clerk Pitzl to \$17.50 per hour. Motion passed unanimously. Councilman Hanson absent.

Motion was made by Councilman Chmelar, seconded by Councilman Dehn to approve Brian Pitzl for Bank Access, Credit Card, and Check Signer and to leave Sue Paradis and Jacob Kolander on the account for now. Motion passed unanimously. Councilman Hanson absent.

Cost to wax community center floor would be around \$700, council decided to not wax the floor at this time. Decision was made that the cleaning of the Community Center would be the responsibility of the City Clerk and Maintenance Supervisor.

Accounts Due:

N/A

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Dehn and second by Councilman Schettler to adjourn regular meeting and go into a closed meeting for employee review, motion passed with Councilman Hasson absent. Meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.

Motion was made by councilman Dehn, seconded by Mayor Sweetman to adjourn the closed meeting and reopen regular meeting. Motion carried with Councilman Hanson absent. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Motion to raise the pay of Maintenance Supervisor \$2 per hour was made by Councilman Dehn, seconded by Councilman Chmelar, motion passed unanimously with Councilman Hanson absent. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Motion made by councilman Schettler, second by Councilman Dehn to adjourn meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Councilman Hanson absent.

I, the undersigned, Brian Pitzl, City Clerk in and for the City of Echo, Minnesota, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes.

Mayor Raymond Sweetman

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl