

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council
Tuesday January 16th, 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 recited.

Present: Mayor James Busack, Councilman Mark Schettler, Councilman Darren Gjerset, Councilman Reid Hanson, Councilman Dan Larsen, Clerk Brian Pitzl, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen

Citizens/Guests: Jaden Thedans, Wayne Petitt

Open Forum: Jaden Thedans was asked by the council to attend a meeting in regard to the condition of his property. He stated that he has been removing items from his yard and that he will continue to make progress on cleaning up the property. Wayne Petit asked the council if the city would be ok with people using the community center to walk in when it is cold out. The council stated that it would be ok to do so when the city office is open as the doors will be open.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, December 16th, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve, December 27th, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the County Prosecution Services Agreement was made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Schettler, Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-001 Authorizing the Proper City Officials to Execute a Deed to Convey Real Property, for sale of the vacant city lot, was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Hanson to approve Resolution 2024-002 appointing Darren Gjerset as acting mayor in absence of Mayor Busack, select Citizens Alliance Bank as the city depository, appoint Matthew Gross as city attorney, and designate Tri-County News as the official city newspaper. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-003 Accepting Donations was made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve consent agenda stating that all city council members will be responsible for all City Council Committees, including Street/Sidewalk, Parks/Recreation, Water/Sewer, Cemetery, Wed Inspector, and Ordinances, appoint Dan Larsen as grave Marker for the cemetery, and approve rate fees with changes including adding the cemetery plot marking fee of \$100, remove West Central Sanitation garbage tags fees, and changing water and sewer rates to reflect the per 100 gallon charge., was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Larsen. Motion carried unanimously. Discussed increasing fire call charges, but no action taken.

Reports:

Matt Dunphy- Fire Chief:

Chastity Kuehn, First Responders Chief

Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Nielsen: The snow blower is in for the payload. Gave information on how the new payload has cut down on time needed and use less fuel to do snow removal during an event. Bryan will be out of town January 20th to 24th and has lined up people to move snow if needed. The water and sewer departments need a new D.O. Probe at a cost of around \$200.00. Motion by councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve the purchase. Motion carried unanimously. Had received a quote and council approved at a prior meeting last fall for tree removal at the ballfield from a company from Belview that had equipment issues last summer and was unable to do the job. The company is now able to remove the trees and will do so this spring with the original amount quoted.

Mayor Busack-

Councilman Schettler – Was updated on the progress of the abandoned truck removal on a property in town. The clerk had sent a certified letter to the owner to remove the truck, but the letter was returned. The clerk will contact the city attorney in regard to the next steps to remove the vehicle.

Councilman Gjerset –

Councilman Hanson – Met with Echo Township regarding land west of Hwy 67. At this point in time, there is no definitive answers to what will be done with the property.

Councilman Larsen –

Clerk Pitzl – Reached out to Bollig regarding the TIF expansion. At a special city council meeting in December, the city decided to go ahead with the expansion for the TIF district, if Bollig were to honor the previous quote of \$61,000. Bollig was still in agreement with the price and will proceed with the next steps with the expansion. There will be a Presidential Primary Election on March 5th at the community center. Brian is lining up election judges to cover the day. Clerk was instructed to put a notice on the water bills to remind residents to move vehicles off the streets after a snow fall so the city can properly remove the snow.

Old Business:

New Business:

A citizen complaint was received by the city clerk regarding excessive noise from one neighbor to another. The council suggested sending a letter with noise ordinances to both parties and informing them that the city feels that it should be worked out between the parties involved.

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 unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Larsen, and second by Councilman Schettler to adjourn regular meeting at 6:40 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor James Busack

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl