

Echo City Council
Tuesday, July 9th, 2024

The regular city council meeting of the City of Echo Minnesota was called to order by Mayor James Busack at 7:00 pm at the Community Center.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Citizens/Guests: Russ Hennen, Gail Pederson

Open Forum: Russ Hennen addressed the council regarding a letter he received about a requested medical leave by the Fire Department that the council approved at a prior meeting. The approval stipulated that Russ would need a letter from a doctor clearing him to return to the department. Russ gave the council 2 letters received from his doctor clearing him to return. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Mayor Busack to accept the letters and allow Russ to return to active duty for the department. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent. Gail Pederson addressed the council concerning the condition of the property next to his. There is junk and car tires in the yard, and it hasn't been mowed for a while. The clerk is looking into who actually owns the property as it was brought to the city's attention that the property was forfeited to the state. In the meantime, the clerk will send a letter to the residents to have them clean up the property.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, June 11th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

Motion to approve the resolution 2024-007 Approving Election Judges for the State Primary Election on August 13th.

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy: Ordered gloves for the fire department to help when working with the Jaws of Life. Needs new lids on the tanker truck that run about \$400 each. One of the fire trucks surges when idling and needs to be checked out. Matt will take it to Wood Lake to see what the issue is. The department was approached about doing a burn for training on the old Rock Valley Store. There are a few issues that would need to be addressed first. Matt will do some further checking to see if it is even possible. Pork Chop Feed is on the 25th of August.

First Responders – Chief Chastity Kuehn: The stair chair that was ordered has been delivered and fits nicely into the First Responders’ rig. The First Responders will be having a brat/hot dog feed at Echo Days with the proceeds going toward purchasing supplies for the truck.

Maintenance Supervisor – Bryan Nielsen: Bryan noticed that another tree in the park should be taken down. He talked to the tree service that was already cutting trees, and they said it would be an additional \$1,000 for the extra tree. Council approved of the cost. The large lot located at the end of 4th street is up for sale and the new possible owners are looking at building a house. Bryan just wanted to inform the council that there will probably be a need to extend water and sewer services to the property.

Mayor Busack – Addressed the cement issue in front of the Community Center. Mayor will again talk to the manager at the coop, who did the work, to see what can be done to remedy the situation. A camper and car with expired tabs are sitting on a city street. Clerk will send them a letter regarding this ordinance violation.

Councilman Schettler –

Councilman Gjerset – There is a gentleman who can tune the piano in the community center with a cost of around \$100. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve of the tuning. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

Councilman Hanson – Noticed a refrigerator sitting on main street. Bryan will pick it up and dispose of it.

Councilman Larsen- Absent

Clerk Pitzl – The August Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for the 13th, is the date for the State Primary Election, therefore, the council decided to move the meeting to Monday, August 12th at 7:00 pm. Informed the council of filing dates for city offices. The filing dates are July 30th to August 13th. If anyone would like to file for office, they can stop at the clerk’s office to get an application. There are openings for 2 council members (4-year terms) and 1 mayor (2-year term). Addressed the council regarding the kitchen cabinets. The council has been looking at alternatives for replacing the countertops and maybe the cabinets. Brian suggested that it would be a cheaper option, if the cabinets were still in good enough shape, to paint the cabinets to match the new countertops. Brian has been doing interior/exterior painting on the side for about 35 years and the council asked him to put together a quote for painting the cabinets.

Old Business:

A property in town that is abandoned, has not been mowed. The council instructed Bryan to mow the property, and the costs will be assessed to the property owners’ taxes. At the last council meeting, the council discussed a resolution regarding a possible fine for ordinance violations. The council decided not to pursue the option at this time.

New Business:.

The council was informed that the community center furnaces need replacing, as they are the original ones from when the center was built. The city received a quote from Daryle Kuehn AC and Heating for 3 furnaces at a cost of \$13,200.00. Motion made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Schettler to accept the bid and have the furnaces replaced. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve a liquor license for the Echo Legion for the Echo Days celebration. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent. Commercial Cleaning Services of Echo, who was approved at an earlier meeting, to strip and wax the community center floors, will send a proposal before doing any work.

Consent Agenda:

The city received a bill for kennel services from a dog that had to be quarantine due to a citizen being bit. The city will pass the bill onto the owner. Motion made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve the consent agenda consisting of Bills, Payroll, and Bank Information. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Schettler, and second by Councilman Hanson to adjourn regular meeting at 8:32 pm, motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

Mayor James Busack

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl