

Echo City Council
Tuesday, June 11th, 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 Dan Larsen, Councilman Reid Hanson, Clerk Brian Pitzl, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen, Fire Chief Matt Dunphy.

Citizens/Guests: Jaden Thedans, Jerrick Kosel, Gale Pederson

Open Forum: The council would like to thank the people who donated a piano to the community center. Jaden Thedans gave an update on the cleanup of his property. Jerrick Kosel addressed the council as a representative of the Echo American Legion. The Legion will be doing a flag retirement ceremony on June 14th at 9:00 am and would like to use the city compost/burn site to perform the ceremony. The fire chief agreed to bring the grass rig to the site for safety reasons. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to allow the use of the area. The city clerk will put a notice on the city website to inform residents that they are welcome to attend. Jerrick also inquired about getting some chickens and was informed of the city's policy regarding chickens. Jerrick asked about if he got a dumpster if it would be ok to put it in the back of his house, therefore the garbage truck would need to go in the alley to dump it. Council didn't see any issues with it. Gail Pederson was present to address the council concerning the house next to his property. There are tires and lumber and other junk on the property. The house has been forfeited to the state, but the occupants are currently squatting in the house. The clerk will check with the city attorney as to what can be done to remove the inhabitants.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, May 14th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy: The firemen did some extrication training on a car. Will be going to Wood Lake next month for more training. The department would like to get some type of work glove for working with the jaws of life equipment. Matt will see what options are out there.

First Responders –

Maintenance Supervisor – Bryan Nielsen: Received a quote from Tree Service of SW MN for removal of 6 trees by the ballfield. Motion made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to accept the bid of \$6,000 for the cutting of the trees, grinding of the stumps and fill, and any extra charge for removal of an existing stump that was not included in the bid. Motion carried unanimously. Is having issues with the alarm dialing system for the lift station. It would cost about \$3,000 to \$3,500 to update to an electronic system. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve the purchase. Motion carried unanimously. Leaving early on the 27th and gone on the 28th. Bryan will look into the light on the flagpole in the cemetery, as it appears to not be working.

Mayor Busack – Addressed the cement in front the of the Community Center. Mayor will talk to the manager at the coop, who did the work, to see what can be done to remedy the situation. Cars sitting on street with expired tabs.

Councilman Schettler – With the council looking into making some improvements to the community center kitchen, Mark inquired about what the community center brings in for revenue for a year. Based on the last few years, the average amount that the city takes in is about \$1,400 per year. The council discussed raising the rental fee but will wait until the start of the year to make any changes.

Councilman Gjerset – Property zoning was brought up regarding how many buildings on a property and greenspace on a property. The council is considering an ordinance for fines of certain ordinance violations. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Hanson for the council to look into the process further and discuss it at the next council meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The old gas station has been sold, so the council will now have to contact the new owners concerning the condition of the property.

Councilman Hanson – Discussed what is the status of the Zabel house. Grass and weeds are growing up. There has been some interest in someone purchasing the property. Clerk will look back and see if property taxes are up to date on the property.

Councilman Larsen-

Clerk Pitzl – The city clerk will be at the League of Minnesota Cities conference in Rochester June 26 – 28. The city office will be closed on those days. The city received their first half tax settlement in the amount of \$88,130.50 and TIF funds totaling \$26,878.32.

Old Business:

One more application was received for the summer help position. The council asked the city clerk if he would be interested in helping with the mowing of city property. Brian said he would be willing to spend some time helping. The council agreed to have the clerk help with the mowing as long as he didn't go over 40 hours for the week. The issue of water and sewer to the Chmelar lot was discussed. No action taken on this matter.

New Business: The air conditioning unit in the main area of the community center has a froze up compressor and can't be fixed. This is the oldest unit still being used. A quote was given by Daryle Kuehn Heating & AC for \$5,928.00 for a 5-ton unit and installation. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve the quote and get the new one installed. Motion carried. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to have CCS of Echo strip and wax the community center floor. Motion carried unanimously.

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 Hanson to adjourn regular meeting at 8:17 pm, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor James Busack

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl