

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council
Tuesday May 10, 2022**

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Acting Mayor Chmelar

Present: Councilman Jessie Dehn, Councilman Jody Chmelar, Councilman Reid Hanson, Clerk Brian Pitzl, Fire Chief Matt Dunphy, EMS Chief Chastity Kuehn, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen, Absent: Mayor Ray Sweetman, Councilman Mark Schettler

Citizens/Guests: George French: Informed the council that the Legion would like to create a Flag Depository in Echo for area residents. Looking at getting a liquor license for a couple fundraisers. Motion to approve a liquor license was made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Dehn. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Sweetman and Councilman Schettler absent.

Matthew Gross: Matthew was at the meeting to introduce himself as the new City Attorney. Is willing to help the city in any way they may need. Thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the city.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

May 10, 2022, Regular Meeting – Motion to approve was made by Councilman Dehn, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Equalization Meeting – Motion to approve was made by Councilman Dehn, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Motion to approve Resolution 2022-55 Donations made by Councilman Dehn, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Motions passed unanimously with Mayor Sweetman and Councilman Schettler absent.

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy: Chief Dunphy informed the council of the department's Annual Pork Chop Feed that is set for July 28th 5:30-7:30 pm. Pumper was inspected in Sioux Falls and was given the OK. Looking at purchasing T-shirts and Stocking caps from Jim's Clothing of Dawson for the fire department members. Sweatshirts would need to be responsibility of the individual fireman. The department is currently at 14 members. They are looking into restructuring the training needed to train new members to help cut down on the number of hours needed for certification. Will contact other departments to see what options there are.

First Responders - Chas Kuehn: Informed the council that the city of Cottonwood recently purchased a 2 new Lucas CPR Machines and that they are willing to sell the old one for a cost of

\$3000. Motion by Councilman Dehn, seconded by Councilman Hanson to approve the purchase, motion carried unanimously with Mayor Sweetman and Councilman Schettler absent.

Maintenance Supervisor – Bryan Nielsen: Received quotes for gravel for several alleys. Motion by Councilman Dehn, seconded by Councilman Hanson to approve purchasing gravel for several alleys including the park. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Sweetman and Councilman Schettler absent. City Received one application for summer mowing help. Motion to hire Jonah Nauman at the rate of \$11 per hour for mowing and to hire Jon Denzer at the rate of \$14 per hour to help with other city maintenance for an average of 1-2 days per week. Motion made by Councilman Dehn, seconded by Councilman Hanson, motion carried unanimously with Mayor Sweetman, and Councilman Schettler absent. Well house needs attention. City can either invest money to update it or have it abandoned and sealed. Maintenance supervisor will get prices on either fixing or capping the well as well as prices for a shutoff valve for water line to old well. Still getting prices for camera installation at fire hall for pop machine. Received quotes to upgrade underground wiring at the ball field. Motion to replace the wires for a cost of \$1,428.87 was made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Dehn, motion carried unanimously with Mayor Sweetman and Councilman Schettler absent. Gave update on lawn mower. Ordering a mower from the coop would be in October, with no arrival date available. Received other quotes from John Deere on a mower that is available now. Bryan will look at it and see if it meets the requirements needed. Motion made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Dehn to purchase a mower as soon as one is found that is available now. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Sweetman and Councilman Schettler absent.

Clerk - Brian Pitzl: Informed the council that the city auditor will be at the June meeting to discuss the 2021 audit. The cities domain name has been renewed and the website and email are both up and running again. Clerk will be gone on May 17th for training in Willmar. Noted that the filing dates for city offices is August 2nd to August 16th.

Mayor Sweetman – Absent

Councilman Chmelar – Gave an update on 2021 LGA. Is in the tax bill and should be passed. Asked how any of the summer events planned were coming along. Was informed that Echo Days plans are moving forward well. Motion by Councilman Hanson and seconded by Councilman Dehn to approve a gambling license for the Lions Club for Echo Days. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Sweetman and Councilman Schettler absent.

Councilman Dehn – N/A

Councilman Schettler – Absent

Councilman Hanson – N/A

Old Business:

Aged balance report for past due water bills was discussed. Clerk was instructed to send out letters of disconnection to customers with water bills over 90 days past due.

Further conversation was had on the water/sewer rate study with no action at this time. Council will table the study until the next meeting after more analysis is done.

New Business:

An RFP Memorandum requires a signature by Mayor Sweetman for the hiring of the new city attorney.

A citizen complaint was filed concerning dogs barking and excess junk in the yard. A verbal warning was given regarding the complaint.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Dehn and second by Councilman Hanson to adjourn regular meeting and go into a closed meeting for employee review, motion passed with Mayor Sweetman and Councilman Schettler absent. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Motion was made by councilman Dehn, seconded by Councilman Hanson to adjourn the closed meeting, and reopen regular meeting. Motion carried with Mayor Sweetman and Councilman Schettler absent. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Motion to table any employee compensation increase until June meeting was made by Councilman Dehn, seconded by Councilman Hanson, motion passed unanimously with Mayor Sweetman and Councilman Schettler absent. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Motion made by councilman Hanson, second by Councilman Dehn to adjourn meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Sweetman and Councilman Schettler absent. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

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