

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council  
Tuesday, May 9th, 2023**

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 said.

**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:** Ray Sweetman, William Rossell, Kelly Barager, John Rehorst: Countryside Public Health, Wayne Pettit, Jaden Thedans

**Open Forum:** William Rossell and Kelly Barager were both present to ask the council about having chickens in town. The mayor stated that the city does not allow chickens in the city limits. Matt Dunphy later inquired about chickens and stated that there were people in the past that had chickens in the city. After looking at the city ordinance, it was determined that the city council has the determination on this issue. Therefore, it was decided that any resident wanting chickens in town will need to draw up a plan as to how many chickens they would like to have and where the chickens would be housed and bring their plan to the council for consideration. No resident will be allowed to have any roosters in the city. John Rehorst from Countryside Public Health addressed the council concerning the city's tobacco license ordinance. He stated that if the city were to repeal their city ordinance and allow the county to handle any future tobacco licensing in the city, they would need to allow a 30-day public comment period. The council will take this information into consideration. Wayne Petit addressed the council regarding his grandson's property. The city had sent a letter to the owner of the property regarding junk and other debris. Wayne stated that his grandson was working on cleaning up the property and will just need time to do so. The council stated that they just wanted to see progress of cleanup and that it not get out of hand. Mr. Petit also inquired about putting up a fence on the property and was informed of the requirements. Matt Dunphy also requested a building permit for a shed on his property. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Larsen to approve the permit. Motion carried unanimously. The Echo Lions requested a gambling license for a raffle. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve the license. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:**

Motion to approve, April 11th, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve, April 12<sup>th</sup> Appeals and Equalization meeting minutes was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Larson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-005 Yellow Medicine County All Hazard Mitigation Plan was made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Reports:**

Matt Dunphy, Fire Department – The pump on the grass rig has been repaired and was paid for by the Relief Association. Was given permission to use the city payloader to remove items from a house that the department will burn down for training purposes.

Chastity Kuehn, First Responders – N/A

Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Nielsen– Inquired from the council if they approve of joining MNWarn, which is an equipment sharing program through Rural Water. No cost involved. Motion to approve joining this program was made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried unanimously. Presented quotes to the council for a new wheel loader plus attachments for the city. Discussed options for disposing of the current city equipment, selling it outright or putting it on auction sites, and will continue to look at other possibilities. The council called the salesman to find what it would take to hold the wheel loader. No money would need to be put down, only a signed sales agreement is needed to hold it for a short time. No penalty if the city would back out of buying the piece of equipment. Financing rates are only valid until the end of the month if the city decides to go in that direction. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Larsen to approve the signing of the sales agreement to hold the machine. Motion carried unanimously. The council discussed setting up a special council meeting before the end of the month when we get more financing information to determine the interest rate. Motion to approve a special council meeting for Tuesday May 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the purchase was made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Gjerset.

Mayor Busack –

Councilman Schettler –. Reminded the clerk to remember to give out door codes to individuals who rent the community center. The clerk will make sure it is done before the event date.

Councilman Gjerset – State of Minnesota will have single axel 2007-2008 plow trucks for sale for cities to purchase at a suggested donation of \$10,000. The council would like to have this alternative as a backup for snow removal. Still on track with Senator Dahms concerning LGA.

Councilman Hanson –

Councilman Larsen – Thanked the council for the installment of the stop sign by the corner near his property.

Clerk Pitzl - The city office will be closed May 15<sup>th</sup> to May 17<sup>th</sup> due to the clerk at a conference. The clerk edited the recent RFP that will be sent to area refuge haulers and will send it out pending council approval. Sara from Oberloh and Oberloh will be in Echo to work with the clerk

on moving funds to better reflect the balances of each fund and to help with reviewing past tax forms to determine if the city overpaid quarterly taxes.

**Old Business:**

The council was given TIF District information to consider what the next steps will be in going forward. Talked about problem areas and possible solutions for a temporary fix. No other action was taken at this time.

**New Business:**

Aged balance report for past due water bills was discussed. The clerk was instructed to send out letters of disconnection to customers with water bills over 90 days past due. The council also recommended sending a letter to property owners who have rental properties in town to inform them if the renters are not staying current on their water/sewer bills. Motion to send out water/sewer bills to owners of rental properties was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried unanimously. The clerk will send out letters with next month's billings and send bills to both owners and renters.

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion made by Councilman Hanson, 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 Gjerset, and second by Councilman Larsen to adjourn regular meeting at 9:15, motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor James Busack

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City Clerk- Brian Pitzl