

Echo City Council
Tuesday, November 12th, 2024

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Citizens/Guests: Nicole Kepler, Rita Riggs

Open Forum: Mayor Elect Nicole Kepler introduced herself to the council. Nicole stated that she enjoys the city and would like to see more people come to the city and would like to be more involved in the community. Rita Riggs expressed her appreciation to the council for removing a hazardous tree on the boulevard on her property.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, October 8th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Larsen. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

Motion to approve the resolution 2024-99 Canvassing Election Returns and Declaring Results, was made by seconded by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy – Set January 11th for retirement supper for retired firefighters. As of now there are 15 people signed up for firefighter courses. Would like to use the community center January 31 to February 2nd for class. Handed down turn out gear to a new firefighter and pieced together a set for himself. House burn is set for November 30th with other area towns participating. Councilman Gjerset inquired about if there are still a couple LP tanks near the house. The asbestos has been removed but Chief Dunphy will check to see about the tanks. 00Other training in Alex and Duluth that some members of the department may attend.

First Responders – Chief Chastity Kuehn: Handed in 1st responder hours to clerk for payroll. Motion to approve First Responder hours for payroll was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent. Had interest from a few individuals who would like to join the crew. One of the individuals would need to receive the training which could be covered by grants. The responders would also need a couple of pagers for two of the individuals. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by

Councilman Gjerset to approve adding Ryan & Tara Engstrom, Taneka Olson and Nicole Kepler as First Responders upon completion of necessary training. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent. Has been ordering supplies for the First Responders rig but have been getting the wrong items sent. Chastity is working with the company to get the right supplies needed and will return any that are not correct. New bylaws have been written and will be gone over at the next meeting.

Maintenance Supervisor – Bryan Nielsen – Received a building request from John Murphy of Murphy apartments to add a walk-in porch in front and back of the apartments. He stated that in the original plans for the building, there are footings already there but were never built. Council decided to approve the permit pursuant to Mr. Murphy paying the permit fee with a motion by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent. Inquired about help for snow removal if Bryan has other plans that can't be changed. There are several individuals that will be contacted to learn how to operate the plow, so they are ready if needed. Brought the side wings plates to be refabricated. Off the 21st for dentist.

Mayor Busack –

Councilman Schettler –

Councilman Gjerset –

Councilman Hanson –

Councilman Larsen- Brought up garbage issues. The clerk talked with the contractor and inquired about a specific time for pick up and to bring up the issue of the truck not stopping at intersections. The contractor said they will be more consistent with their pickup time, and he will talk to the drivers about proper driving etiquette.

Clerk Pitzl- Asked if the council would like to move the start time for the December council meeting to 6:00 pm. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Hanson to move the start time for the December meeting to 6:00 pm. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent. The city clerk will be off work the week of Thanksgiving. The city office will be closed from November 25th to November 29th. Brian had recently sent a letter of intent to apply for a grant to redo the sidewalk in front of the Post Office. The clerk received an email stating that the project met the requirements for the grant application. Brian will fill out an official application and send it to the proper agency for approval.

Old Business: A quote was received for renovating the community center bathrooms. The city would like to explore more options for costs for just some specific items. Councilman Gjerset will contact a contractor who can do all areas of the project. The city nuisance ordinance was researched and the council decided to adopt a new version for Chapter 11 of the city's ordinance. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset and seconded by Councilman Larsen to accept the change. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

New Business:

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 with Councilman Schettler absent.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Larsen, and second by Councilman Gjerset to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:50 pm, motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

Mayor James Busack

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl