

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council
Tuesday November 14th, 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 Reid Hanson, Councilman Dan Larsen, Clerk Brian Pitzl, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen, Fire Chief Matt Dunphy, First Responders Chief Chastity Kuehn.

Citizens/Guests: Ray Sweetman: Sweetman Sanitation. Jerrick Kosel, Jon Denzer, Wayne Pettit

Open Forum: Jerrick Kosel addressed the council concerning the September meeting in which the council closed the meeting to discuss garbage RFP's. He stated that there are only about a handful of reasons to close the meeting and that this circumstance of voting on a new garbage contract did not qualify. He had issues with the city picking the highest bid of all the RFP's. The council stated that the main reason for the decision was to go with the local contractor who will bring in tax revenue into the city. A small city like Echo doesn't get many new businesses so the council was happy about the new beginning. The council also stated that they had been asking the former contractor for some changes to service that were never obligated. Jerrick also brought up the issue of he was only able to have the new contractor for garbage collection even though theirs was higher than the other quotes. Inquired about the contract where it stated that the contractor must have the name of the company on the side of the truck. Ray Sweetman from Sweetman Sanitation informed the council that he has a truck that is in the process of being painted and will have it by the end of the year.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, October 16th, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Matt Dunphy, Fire Department- Took the fire truck to the Charter School for Fire Prevention Week. Plan to burn a house for training purposes on Saturday, 18th. Belview and Wood Lake Departments may participate as well.

Chastity Kuehn, First Responders – Provided city clerk with the hours from the First Responders for the year.

Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Nielsen– Ordered supplies for the plow to be ready for winter. The blower for the payloader is about 2 weeks out. The city truck needs tires as the ones on the

truck are the originals. The cost for the tires is \$220 each. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Schettler to purchase new tires for the city pickup. Motion carried unanimously. Has a dentist appointment on the 22nd and will be at a Wastewater Conference in the Twin Cities November 27th-30th. Water is being supplied for local turkey barns that are dealing with the bird flu by the health department. Will work with any council member who is willing to be a backup for snow removal to show them how to run the new plow.

Mayor Busack-

Councilman Schettler – Inquired about the sale of excess tables and chairs the city has. The city clerk has sold about 50 chairs and 6 tables so far. Mentioned that there was a semi parked on 2nd Ave and was told that it was only there temporarily so there was access to the water being used for turkey barns. A non-licensed truck is parked on a property on 2nd Ave as well. The owner had been notified but has not removed the truck. The clerk will proceed with the next step in the removal process.

Councilman Gjerset – Asked about street signs that are to be placed on 2nd Ave regarding truck parking. Bryan ordered them from the county, but they have not come in yet. Asked the maintenance supervisor if he could do some patch work on the sidewalk by the post office. Bryan will try to do some repairs. Inquired about the amount the city is paying to the railroad for water/sewer lines running under RR crossings. The clerk will look into it. Was updated on the progress of looking into changing of water billing per 100 gallons as opposed to per 1000 gallons. Clerk will give update at next meeting.

Councilman Hanson –

Councilman Larsen –

Clerk Pitzl – At the August meeting the council instructed the clerk to send a letter to the Railroad regarding dead trees along the tracks near the city sign. The railroad recently contacted the city to inform them that they will be sending someone out to assess the situation. A representative from Meadowland Coop will attend the December council meeting to discuss their plans for their operations in the City of Echo.

Old Business

Aged balance report. With the new water/sewer payment policy in place, there should be no need for an aged balance report as all utility bills will be paid each month.

The city received one bid for the last vacant lot still owned by the city. A bid of \$300 was offered by Jon Denzer. A motion was made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Larsen to accept the bid as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Consent Agenda:

Motion made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Schettler 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 Schettler to adjourn regular meeting at 7:50pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor James Busack

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl