

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council
Monday, October 16th, 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, Clerk Brian Pitzl, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen, First Responders Chief Chastity Kuehn.

Citizens/Guests:

Open Forum:

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, September 12th, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

Reports:

Matt Dunphy, Fire Department-

Chastity Kuehn, First Responders – Was in contact with the city of Granite Falls regarding having other first responders paged when the city of Echo is paged so as to not have anyone not respond to the call. It would require them to set up a new paging system for it to work, they are not interested in the arrangement. If working with Wood Lake, the city of Echo would have to put their 1st Responders on payroll as they are strictly volunteer. Cottonwood or Granite Falls are already paged depending on the area of the call. There are 4 individuals interested in joining the 1st Responders but the timing for training isn't favorable for these individuals.

Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Nielsen– The park bathrooms have been winterized. The payloader is in Marshall getting the wiring finished for the plow attachment, should be back soon. Repaired a broken street drain. Will be gone camping October 19-22. Deer hunting is November 4-12 and Bryan will be hunting but will also be around if issues arise. Training in Minneapolis November 27-30th.

Mayor Busack- Would like to remove a portion of curb between the driveway on his rental property and the city alley. Is going to redo the driveway and would like the small portion of curb removed to make it easier for snow removal. The council had no issues with this request.

Councilman Schettler – Requested that the December City Council meeting be moved due to conflicts of interest with council members. Council decided to change the December 12th council meeting to December 5th at 7:00 pm.

Councilman Gjeret – Inquired about purchasing a lighted LED sign for outside of the community center to let residents know of upcoming events in town. Council agreed on the idea. Inquired about the idea of billing for water per every gallon as opposed to per 1000 gallons. It is possible with some changes to the meter reading software. The clerk will look into maybe charging per 100 gallons. Cottonwood Vet Clinic would be interested in coming to Echo after the first of the year to hold a vaccination clinic for residents and they would also be able to buy dog licenses at that time. Motion made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Schettler to sell excess metal folding chairs at \$1 each and 6-foot wood tables for \$10 each. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent. Brought up the fact that no other towns around require licenses for cats. The council decided to only enforce the licensing of dogs.

Councilman Hanson – Informed the council that there is a lady in Redwood Falls who is willing to come and pick up stray cats. Reid will get her phone number and have it available for residents. Reid is willing to be a backup for snow removal this winter as well as Councilman Gjeret.

Councilman Larsen –

Clerk Pitzl – The current city website is up for renewal. The cost of the website has tripled to almost \$2,000 since last year. Another option is a site from Municipal Impact at a cost of \$605 per year. Motion made by Councilman Gjeret, seconded by Councilman Schettler to go with Municipal Impact as the new website supplier. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent. The city office will be changing back to regular hours starting in November. Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8:30 – 4:30, Tuesday 9:00 – 5:00, closed Fridays. With regards to the city looking into annexing land into the city limits, the council requested that the interested party who owns the property be invited to the December meeting to discuss their plans for the property and what they would need from the city.

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.

New Business:

A building permit was requested by Jeff Kurz for cement patio with a lean-to on the back side of his house. Motion made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Schetter to approve the permit. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

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 with Councilman Larsen absent.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Gjerset, and second by Councilman Schettler to adjourn regular meeting at 8:05 motion carried with Councilman Larsen absent.

Mayor James Busack

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl