

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council
Tuesday, September 13th, 2022**

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Sweetman

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

Citizens/Guests: Lynn Kuehn, Daneen Dhoore

Lynn Kuehn read a letter to the council regarding her incident on the street in front of her son's property. She was disappointed in the way the council handled the matter and lack of concern for her wellbeing. The council informed Mrs. Kuehn that they were concerned about the situation and that they did show concern for her at the time of the incident. The council also informed her that the city just received quotes for the repair, and they are looking at the options to properly fix the issues with the road.

Daneen Dhoore addressed the council concerning the blocking of road by the train. Was informed that the elevator had permission from the county to block the road when loading rail cars.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, August 8th, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried unanimously. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Chmelar to approve August 16th Special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve consent agenda including Bills for Payment, Payroll, and Bank Information made by Councilman Chmelar, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy: Asked the council if the city could send a letter to a current fireman asking his intentions going forward as a firefighter for the city of Echo. This individual has taken time off to deal with health and personal issues. Motion made by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Schettler to send a letter to this individual and

request his intentions by the end of the year. Motion carried unanimously. Blue Fire was present at the previous fire meeting to assist with some training. Department will send 2 members for training with Blue Fire to get their certification. The department may have a house to burn for practice purposes, either with themselves or invite other departments to train as well. Would like the city to send a letter of thanks to a resident who recently donated money to the department.

First Responders - Chas Kuehn: There will be 2 members of the First Responders attending the conference the weekend of the 17th in Mankato. Informed the council that they raised \$500 from the ice cream fundraiser over Echo Days weekend. Gave information on FirstNet, which is a cell phone provider for local government officials as well as fire department members and first responders.

Maintenance Supervisor – Bryan Nielsen: Received a quote from M&R Paving for \$32,307.60 to repair 3rd Ave, West of 4th Street with an additional \$13,515.84 needed if there were to be soil correction once the old asphalt was removed. Council discussed the quotes and would like to get quotes on the curb and gutter as well to help with proper drainage. A letter will be sent to the Coop to inform them that 3rd Ave is off limits to their trucks, as it is making the conditions worse. Another quote was received from M&R for an area on 3rd St for \$3,720.84. No action was taken on this quote. More discussion was held on the condition of the city streets. Discussed options to pay for the improvements Received quotes for tree removal at the ball field park. There are 6 trees that would be taken down. The quote for this was from Brian's Tree Service and came it at \$12,989.00. The council decided to wait until next year to do any tree removal as there is no room in the budget for it now. Another quote was given by Brian's Tree Service for the cleaning up of a residence in town. That quote was \$4,389.00. Motion by Councilman Hanson, seconded by Councilman Chmelar to approve the quote and bill the owner of the property. Motion carried unanimously. A quote was received for the sweeping of city streets. The quote is for a \$795 mobilization fee as well as \$195 per hour of operation. The council decided to have a trial run this fall with the company to see the cost for the process and then decide if it is the way the city should go in the future. Cutting edges were purchased to be prepared for the winter.

Mayor Sweetman –

Councilman Chmelar

Councilman Schettler –.

Councilman Hanson –

Clerk Pitzl – Will be out of the office September 28th-30th. Informed the council that the amount of TIF money will be between \$50,000 and \$55,000 per year and is not factored into the Levy amount.

Old Business:

2023 Budget was discussed. Council considered expanding the TIF District. Recommendation from Mayor Sweetman to set the City Tax Levy at \$200,000 for the year 2023. The final budget amounts can be lowered but not raised. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Hanson to set the 2023 tax levy at \$200,000. Motion carried unanimously.

New 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.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Hanson and second by Councilman Chmelar to adjourn meeting, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Mayor Raymond Sweetman

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl