

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2024
7:00 P.M., CITY HALL

Pursuant to due call and notice, the City Council of the City of Eagle Bend, MN met in regular session on Monday November 18, 2024 at 7:00 P.M., in the City Hall. Acting Mayor Jessica Olson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Council Members present were Jaculyn Lorentz, Jim Kimball and Jason Nelson; absent: Scott Johnson. Also present were Twila Pierce, Clay Sandmeyer, James Gaida and Bryan Drown.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Following a brief review and discussion, (Action 24-11-139) Council Member Lorentz moved to approve the October 21, 2024 regular City Council Meeting minutes and the November 12th special city council meeting minutes as written seconded by Council Member Kimball. Motion adopted unanimously.

Bills submitted for approval were reviewed. Following a question and answer period, (Action 24-11-140) Council Member Lorentz moved to approve the bills for payment as presented, seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously.

Liquor Store financial report for the month of October was presented to the council.

The Council was presented with a monthly report for October from the Todd County Sheriff's Office showing calls they handled during the month.

Bryan Drown updated the council on the Phase 5 project. Bryan stated that Blombeck Construction is pretty much done for the year. The one remaining item that could be completed in 2024 is the sanitary sewer lining on HWY 71 depending on their subcontractor's schedule. Bryan stated that if they don't complete the sewer lining on HWY 71 the project is roughly 40% done. Which is really good considering the late start and not getting awarded the funding until August. Pay Estimate #2 in the amount of \$219,993.53 was presented for approval. Council member (Action 24-11-140) Lorentz made a motion to pay the Blombeck Construction Pay Estimate #2 in the amount of \$219,993.53. This motion was seconded by council member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously

City Administrator updated the council on the invoices from Bolton & Menk. These invoices are for the work that Bolton & Menk has done so far for the Phase 5 project. Bryan Drown stated that he doesn't know how the city handled their internal accounting and payment procedures in the past but the city did receive reimbursement request 1 funds which included contractor pay estimate 1 and all engineering invoices to date from the state late last week. City Administrator stated that is true. Council member Kimball stated that we should pay the full amount of the invoices. After further discussion (Action 24-11-141) council member Kimball made a motion to pay the Bolton & Menk invoices in the total of \$264,092.23. This motion was seconded by council member Olson. Motion adopted unanimously.

City Administrator brought up Veteran's Day. City Administrator stated this is a holiday that the state recognizes and that no public or city business can be conducted. The city doesn't have this day listed in their personnel policy for Holiday's off. City Administrator asked the council to add Veteran's day to the list of holiday's the city is closed for and to make an exception this year and giving the city employees the Friday after Thanksgiving off. City Administrator stated that since the employees worked on Veteran's Day, could they have the Friday after thanksgiving off. Council members Kimball and Lorentz both said they don't see a problem with that and since the city employees worked Veteran's Day, they should be get a day off to make up for that. After further discussion (Action 24-11-142) council member Lorentz made a motion to add Veteran's

Day to list of holiday's the city will be closed. This motion was seconded by council member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously. (Action 24-11-143) Council member Lorentz made a motion to give the city employees the Friday after Thanksgiving off. This motion was seconded by council member Kimball. Motion adopted unanimously.

City Administrator presented the MN Power contract that the city attorney reviewed and updated. Council member Kimball liked what the contract stated and the changes the city attorney made. After further discussion (Action 24-11-144) council member Kimball made a motion to approve the MN Power contract. This motion was seconded by council member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously.

Acting Mayor Olson brought up the quotes got from Robert Bernier regarding the carpet and ceiling tiles in the office. Acting Mayor believes that \$50 isn't enough to cover the cost to replace the ceiling tiles in the office. You can't just order two or three tiles. They only come in packs of 8 or 16. City Administrator replied that is a good point. After further discussion, the council ask the City Administrator to look into this quote and see if the League of MN Cities can raise by \$100.00 to cover the cost of ordering a pack of ceiling tiles.

Acting Mayor Olson also brought up Clark gas station. City Administrator replied that he has been contacted by the Derek Medved and that Derek is in the process of buying Clark gas station. Derek mentioned if he were to buy the gas station would the city be willing to sell the empty lot next to it. Derek stated he plans to build a diesel island there if the city would consider selling that lot. City Administrator stated the only issue he could think of at the moment would be where the semis would park. Would they start parking all town taking up the streets? Clay Sandmeyer replied, that shouldn't be an issue, there is only ever two or semis parked at a time. They could just start parking up at the old school parking lot. Council Member Kimball says if we were to sell this lot we should make a designated parking spot in town for semi's to park and charge them a fee. Council member Kimball also stated that this would be great tax revenue for the city and get more traffic through town having this diesel island there instead of an empty lot. Acting member Mayor Olson stated that she likes his idea and would rather see something like that built than if someone wanted to build storage sheds on that lot. Council member Lorentz agreed with Acting Mayor that a diesel island would be a better idea than a storage shed. After further discussion the council asked City Administrator to reach to Derek and see what his plan is and will build a diesel island or something else in that lot.

Clay Sandmeyer brought up to the council the possibility of getting a street sweeper. Clay stated that he knows two of them should be coming up for sale this spring. Council member Kimball asked what we use now, Clay replied we burrow Clarissa's street sweeper. Council member Lorentz asked how much are these street sweepers? Clay answered anywhere from \$125,000.00 to a \$150,000.00. Acting Mayor Olson asked what does Clarissa charges us now for using their sweeper, Clay replied. Nothing, just trade hours but the only problem with that is we always get it and have to do maintenance on it or something breaks and we have to replace it. Council member Lorentz asked often do you sweep streets. Clay answered, you would sweep them every other week. Council said they will start to look into this.

Council member Lorentz brought up the little gazebo at Nelson Park. Council member I believe we talked about this a couple months ago and if remember right. This gazebo is not ADA compliance. Council member asked if the council would be on board for getting rid of it or is it junk that can be torn down. Clay and council member Kimball both said it's not junk and it's sound and the frame is good. Clay also stated that it's just the windows are shot and he doesn't know how it's anchored. Twila stated that the door is junk but the rest of it good. Council member Lorentz said could we sell it or see if someone is interested in it. Clay and Acting Mayor Olson stated they will take a look at and get back to the council with what they think should be done with it.


Council member Lorentz brought up City Administrator's exempt/nonexempt status. Council member Lorentz stated that after talking with the attorney and hearing what he had to say about this position and all the pros of

keeping him exempt would be more beneficial to the city. That if we didn't do this and would have to look for a new City Administrator and this would be the new going rate. Council member Kimball agreed with council member Lorentz. That the city benefits more from the position being exempt compared to nonexempt. Council member Lorentz stated that she would make a motion to move the City Administrator position back to exempt. Clay Sandmeyer stated that he disagrees. That the city wouldn't benefit more the position being nonexempt and that he gets way more calls than the he does. Clay Sandmeyer stated that he gets call during all times of the day and always running somewhere to check on something and that he donates all those hours to the city. Clay stated what supposed to do, write down every time I get a phone call or have to run and check on something. Council member Kimball stated what do get now for all the extra hours you put in. Clay, replied I get COMP time. Acting Mayor Olson stated that we don't have a limit set for how much COMP time a city employee can accumulate. That can be a big issue for the city because if that employee worked for 30 years and never took COMP time. That the city would have to pay that out and would have to pay it at the wage the employee ended at. Council member Kimball asked Clay what he does now with his COMP time. Clay replied, that he uses it all the time and that's why he's gone most of the time. Council member Kimball stated that we should get rid of COMP time and that the employee earned those hours and should get paid for it. Council member also stated that they should just get paid out every week and just be done with COMP time. Acting Mayor Olson stated that is a whole another topic for another time. Acting Mayor Olson stated that we should a work session to discuss employees' wages and contracts before the December council meeting. Council member Lorentz agreed with Acting Mayor Olson. After further discussion the council decided to have a work session on December 11th at 6:00pm.

Council member Lorentz also brought the interviews that are scheduled for this week and that the council needs to set an interview committee. Council member Lorentz stated that someone mentioned that it would be a conflict of interest if Twila was a part of the interview committee and I don't that be a conflict of interest. Council member Kimball agreed with Council member Lorentz that it wouldn't be a conflict of interest if Twila was on the interview committee for her position. (Action 24-11-145) Council Lorentz made a motion to form an interview committee that consist of Jim Kimball, Kevin Hess, James Gaida, Jaculyn Lorentz and Twila Pierce. This motion was seconded by council member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously.

Council member Nelson brought up using the shelter at Nelson Park to store his lawn mowers for his business. Council member Lorentz stated that she doesn't have a problem with this and doesn't see an issue with it. Acting Mayor Olson stated that we should have something in writing like a contract that states Jason asked the city for permission and that Jason is held responsible for any damage done to his inventory while it's at the park. Council member Kimball agreed that the city should have something in writing and that states the city isn't held responsible for damage done or thief that would happen. Acting Mayor Olson also stated we should charge something if Jason wants to keep his mowers there. That people will complain if the city just lets Jason us the shelter for nothing. City Administrator asked the council if should reach out to the city attorney about drafting up a contract like the one the city has with E's Espresso. City Administrator stated what the timeline is the council is thinking for this contract. Acting Mayor Olson stated, Jason can only use the shelter when the park is closed. (Action 24-11-146) Council member Lorentz made a motion to allow Nelson's Service Center to use the Nelson Park shelter while the park is closed pending the contract from the city attorney. This motion was seconded by council member Kimball. Motion adopted unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, (Action 24-11-147) Council Lorentz moved to adjourn at 8:56 p.m., seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously.


James R. Gaida
City Administrator


Jessica Olson
Acting Mayor