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**KASSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 10, 2019**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular City Council meeting was held at City Hall on the 10th day of July, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: Burton, Eggler, Ferris, McKern and Zelinske

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE ABSENT: None

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Coleman, City Clerk Rappe, City Engineer Theobald, City Attorney Melanie Leth, Finance Director Nancy Zaworski, Candy McKern, Judy Zelinske, Amber Duncan, Doug Buck, Tony Paulson, Janet Sinning, Mary Mollert, Tom Whalen, Steve Johnson, Bonnie Ryan, Jeff Stevenson, Alex Malm, Everett Paulson, Margie Blood, Randy Rager, Kyle Pettey, Rebecca Houghton, Sue Miller, Chris Rilling, Jennifer Maas, Dawn Underwood, Mike Chester, Jane Kreidermacher, Ryan Wegner, Denise Warehime, Diane Watson, Ron Eidem, Alissa Oletjenbruns, Nathan Smith, Alyssa and Jeremy Leeper, Keith Cocker, Buffy Beranek, Karen Ducharme, Dave Wulff, Mark Chits, Dick Winchell, Mary Walker, Andrea Berg, Ann McElmery, Heather Hilgart, Matt and Nancy Kleeberger, Jeff and Marbie Bjergum

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

Add: B. f debris pickup

Mayor Announced that at tonight's Public Forum people will not need to fill out comment cards.

Motion to Approve the Amended agenda made by Councilperson Burton, second by Councilperson Eggler with All Voting Aye.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from June 12, 2019 and June 26, 2019

Claims processed after the June 26, 2019 regular meeting, as audited for payment in the amount of \$397,612.21

Resolution Certifying Delinquent Claims to County

Resolution #7.1-19

***Resolution Certifying Delinquent Claims to the County Auditor
(on file)***

Acknowledge Committee Minutes:

Planning Commission - June 10, 2019

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda made by Councilperson Burton, second by Councilperson Zelinske with All Voting Aye.

MAYOR'S REPORT

WW Supervisor Letter – Mayor McKern referred to the Wastewater Supervisor's memo of events that is in the packet.

Update from Matt Maas – Dodge County Emergency Management Coordinator - Mayor McKern asked residents who have had water or sewer in their house to call the “hotline”, 170 property owners have called. There are groups of volunteers who have been vetted, who will help with clean up. They will have a badge. Mr. Maas is working with homeland security. Since we had the flood on the 28th and it pretty much rained every day to the 5th they could look at this as one incident.

LMC Insurance Coverage – There is a meeting with LMCIT tomorrow at 1pm and they are gathering information.

Building Permits – Mayor McKern made a motion to waive the fees for building permits for flood related repairs, second by Councilperson Egler with All Voting Aye.

Debris pickup – The Mayor stated that the city is going to contract with Junk Pros to pick up debris and they will take it to the transfer station. **Mayor McKern asked for a motion to transfer funds from the electric department to cover reimbursements to homeowners who have already paid to take things to the transfer station with a receipt, made by Councilperson Burton, second by Councilperson Ferris with All Voting Aye.** Mayor McKern asked citizens to sort the items according to the wishes of the transfer station.

Amber Duncan was present from Semcac. They have programs, grants and loans to help. They have funds now so help can be immediate.

SEMMCHRA – Karen DuCharme was in attendance and they have programs that could help. Ms. DuCharme stated that she will stay to answer questions.

Mayor McKern read through some of the questions that were asked Monday night at an informal gathering. Concerns regarding communications, flood debris, backflow preventers, Mantorville being on our system, the flow of the water from other areas, etc. People asked “why didn’t the workers start pumping sooner?” McKern answered that the MPCA determines when we can pump. We call the Duty Officer at the State because we can’t start bypass pumps before meeting their criteria. Mayor McKern stated that there are a couple of resources here tonight for financial assistance and the City and County are working on others.

The Mayor assured all the citizens that he is taking all ideas and researching every avenue to try to resolve this issue. This is his priority along with addressing the inflow and infiltration issue.

Questions will be asked of future projects and their effect on runoff and water and sewer.

Will future project of east main street storm sewer help some and hurt others?

The council sympathizes with everything that is going on and they are trying to fix it.

VISITORS TO THE COUNCIL

Alissa Oeltjenbruns – SMIF – Alissa spoke on behalf of Southern MN Initiative Fund noting their involvement in the community and what they can do for the Kasson community. Ms. Oeltjenbruns will take word back to her leadership that there has been a lot of flooding in Kasson.

Mike Bubany, David Drown and Associates – CIP Update – Mr. Bubany showed the Council where the City is now and where they are heading regarding the capital improvement projects. Mayor McKern asked about PFA. Mr. Bubany stated that you have to get on the list and the State scores the projects. Engineer Theobald stated that we secured funding for WWTP for the last phase of the wastewater treatment plant.

Mayor McKern asked about the target for the City's fund balances. Mr. Bubany stated that the general fund is the primary operating fund and it should have a six month reserve. As for the other funds it is more art than science.

PUBLIC FORUM

Doug Buck – 300 15th Ave NW - He believes the City needs bigger pumps, need to check manholes, figure out elevations and they need to be marked. He believes getting pumps and something to load them on should be done this week so they are ready to go. Doesn't think MPCA should pull a license for keeping peoples basements clean. The City should use all employees that are on call. This is an emergency and the storm sewer was overwhelmed. Thanked the Council for a lot of information.

Jeff Bjergum - 204 6th Ave NW – He was part of the 6th Ave project in 2007, including street construction, putting in new pipes and was told that the City was putting in backflow valves. He never had water until the City made him put in new storm water drain from his house to the street. Both floods he called the Sheriff's office and told them to pump. He was pumping out sewer from his sump pump and wonders if there is a health hazard with the sewer pumped into the yard.

Ryan Wegner – 307 1st St NE – he sees a lot of negligence with people knowing about the problem and not fixing it.

Randy Rager – 208 4th St SW – he called the other night and asked for more pumps and he was told that the pumps were out. There is history with this problem. He can deal with ground water but not the sewer, he is worried about health hazards. He can't get the record of his sewer lines. Can a backflow valve handle this? There is negligence. When we pay a utility bill, there is an expectation of things working. From 2007 to 2019 something should have been done.

Chris Rilling – 508 1st St NE – He has a check valve on his sewer system and it worked until they started pumping sewer from the sewer system to the street. It backed up his storm sewer. A check valve will help but on 1st street it won't take care of everything.

Andrea Berg – On behalf of Mary Walker 201 4th Ave NE – 3rd and 4th time the house has been wet and they have a backflow valve. There was gravel coming up the shower drain, the toilet was a geyser, and in her opinion, it is the pressure on that street. There are serious problems there and believes there is a lot of sediment in these lines. There shouldn't be that much gravel. There were 7 inches of sewer in the basement with the sump pump working the whole time. Yes, we all have a problem here we need to find a solution.

Tony Paulson – 603 2nd St. NW – showed a check valve and explained what they are and that they need to be maintained. They are not 100% foolproof.

Nancy Kleeberger - 401 3rd Ave SW – they have had sewer backup before but this was the worst. They have a split level and she works from home and cannot work since all equipment was ruined. She appreciates the reimbursement for taking things to the landfill.

Keith Cocker - 505 3rd Ave SW – stated that they had sewer in their basement and some questions have been addressed tonight. Moving forward you, the Council, are civil servants responsible for the protection of your residents. He stated that the Council is responsible for the restoration of its residents and need to be proactive. Questions left are: what is the city doing directly for its residents? The city owes its residents protection and restoration of livelihood. They don't have the funds to fix and be reimbursed. He wants to know what the city is going to do so that this never happens again.

Dawn Underwood – 1701 11th Ave NE – in her neighborhood they have a water flow problem and the water flows through everyone's yard. There are not big enough culverts and she has had water

in her basement. She does not want her neighborhood to fall off the list of corrections that need to be made.

Ann McElmery – 1100 4th PL NW – she had storm water in her basement and has spent thousands on systems to prevent this. She stated the storm sewers are under sized in her cul de sac. They have had the City Engineer out to look at it. Nothing has been done.

Nathan Smith - 1901 11th Ave NE - he doesn't want his neighborhood forgotten. He got water in his house. One thing you can do to improve communication is put signs up at City Hall and Erdman's and around town; he believes it would be faster than social media. He worried about sewer in his basement and in his yard. He called the DNR regarding the drainage easement and was told that he could do whatever he wanted about his drainage easement. He has come with solutions for his development before and was not taken seriously.

Dave Wulff - 400 1st St NE – he is hearing excuses and wants someone to take responsibility. From citizens he hears the town is negligent.

Elise Patzke - 908 3rd St NE – she is directly downstream from where the city is trying to get the water out of downtown. She stated that the creek has been a raging river behind her house and thanked the Council for taking notes and listening.

Bonnie Ryan – 502 1st St NE – what are the results of water testing and has it been tested again, her daughter has a parasite and everyone down her street has stomach aches. Mayor McKern will call her tomorrow with testing results.

Denise Wareheim - 402 1st St NE – had a couple feet of sewer in her basement two times. She cannot afford to keep fixing her house. She put a new water heater in and it was taken out in the second occurrence. She will take any help she can get.

Jeff Bjergum - 204 6th Ave NW – he doesn't have insurance for this and has no hot water and no furnace. He suggested not doing any new construction of business or houses until this is fixed.

Mayor McKern thanked everyone for their comments and if anyone has any ideas the Council is available. Their email addresses are on the city's website. Call, text or stop by.

The Council stated that they are all available and can be contacted and reminded everyone that SEMCAC and SEMMCHRA are here tonight and available.

Mayor McKern stated that he is concerned about the utility bills.

--Break--

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing for Official HRA

Buffy Beranek and Karen DuCharme were in attendance from SEMMCHRA

Public Hearing Opened

No Comments

Public Hearing Closed

Councilperson Ferris asked what the City is getting from the agreement. Ms. Beranek stated that the City has already authorized SEMMCHRA as their HRA but she did not see a resolution in their files so this is more of a formality. This is a further resource for situations as discussed tonight. It would give the City the ability to levy and put those funds in a trust for situations such as this.

Councilperson Ferris asked if the City was giving up local autonomy. Ms. Beranek stated that the City is not giving up autonomy. There is a documented way to get out of the agreement. They have funds available now to help people city wide. The SCOG grant is for the target area.

Motion to Approve the Resolution made by Councilperson Egger, second by Councilperson Zelinske with All Voting Aye.

Resolution #7.2-19

Resolution by the Kasson City Council Authorizing and Establishing the Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority in and for the City of Kasson (on file)

Karen DuCharme stated they will be working on a mailing to get information to the public on the funds that are available

COMMITTEE REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Prairie Meadows Assisted Living Request for “Produce” sign – Prairie Meadows would like to put a sign on the property the City owns on the corner of 16th St NE.

Motion to Approve the Sign made by Mayor McKern, second by Councilperson Ferris with All Voting Aye.

60 inch Park Mower

Lease \$10 per hour

2020 Budget

This will be a budget discussion for next year. **Motion to Authorize Lease for this Season made by Mayor McKern, second by Councilperson Egger with All Voting Aye.**

Park and Ride – There is concern on long term parking at the park and ride. There is nothing posted there. City Attorney Leth will research the State’s role. This will come back on the next agenda.

Resolution Appoint CMMPA Alternate – this would appoint the new Electric Supervisor Jarrod Nelson as alternate to CMMPA. **Motion to Approve the Resolution made by Mayor McKern, second by Councilperson Burton with All Voting Aye.**

Resolution #7.3-19

Resolution Making City Appointment to Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (CMMPA) and Central Municipal Power Agency/Services (CMPAS) Board of Directors (on file)

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

ENGINEER’S REPORT

2019 Pavement Maintenance

Location Map

Resolution Awarding 2019 Pavement Maintenance Project - the bids came in higher than estimated but not over budget. Mayor McKern asked about 1st St. and 8th Ave NE highlighted on the map. We don’t want to do too much if we are going to have to totally redo the street in the near future. Engineer Theobald has some other ideas and other areas that could replace these sections. He will bring it back to the next meeting. Mayor McKern also asked if there are any short term and long term solutions. Engineer Theobald stated he has an internal meeting with experts in his office to form a I and I reduction plan for the City. Engineer Theobald stated that nothing can be guaranteed to never fail. Mayor McKern would like any options put forth.

PERSONNEL

Letter of Resignation – Administrator Coleman is asking the City Council to accept 30 days rather than the 90 days in her contract. **Motion to Accept the Letter of Resignation with the 30 day notice effective July 28, 2019 made by Mayor McKern, Seconded by Councilperson Burton with All Voting Aye.**

Personnel Committee Update – Mayor McKern has been in contact with the LMC, the City Attorney and Councilperson Burton as the Personnel Committee. Mayor McKern will get some information on a company that would hire for us. He will bring this back to council and see if we could piece it out. Mayor McKern stated his timeline to be able to have someone hired by October 1. The Personnel Committee will discuss a possible interim City Administrator.

Creation of IT Position – Councilperson Ferris stated that at the Emergency Services Committee meeting, the Police Chief and Fire Chief asked if the council would consider creating a IT position. They are looking at maybe someone part time. There are potential questions as to how many potential hours, contract, etc. Councilperson Burton stated that this would be a budget discussion.

ATTORNEY

Escrow Agreement for Prairie Willows Fourth Subdivision – Attorney Leth stated that the escrow agreement is for Prairie Willow Estates 4th and is nearly identical to the one approved for Stone Ridge 2nd. It gives the City authority to access the funds if they need to complete the project and they are working with the same bank as Stone Ridge 2nd.

Motion to Approve the Escrow Agreement made by Councilperson Egler, second by Councilperson Zelinske with All Voting Aye.

Closed session 8:28 pm

Opened at 8:39 pm – a piece of real estate that was offered to the City, the City is not interested in purchasing it. There was an update on the Wilker litigation.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was reviewed.

Mayor McKern stated that we should ask Matt Maas about any help Dodge County Public Health can give us on environmental testing. We need to have the water tested or have the most recent testing.

ADJOURN 8:42PM

Motion to Adjourn made by Councilperson Ferris, second by Councilperson Egler with all voting Aye to Adjourn.

ATTEST:

Linda Rappe, City Clerk

Chris McKern, Mayor