

Max Council Meeting Minutes

The Max City Council met Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Mayor Zabka, and council members Swanson and Vert present. Fritel and Adams, absent. Visitors in attendance were Ray Iverson, Kathy Huettl, Nathan Amick, Jody Gullickson, and Catherine Turcotte.

Ray Iverson informed that the Christmas season for the museum is at an end, and he is working to get the museum back to normal seasons status.

Jody Gullickson updated council on the progress of funding for the Auditor' office remodel. One source is a possible WSI ergonomic grant that can pay up to 5K, but the city has to pay 25% of the cost. Jody reminded council that money can come from donated funds, and will still add more money for the overall project. The auditor applied for the grant, and informed council that an Ergonomic Assessment was scheduled with a health professional, from Stanford Health, to come to Max if they agree. Vert motioned to approve. Swanson second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

P & Z Chaiman-Kathy Huettl

Discussed was the zoning map on certain lots, that were thought to be zoned as "no build" because of water drainage. Council looked at the map and other past meeting items. The zoning concern is not specified. It is council consensus to research the water drainage of the area, and look for solutions based on what the purchasers decide to do with the lots.

Nathan Amick of Ackerman Estvold Engineering discussed the water analysis report. He pointed out that the increased costs to water infrastructure, and NPRW raising rates every year, including January 1, of 2024, the city may want to consider a higher water rate. It is council's consensus that the rate increases from both NPRW and Circle Sanitation raising their rates in November of 2023, the city needs to generate more revenue in both departments.

Swanson motioned to increase garbage rates. Vert second. Vote all aye. m/c/a. Vert moved to adopt a resolution increasing water rates from \$9.22 to \$13.22 per 1,000 gallons. Mayor Zabka called roll call. Resolution adopted. Rates are effective as of January 2024 billing cycle. Auditor is directed to send a letter to all customers informing of all rate increases.

Maintenance Dept, represented by Dave Songstad, filling in for Krebsbach, presented the list of needed maintenance items needed to purchase. Swanson moved to approve. Vert second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Free hall use requested were presented to council. Swanson moved to approve the Max Rodeo Association to use the hall on January 27th for their Annual Meeting. Vert second. Vote all aye. m/c/a. A request was presented for the School Staff party. Council discussed the guidelines for free use passed in March of 2023, it was councils' consensus that the event did not meet the guidelines.

Council discussed that there will be open seats for 2 council members, 4- year terms, to be placed on the ballot for the election to be held in June of this year. Also, there is 2 open Park Board Member positions to be placed on the ballot, and the Municipal Judge. All are four-year terms. The auditor informed council that petitions were available in the office for interested persons to pick up.

Ray Iverson presented his recommendations for the upcoming, newly formed Museum Board. He requested for council to appoint Cindy Thompson, Doug Zabka, Susan Halverson, and Roger Westman as

board members. He reminded that council already appointed council member, Shawn Fritel, to serve for one year. Swanson moved to approve the board appointees. Vert second. Vote all aye. m/c/a. Mayor Zabka requested that they hold an organizational meeting in January, then submit the officers to be appointed by council at the next meeting.

Mayor Zabka closed the Bremer Bank Money Market Accounts, and cashed out the 2 CDs as previously discussed, and motions approved by council. Vert deposited the CD checks into the TCB Storm Sewer Account. Swanson motioned to rename the account to "Sewer", and designate the funds to future infrastructure needs for all sewer projects. Vert second. Vote all aye. m/c/a. To designate the money from the Bremer Money Market accounts, Swanson motioned to open a TCB Money Market account designated to General Fund Deficiency, to help with unexpected, future expenses. Vert second. m/c/a. Vert motioned to open a TCB Money Market account designated to "Water" for water infrastructure. Swanson second. Vote all aye. m/c/a. Vert motioned to appoint Zabka and Swanson as designated signers of all of the new accounts. Swanson second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Discussed were plowing issues for the sidewalk. Swanson will look into it. Huettl discussed donating some gaming funds to the city for cleaning supplies and/or the Auditor's office remodel.

Vert motioned to pay the city bills for January. Swanson second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Aramark	Rugs and Supplies Inv #2550240436, 2550246392, 2550252384	337.88
Circle Sanitation	Garbage Service	4,272.75
EFTPS	Payroll 941 Liabilities-Paid online (Employer Portion) November	851.65
Fire Extinguishing Systems	Quarterly Fire Suppression Inspection	349.80
First District Health	Water Testing	30.00
IRS	2021 Quarter 2 and 3 payroll taxes	714.24
Max Farm Services	Fuel Costs	574.81
McElwain Construction	Gravel	485.00
McLean County Sherriff's Dept.	Police Protection	2,685.52
McLean County Auditor's Office	Property taxes-specials for city property	1,518.45
Menards	Janitorial Supplies	188.78
Microsoft Office	Cloud Storage-paid online	1.99
Municipal Judge	December 2023 Judges Pay	178.00
NPRWD	Purchased Water	3,541.50
NorDak North Publications	Publishing	125.64
Ottertail Power Company	Electric Utility	1,274.49
Paul Fowler	Dixon Mower Repair	1,550.00
Swanston Equipment	Oil Filters & Oil	88.45
Sweeney Controls	Annual SCADA Insight	540.00
Reservation Telephone Company	Phone and Internet Utilities (Paid online)	408.38
US Postal Service	2 rolls of regular stamps	132.00
	Total	\$19,849.33

Swanson motioned to accept the City's financial reports. Vert second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Swanson motioned to approve the purchase of needed office supplies. Vert second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Council directed the auditor to send pink slips and/or shut office notices as needed for delinquent city utility accounts.

Vert motioned for meeting to adjourn. Swanson second. Vote all aye. m/c/a-Meeting adjourned. The next council meeting to held on February 5, 2024, at 7 pm.

Aaron Zabka-Mayor

Anita Porter-Auditor