

City of Cleveland Regular Meeting Minutes – Monday, September 8th, 2020

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Don McCabe. Councilmembers present were Nancy Gens, Justin Schabert, Fred Danner and Glenn Beer.

Amendments to the Agenda – None

A Motion was made by Gens and seconded by Danner to approve the August 3rd, 2020 Minutes and current bills report. Voting yes – all

Police Report – Police Chief Randy Tiegs said he closed out the criminal sex case that he was working on last month, charges were 1st and 2nd degree criminal sex. Tiegs indicated that a resident fell victim to a scam. They provided bank and routing info to scammer and a withdraw was made from victims checking account. Tiegs said their bank was able to assist in providing lost funds.

Public Works Report – Jared Holland said that lead and copper testing was completed on the water system and the levels were acceptable to the current standards. Holland indicated that the Le Sueur County Highway Dept. was projected to start road repairs on September 14th for CSAH 49 (2nd Street). Holland stated that he has received several complaints from residents about brownish colored water in their taps. Holland said that he has been working with MN Rural Water and Their Well to correct the issue. They believe that one of the wells may be an issue with allowing an increased amount of iron levels into the water supply. Holland said that he has temporarily shut down the well in question and has flushed the system again. Holland said he will continue to work on the issue as a top priority.

Liquor Report – Clerk indicated that sales were up approximately \$1300 from last month. July gambling rent was \$4635.75.

Water Meters – At the August 3rd 2020 meeting the Council requested an updated bid from Core and Main and a cost breakdown of a radio read meter system. Ron McCabe a representative from Core and Main indicated to the clerk prior to the meeting that if the city purchased the hardware/software and 150 water meters, w/ radio modules, it would save 10% on the overall cost. The council discussed the bid and determined if the radio read system moved forward, they would likely purchase the hardware/software and 150 meters initially to take advantage of the cost savings. The council discussed if public works would install the water meters or if certified plumber would be used to install water meters, and what cost would be associated with the installation. The council tabled this for now and the clerk will research different implementation options.

CARES Act / Grants – The clerk provided a current expenditure report for the Coronavirus Relief Fund – approved. The clerk provided a final draft of the contract between the City, Le Sueur County and NextStage for administering small business grants. A Motion was made by Gens and seconded by Beer to approve the contract/grant program and agreed to pledge \$40k of the CARES Act dollars towards round two of the Le Sueur County small business recovery fund program. Voting yes – all

Verizon Cell Tower – Clerk indicated that he received a response back from Mark Moffat a real estate analyst with Verizon Wireless. Mark stated that Verizon is still interested in a constructing a cell tower in the area but cannot commit to a timeline at this time.

New Business

Rental Property Garbage Issues – Chief Tiegs provided a photo to the council of 18 bags of garbage that were left on the city street in front of 208 4th Street, 3 days prior to the scheduled trash pick-up. Tiegs also stated that because the trash was out for several days, he saw rats climbing on the garbage bags. Tiegs indicated that a rental license violation was sent to the landlord. Tiegs also indicated that the current rental license ordinance is very vague on what is expected of the property owner for refuse service. Clerk stated that he had a phone call with the landlord prior to the meeting who indicated that he was in the process of evicting the tenants.

Tiegs stated that an amendment to the current rental license ordinance is needed to get landlord responsibility on having some type of container for garbage service. The clerk indicated that the current refuse contract expires in September of 2021 and the council could eliminate the bag service with the new contract and solve the problem of loss bags of garbage on the city streets. Clerk will provide additional info at the next council meeting on how many residents use the bag service as well as a proposed amendment to the rental license ordinance.

Clean-up Day – Non-Resident Garbage Issues – The clerk advised the council that he received a complaint of a non-resident bringing in a trailer load of junk and dropping it off curb-side at a residence in town. The clerk advised that he drafted a letter to send to the residence but ask the council how they would like to handle this issue for future clean-up days. The Mayor mentioned that a penalty could be imposed on residents who allow non-resident junk to be placed at their curb. The clerk advise that he will mentioned something in the fall news-letter about the expectations of clean-up day.

Le Sueur County Rural Broadband Initiative – Clerk updated the council that Le Sueur County is currently working on updating fiber infrastructure in the county and that fiber would potentially be coming to Cleveland. Clerk also stated that the water tower could be a potential locating for wireless internet.

Estimated Ditch Assessment – City clerk provide documentation from the Le Sueur County Drainage Authority Board of Commissioners. This was an estimated assessment on ditch 37 and 65 in the amount of \$1002.42. The council acknowledged this potential assessment with no issues.

Shop Loan – The clerk advised the council through the recommendation of the city auditor, that the council consider paying off the shop loan early. The approximate pay-off amount is \$26,699.00. a Motion was made by Beer and seconded by Schabert to pay-off the existing shop loan balance. Voting yes – all

A Motion was made by Schabert and seconded by Beer to set a special meeting for the budget and levy on September 21st at 5:30 p.m. Voting yes – all

A Motion was made by Schabert and seconded by Danner to set the Truth-in-Taxation Public Hearing for December 7th 2020 at 6 p.m. Voting yes – all

Mayor McCabe wanted to address the council on a pending matter involving Alison Jones the city attorney. In a previous meeting it was stated that she was potentially looking at retirement. McCabe said she was not retiring based on an email that was address to the council. McCabe stated that Chief Tiegs has had issues with our attorney not prosecuting certain cases but said he did not know the details of those cases. McCabe indicated that the city always has options for going out for bids at the first of the year. McCabe said that if any future issues come up they will need to be talk through with all parties involved.

A Motion was made by Gens and Seconded by Schabert to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m. Voting yes – all

Dan Evans
City Clerk-Treasurer

Don McCabe
Mayor