**City Council Meeting**

**Minutes**

**July 6th, 2021**

Pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Schoonover.

Meeting started at 7:00 PM.

**Sheriff Jacobs.**

Sheriff could not attend.

**Health Director Marihugh**

Nancy could not attend.

Liz Sattholf was introduced as the new Pool Manager. Liz said the pool is currently averaging 50-60 bathers a day. Pricing for pool entry is $3.00 per day, $45.00 for a single season pass, and $100 for a seasonal family pass. There will be Red Cross training at the pool the last week of June. Pool rules have been posted. So far all is running smoothly at the swimming pool.

Visitors Brad Rake and Jeff Flathman from Energy Solutions Professionals (ESP) is doing an energy savings project for Rural Water and was requested by Rural Water to give our council a presentation on potential energy savings for Mankato. Their goal is to save Mankato Energy which will pay for energy savings. ESP is an independent group that started in 1989. They have low overhead costs which is commuted to the customers. Jeff (company owner) said they can do an audit for Mankato for $2000. He also said that Rural Water will pay half of that cost. During the audit ESP will have a workshop with staff explaining how we can all save energy. Attorney Miller asked how do we know if we are saving? Jeff said energy efficiency and the easiest way is to look at the city’s energy bill. Council moved approval to fund the audit to New Business.

Councilman Klos motioned to approve the consent agenda. Council President Dauner seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0 with 1 absent.

Administrator updated council on the electronic sign. Contractor will try and install the second week in June.

Administrator said that Haul Brothers are trying to get drivers to deliver asphalt for Lebow Street.

Administrator has visited with our collections agency and working out the active and inactive delinquent listing. Patrick from ARSI will need an updated list before next council meeting.

Administrator said that JayHawk is doing well and will be ready to train new employees.

Council reviewed the special CMB request from the Fire Department for the Threshing Bee. Council President Dauner motioned to approve the permit and Councilman Klos seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

Council reviewed the special CMB request from the Fire Department for the County Fair. Council President Dauner motioned to approve, and Councilwoman Abel seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

Councilman Klos asked that the City Support Soloman Valley transportation by asking the mayor to sign a pledge letter for future grants. Councilwoman Abel motioned to approve, and Councilman Becker seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0 with 1 absent.

Council President said that we are inconsistent on zoning. Council President Dauner suggested that city staff during their work around the city to be cognizant of ordinance and zoning issues and report them back to the administrator to address. Councilwoman Abel motions to approve Council President Dauners’ request and Councilman Becker seconds the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

A building permit for Barb and Bruce Peterson was submitted for approval. Council President Dauner motioned to approve the building permit and Councilman Becker seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

Mayor Schoonover opened the bid for the Hay Land Lease. Roy Montgomery bid $517 per year for three years. Attorney Miller will do a new lease. Councilman Becker motioned to approve the bid and Council President Dauner seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

The Administrator presented an estimate to repair the floor at the north entrance of the library. It was discussed whether to do a grant or proceed with city funds. Councilwoman Abel said it was too important to wait on an approved grant for the repairs. Council President Dauner motioned to approve an estimate of $2400 to make repairs to the north entrance floor of the library. Councilman Becker seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

The Administrator requested approval to proceed with a grant to make the Thrift Store ADA compliant including the restrooms at City Hall. Council discussed there has been many grants awarded since last year and what is the city’s cost with these grants. The Administrator said that most of these grants will require the city to pay for some of the cost. Some grants have paid for the projects in full. Councilman Klos stressed how important these grants are to the community and not to discourage the city from writing grants. He stated that the cost is much greater if we do nothing at all. Grants are a must for smaller communities that have limited budgets.

Administrator informed council that all are up to date on their RLF payments. Attorney Miller informed that everything in the Jewell Grocery store will be auctioned off.

Request to accept 4 additional items to the agenda. Council accepted. These items are: Alora’s bonus, Judy Ryan’s approval to hire, Sharon McCormick approval to train on her off time and salary approval, and approval to replace and repair tile in the north entrance to the library.

Council discussed Alora Vandaveer staying on for an extra month to assist in the training of new hires. They agreed to give her a $500 bonus for staying. Council President Dauner motioned to approve the bonus and Councilman Becker seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

Administrator requested approval to hire Sharon McCormick as fulltime Office Clerk to replace Alora Vandaveer at a starting salary of $17/hour and an increase to $19/hour upon successful completion of probation. Councilman Klos motioned to approve hiring Sharon McCormick at $17/hour and an increase to $19/hour after 6 months’ probation. Council President Dauner seconded the motion. Motioned carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

Council discussed application for part time office assistant. Application was denied. Council informed the Administrator to keep looking.

Council discussed the approval of allowing ESP to perform an energy audit for Mankato. Councilman Klos motioned to approve hiring ESP in the amount of $2000 with half being paid by Rural Water. Council President Dauner seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30PM

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Justin Schoonover Barry K. Parsons

Mayor City Administrator