

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CALEDONIA CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL  
CALEDONIA, MINNESOTA  
December 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Following due call and notice thereof, Mayor DeWayne “Tank” Schroeder called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Schroeder led the Council, City staff, and visitors in stating the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Council members present: Mayor Schroeder, Member Amanda Ninneman, Member Ryan Stenzel, Member David Fitzpatrick and Member Robert “Bob” Klug. City staff present: Jake Dickson, City Clerk/Administrator, Casey Klug, Public Works/Zoning Director, Stephanie Mann, Finance Officer, Michael Flaherty, City Attorney. Visitors present: Jessica and Darryl Twite, Mark and Tami Klinski, Todd Lemke, Ralph and Marilyn Burg, Dane and Kathryn Lamb, Bruce Loken, Elsie Babler, Tamiko Hubka-Steele, Scott Betz, Nicole Thomas, Anthony Glover, Kim Klees, Tracey Knutson, Houston County Commissioner Bob Burns, Rose Korabek, *Caledonia Argus*, and Charlene Colson-Selbee, *Filmore County Journal*.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Fitzpatrick moved to approve the minutes from the November 27, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting. Motion seconded by Member Klug, motion passed 5-0. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Member Klug moved to approve the consent agenda. Member Ninneman seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed. The consent agenda comprised the following item:

- a. Approve Regular Payments and Disbursements
- b. Sign Permit at 208 E Main Street
- c. Salvage Yard Permit
- d. Tobacco License Renewals
- e. Cannabinoid License Renewals
- f. Resolution 2023-19 Designating Polling Places for 2024
- g. Approve Pay Application #23 for Work Performed on the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Amount of \$649,778.15

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PUBLIC WORKS/ZONING DIRECTOR: No report.

CITY CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR: No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Public Hearing – Resolution 2023-20 Adopting 2024 Budget and Levy (Truth in Taxation): Motion made by Member Ninneman to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing, Motion seconded by Member Fitzpatrick. Motion passed 5-0 and

- the public hearing opened at 6:01PM. Finance Officer Stephanie Mann presented the final draft of the proposed 2024 budget and levy. Mann reported a total proposed levy of \$1,248,123. Mann stated that much of the 8.9% increase is due to increased wages and general expenses. Kathryn Lamb asked if it was possible to raise the levy at this time, Mann stated it is not. Motion made by Member Klug to close the public hearing and reopen the regular council meeting. Motion seconded by Member Ninneman. Motion passed 5-0 and the regular council meeting reopened at 6:08PM. Motion made by Member Fitzpatrick to approve Resolution 2023-20 Adopting the 2023 Budget and Levy. Motion seconded by Member Stenzel. Motion passed unanimously, motion carried.
- b. Assessment Policy Discussion: City Clerk/Administrator Dickson reintroduced the special assessment discussion from the November 27 City Council Meeting. Mayor Schroeder asked for questions from the Council and the public. Members of the public asked questions regarding the special benefit test, Kingston Street assessments, reassessment, the assessment policy, and legal action. Members of the Council asked clarifying questions of the City Attorney Mike Flaherty, who presented options to the City Council including reassessing the project, doing nothing and letting the court decide the validity of assessments, and policy decisions related to the assessment policy. Member Ninneman expressed discomfort with the statutes and the assessment process and how it affects small towns. A special meeting was set for December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00PM to continue the Special Assessment discussion.
  - c. Official Newspaper Bids: City Clerk/Administrator Dickson opened two bids received for the City of Caledonia Official Newspaper for 2024. *The Caledonia Argus* and *The Fillmore County Journal* submitted official newspaper bids. The *Argus* was the low bidder at \$3 per column inch. Motion made by Member Klug to award the Official Newspaper Bid to *The Caledonia Argus*. Motion seconded by Member Ninneman. Motion passed unanimously, motion carried.
  - d. December 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting Cancellation: Mayor Schroeder announced the cancellation of the regularly scheduled December 25<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.
  - e. Overtime Report: The City Council reviewed the Overtime Report for pay period November 13<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>. No action was taken.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. The next regular Council meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 8, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made by Member Klug, seconded by Member Ninneman. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion was declared carried to adjourn at 8:16p.m.

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DeWayne "Tank" Schroeder  
Mayor

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Jake Dickson  
Clerk/Administrator