

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CALEDONIA CITY COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM
CALEDONIA, MINNESOTA
Monday, February 8, 2021

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

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 David Fitzpatrick, Member Amanda Ninneman, and Member Brad Rykhus. Council members absent: Robert “Bob” Klug. City staff present: Casey Klug, public works and zoning director; Adam Swann, city clerk/administrator; Mike Tornstrom, ambulance director (arrived at 6:35 p.m.). City volunteers present: Carolyn Medin, Street Scapes; Polly Heberlein, Street Scapes; Laurel Rusert, Street Scapes; and Dianne Schuldt, Street Scapes. Visitor(s) present: Craig Moorhead, *Caledonia Argus*; Charlene Selbee, *Fillmore County Journal*.

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

- a. Approve minutes from January 25, 2021 regular City Council meeting
- b. Approve purchase of 2021 ISX 2200 Ferris lawnmower from Hammell Equipment for \$9,500
- c. Approve hiring Kristina Hauser as part-time clerk at Caledonia Liquor Store at rate of \$12/hr.
- d. Approve payment application no. 1 from Ricchio, Inc. for \$19,000 for pool gutter replacement project

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PUBLIC WORKS/ZONING DIRECTOR:

- a. Updates
 - i. Water pressure issues in Doering Estates: Public Works/Zoning Director Klug reported that City staff had resolved water pressure problems in Doering Estates. Klug reported that the problem had been traced to a local business.
 - ii. DNR water report: Klug reported that he had completed the DNR water report.

CITY CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR:

- a. Updates
 - i. Reimbursement for pool gutter replacement costs: Clerk/Administrator Swann reported that he had submitted invoices totaling \$43,799.68 to the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust for costs incurred in 2020 as part of the project to replace the pool gutter at the Caledonia Aquatic Center. Swann explained that most of the costs were for engineering fees.

ii. Meeting with community pickleball players: Swann reported that he, Mayor Schroeder, and Public Works/Zoning Director Klug had recently met with a group of community pickleball players who wanted the City to build a tennis court and two pickleball courts at Veterans Memorial Park. Swann reported that they told the group that the City did not have funding in the budget for the project in 2021 but that the City would consider it for 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Discussion re future of former Hauser property at 119 S. Kingston St.: Laurel Rusert of the City's Street Scapes Committee was present and explained to the Council that Street Scapes had received a \$7,500 grant from the Arlin Falck Foundation for a 3D mural and that Street Scapes wanted to display the mural on the former Hauser property as part of a pocket park. Carolyn Medin of Street Scapes was also present and told the Council that Street Scapes wanted Sarah Pederson to paint the mural. Polly Heberlein of Street Scapes was also present and told the Council that Street Scapes wanted Caledonia to be a tourism destination and that they hoped projects like the mural and pocket park would help the City attract visitors. Clerk/Administrator Swann reported that if the Council made an offer to purchase the former Hauser property from Houston County for market value of \$13,200, the City would receive \$7,989.79 back due to delinquent City taxes owed on the property and the City's \$33,594.06 assessment on the property from demolishing the building and clearing the property. Swann further reported that the County and School District would recover \$5,210.21 in delinquent taxes if the City purchased the property.

Member Ninneman moved to make an offer to Houston County to purchase the property at 119 S. Kingston St. for the fair market value price of \$13,200. Member Rykhus seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed.

b. Consideration of proposal to increase Ambulance Department service rates, starting March 1, 2021: Ambulance Director Mike Tornstrom was present and summarized his proposed increases to the Ambulance Department's service rates. Tornstrom reported that most of the department's revenues came from transports. Tornstrom reported that the department had 520 calls in 2020 and transported 410 of those calls. Tornstrom further reported that rates were last increased in March 2018. Tornstrom noted that the rate increases would only impact commercial and self-payers because the rates with Medicare and Medicaid were set by contract.

Member Fitzpatrick moved to approve the proposed rate increases. Member Rykhus seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed.

c. Consideration of proposed Resolution 2021-02: A Resolution Authorizing the City of Caledonia to Apply to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority for a Loan of \$10,559,889 from the Clean Water Revolving Fund for Engineering and Construction Costs Related to Improvements to the City's Wastewater Treatment System: Member Fitzpatrick moved to approve proposed Resolution 2021-02, a resolution authorizing the City of Caledonia to apply to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority for a loan of \$10,559,889 from the Clean Water Revolving Fund for engineering and construction costs related to improvements to the City's wastewater treatment system. Member Rykhus seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed.

d. Consideration of proposed Resolution 2021-03: A Resolution Expressing Support for Extension of N. Warrior Avenue, Authorizing Submission of an Application for Funding from MnDOT's 2020 Local Road Improvement Program, and Requesting Support from Houston County: Member Ninneman moved to approve proposed Resolution 2021-03, a resolution expressing support for extension of N. Warrior Ave., authorizing submission of an application for funding from MnDOT's 2020 Local Road Improvement Program, and requesting support from Houston County for the LRIP application. Member Fitzpatrick seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed.

e. Consideration of recommendation from Council's Public Safety Committee to increase pay for casual part-time police officers from \$17.95/hr. to at least \$20.50/hr.: Mayor Schroeder reported that he, Member Rykhus, Clerk/Administrator Swann, and Finance Officer Stephanie Mann had met with Chief Zehnder to discuss the pay for casual part-time police officers. Mayor Schroeder reported that Chief Zehnder had requested that the City raise the pay for casual part-time police officers from \$17.95/hr. to \$21/hr. because the pay hadn't been increased in 12 years. Mayor Schroeder reported that he and Member Rykhus felt comfortable with raising the pay to \$20.50/hr.

Member Rykhus moved to approve the recommendation of the Council's Public Safety Committee to raise the pay for casual part-time police officers from \$17.95/hr to \$20.50/hr. Member Ninneman seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed.

f. Discussion re City's utility customer policies and procedures re voluntary removal of water and electric meters: Council discussed the City's utility customer policies and procedures, specifically the prohibition on customers voluntarily removing water and electric meters. Council discussed whether owners of downtown mixed use buildings could remove residential water/electric meters serving the upstairs floors if the building owners kept at least one water and electric meter on the first floor. Council requested that City staff research what other cities were doing and then report back at a future Council meeting.

g. Review of correspondence from City Attorney Mike Flaherty regarding potential conflict involving Melissa Wray's application to participate in Small Cities Development Program: Clerk/Administrator Swann reported that Semcac required all applicants for SCDP funds to submit a conflict of interest form. Swann reported that two City employees and a former City Council member had participated in the Small Cities Development Program. Swann further reported that City Attorney Flaherty had prepared a letter finding that there would not be a contractual conflict of interest if Melissa Wray participated and that her sister Member Amanda Ninneman would abstain from any discussion or voting in the unlikely event that the EDA or City Council was required to make a decision regarding Melissa's application. No action was taken by the Council.

h. Overtime Report: Members reviewed the overtime report for the pay period December 14, 2020 – December 27, 2020. No further action was taken by the Council.

i. Prepaid claims: Council reviewed the prepaid claims for the period January 13, 2021 – February 5, 2021, which totaled \$807,482.96. Member Rykhus moved to approve the prepaid

claims as presented. Member Fitzpatrick seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed.

g. Claims payable: Council reviewed the claims payable for February 2021, which totaled \$45,951.80. Member Fitzpatrick moved to approve the claims payable as presented. Member Rykhus seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. The next regular City Council meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made by Member Rykhus, seconded by Member Ninneman. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion was declared carried to adjourn at 7:39 p.m.

DeWayne "Tank" Schroeder
Mayor

Adam G. Swann
Clerk/Administrator