

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CALEDONIA CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
CALEDONIA, MINNESOTA
November 28, 2022

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 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 Robert “Bob” Klug, Member Amanda Ninneman, and Member Brad Ryhkus. Member(s) Absent: David Fitzpatrick. City staff present: Jake Dickson, City Clerk/Administrator, Casey Klug, Public Works/Zoning Director, Stephanie Mann, Finance Officer. Visitor(s) present: Rachel Stock, *Caledonia Argus*, Charlene Selbee, *Fillmore County Journal*, Robbie Sobczak, ISD#299, Carol Hood, Kari Neumann, Jean Kinneberg, Polly Heberlein, Randy Mell, Val Green, Holly Becker.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Member Ninneman to approve the November 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes, Seconded by Member Ryhkus. Motion passed 4-0, motion carried.

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

- a. Approve Resolution 2022-22 Certifying a Special Assessment
- b. Tobacco License Renewals
- c. Liquor License Renewals

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PUBLIC WORKS/ZONING DIRECTOR

a. Updates

- i. Public Works/Zoning Director Casey Klug updated the City Council on the projects carried out by City Staff. Klug updated the Council on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Construction, a fire at the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant, Light Department Operations, water department projects, and upcoming zoning applications.

CITY CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

a. Updates

- i. City Clerk/Administrator Dickson updated the City Council on a meeting with MiEnergy, a meeting with Houston County EDA, and ongoing budget work and preparations for next year.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. School Forest Discussion. Robbie Sobczak of Caledonia Public Schools spoke to the Council about the School Forest proposal at the November 14 City Council meeting. Sobczak introduced Val Green and Randy Mell who worked on forestry plans and stewardship plans for forests in the past. Member Klug asked for clarification about why the DNR partnership is necessary if the City already has stewardship plans for the Sprague Woods. Green responded that it depended on what the City wanted for the

woods. Sobczak stated that the School Forest program gives the school a platform for more use of the woods as well as a formal committee for leading curriculum and improvements. Mayor Schroeder asked about existing prairie land on school property and why the school did not choose that land, to which Sobczak stated he would look into it further, and that the prairie land did not meet the schools needs since it is not a mature wooded area. Member Ninneman clarified to the group that the School Forest program is needed by the school and not by the City, but the school needs the City's permission to work further with the DNR. Green stated that the DNR would interact only with the school and School Forest Committee rather than working with the City concerning the Sprague Woods. Member Ninneman moved to allow Robbie to approach the School Board and continue with the application for a School Forest, seconded by Member Klug. Motion passed 3-1, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. 2023 Ambulance Rates. Finance Officer Stephanie Mann presented proposed Ambulance Rates for 2023. The rates include increases based on prices of services as well as expected Medicare revenue. The rates had not been adjusted for 2 years or more. Motion made by Member Klug to approve the 2023 Ambulance Rates, seconded by Member Rykhkus. Motion passed 4-0, motion carried.
- b. Approve Posting and Authorize Advertisement for Street Maintenance Technician. City Clerk/Administrator Dickson presented a proposed advertisement for the Street Maintenance Technician position. Dickson stated that there was a motion made in February to add a third position but that the motion was never carried out, and that this advertisement is only for one position, to replace a retiring Street Maintenance Technician. Motion made by Member Klug to Authorize Advertising for the Street Maintenance Technician, seconded by Member Ninneman. Motion passed 4-0, motion carried.
- c. Resolution 2022-23 in Support of an Active Transportation Grant. City Clerk/Administrator Dickson presented a resolution pledging the City's support for an Active Transportation Grant which would fund Rapid Flashing Beacon signs at crosswalks throughout town. The resolution is necessary to pledge City support for long-term maintenance of the beacons. Motion made by Mayor Schroeder to Approve Resolution 2022-23 in Support of an Active Transportation Grant, seconded by Member Rykhkus. Motion passed 4-0, motion carried.
- d. Financial Review and Budget Update. Finance Officer Mann presented a review of City financials and 2023 budget updates. Mann reported a total cash and investment balance of \$5,992,589.34. Member Klug asked for clarification on an investment that showed a loss, Mann stated that the City cannot lose its principal and the loss was a drop in investment earnings.
- e. Overtime Report-October 31 through November 13: The City Council reviewed the overtime report and took no action.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. The next regular Council meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 12, 2022, 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 7:40 p.m.

DeWayne "Tank" Schroeder
Mayor

Jake Dickson
Clerk/Administrator