



**CITY OF BLUE EARTH MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, September 19, 2022, at 5:00 P.M.**

**The Blue Earth City Council convened on Monday, September 19, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at the Blue Earth City Council Chambers.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Scholtes called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

**ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Huisman, Erichsrud, Cassem, Cole, Hanna and Ristau Present.

Staff: City Engineer, Wes Brown; City Attorney, David Frundt; and City Administrator, Mary Kennedy.

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

Quorum present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Scholtes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA**

2.1 City Deer Hunt

11.1 Sewer Forgiveness - Michael Spencer

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Fiona Green, Faribault County Register; Bill Eckles, Bevcomm; Jacque Drew, Stephanie Walter, Logan Walter, Dellan Walter, Collin Walter, Deb Johnson, Kim Walter, Tharen Haugh.

**Police Officer Tharen Haugh City Deer Hunt**

Officer Tharen Haugh addressed the Council with the 2022 City Deer Hunt. Haugh explained the hunt began September 17<sup>th</sup> and will conclude December 31<sup>st</sup>, and discussed site locations, with the most noticeable location for this year being the handicapped site on Leland Parkway. Haugh confirmed that an individual using this site will be hunting from inside of a silver minivan, pending favorable weather conditions. Haugh advised that the van may gain public attention and concern from citizens. Haugh indicated that so far already one Doe has been harvested.

### **Humane Society - Deb Johnson**

Johnson indicated that she had reviewed the Faribault County Register article and the City Council minutes of the previous meeting, noting that she was disappointed about the decisions that were made regarding the impound building and Faribault County Humane Society. Johnson reviewed her thoughts on Parvo, indicating that the FCHS didn't intend for the pound to be closed for a period of time, but due to the risk of spreading Parvo, volunteers felt it was crucial to their cause. Johnson also discussed the time and effort it takes to run a humane society. Johnson reviewed the timeframe in which the drains will be completed in the new building.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the Work Session and the Council Meeting of Tuesday, September 6, 2022.

***Motion by Huisman, second by Hanna to approve the Minutes from the Council Meeting of Tuesday, September 6, 2022. The motion was passed unanimously.***

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Scholtes addressed the Consent Agenda.**

Liquor Store Hire, Missy Huber, Part Time.

***Motion by Ristau, second by Hanna to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was passed unanimously.***

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nothing

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Nothing

### **REPORTS FROM STAFF City Attorney Frundt**

**Frundt addressed the following ordinances.**

**Ordinance to Update Bevcomm Inc. Franchise Agreement (*Second Reading*).**

Frundt brought forth the Ordinance to Update Bevcomm Inc. Franchise Agreement, this being the Second Reading. Frundt reminded the Council that the agreement must be updated every 15 years.

Scholtes turned the meeting over to Vice Mayor Cole, due to his employment status with Bevcomm. Cole asked for any continued discussions

***Motion by Huisman, second by Cassem to approve the Ordinance to Update Bevcomm Inc. Franchise Agreement.***

Vice Mayor Cole requested the roll call.

**Roll Call:**

<b>Councilmember Huisman</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Erichsrud</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Cassem</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Cole</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Hanna</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Ristau</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Scholtes</b>	<b>Abstain</b>

***The motion was passed with Scholtes abstaining.***

**Ordinance Sale to G&S Drainage and Excavation (First Reading)**

Next, Frundt addressed the Ordinance Sale to G&S Drainage and Excavation this being the first reading.

***Motion by Cassem, second by Hanna to schedule the Public Hearing for Monday, October 3, 2022, at 5pm for the Ordinance Sale of City owned property to G&S Drainage and Excavation. The motion was passed unanimously.***

**Ordinance Relating to Keeping Chickens (First Reading)**

Frundt addressed Ordinance Relating to Keeping Chickens, this being the first reading.

Scholtes recommended a change to the ordinance, suggesting that it read violation and not violations.

***Motion by Huisman, second by Cole to schedule the Public Hearing for Monday, October 3, 2022, at 5:00 pm for the Ordinance Relating to Keeping Chickens. The motion was passed unanimously.***

**City Engineer Wes Brown:**

**2022 Street Project Updates:**

**Brown gave 2022 Street Project updates.**

Underground crews continue to work on the installation of sanitary sewer and watermain along Gorman Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to the dead end on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Services will be installed next week for the completion of underground construction. The grading crew placed gravel along 4<sup>th</sup> Street from Galbraith Street to Rice Street, and on Gorman Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Concrete crews are scheduled to be in town starting this week. The concrete crew have set up and begin pouring curb along the remaining streets that currently have gravel. At this time, the grading crews continue restoring disturbed streets after the underground crew has finished. Once this work is completed, the grading crew will return to areas where concrete has already been placed and begin restoring boulevards.

Jacque Drew questioned the quality of the dirt being placed on the boulevards for the restoration process. Brown indicated that the contractors are testing soils to ensure quality dirt is obtained.

### **Monthly Liquor Sales**

Included in packet.

### **Library Report**

Included in packet.

### **REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**Library Board** Minutes 8.8.22

**Economic Development Authority** Minutes 8.11.22

**Housing and Redevelopment Authority** Minutes 8.8.22 & Minutes 9.1.22

**Rural Entrepreneurial Venture** Minutes 8.8.22

**Senior Center Board** Meeting 9.20.22

**Planning Commission** Meeting 9.28.22

**Blue Earth Airport Advisory Commission** Meeting 10.4.22

***Motion by Huisman, second by Hanna to approve the reports from the Boards and Commissions. The motion was passed unanimously.***

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Fire Department Officers Update**

Scholtes reviewed the Fire Department Officers Update with the Council, informing them that they had received applications for the positions and will continue the hiring process next with interviews.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Resolution 22-23 Setting Preliminary Budget 2023**

Scholtes addressed Resolution 22-23 Setting Preliminary Budget 2023, reviewing following totals of money be levied for the current year and being collectable in 2023.

General/Operating Levy \$1,064,288.69

Debt Levy \$1,000,000.00

Total \$2,064,288.69

Scholtes reminded the Council these are the preliminary numbers. At this time the Preliminary Budget is at a 15% increase, alluding that like previous years, the goal will be to decrease the final levy to 3.5% in December.

***Motion by Ristau, second by Huisman to approve Resolution 22-23 Setting Preliminary Budget 2023. The motion was passed unanimously.***

#### **Sewer Forgiveness Request for Mike Spencer 505 South Main Street**

Next, Scholtes addressed the Sewer Forgiveness Request for Mike Spencer 505 South Main Street. Kennedy reviewed the letter with the Council that was received by City Staff, indicating that the request is due to a garden spigot let on. Scholtes reviewed the totals of recent bills, recommending that a credit to the account for \$40.35. Huisman questioned what takes precedence in what and why we give bill forgiveness and if we had forgiven a bill for this type of issue. Staff agreed that in the past that this type of circumstance had been forgiven.

***Motion by Erichsrud, second by Cassem to approve the Sewer Forgiveness Request for Mike Spencer 505 South Main Street for a total of \$40.35. The motion was passed unanimously.***

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND OTHER BUDGETORY MATTERS**

Investment Schedule

YTD Budget Summary

**PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND APPROPRIATIONS**

***Motion by Huisman, second by Ristau to pay the bills. The motion passed unanimously.***

**CITY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

Payroll Summary

Scholtes recommended doing Kennedy's performance review during the second council meeting in November, with Kennedy's permission, indicating he will correspond with the Council with the review forms.

Huisman questioned what could be done to help the Humane Society getting the correct permits submitted for the construction of the new building. Kennedy advised that some of the permits cannot be obtained at the city level, as electrical and plumbing go through the State of Minnesota. Huisman inquired if it would be okay if the building inspector and himself met with members of the Humane Society at their new building to discuss permitting. The city council and city staff were agreeable to this.

**NEXT WORKSESSION ITEMS**

2023 budget discussion with Police Chief Fletcher and Public Works Director Holland. Begin at 4:15 pm.

**ADJOURN**

***Motion by Huisman, second by Cole to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Mayor Scholtes adjourned the City Council Meeting at 6:00P.M.***