



**CITY OF BLUE EARTH MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, November 7, 2022, at 5:00 P.M.**

The Blue Earth City Council convened on Monday, November 7, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at the Blue Earth City Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Mayor Scholtes.

Staff: City Project Engineer, Ben Rosol; City Attorney, David Frundt; and City Administrator, Mary Kennedy.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Quorum present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Cole led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

No Changes.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Fiona Green, Faribault County Register; Heidi Schutt, Blue Earth Community Library & Fossil Center; Public Works Director, Jamie Holland, and Jacque Drew.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the Work Session and the Council Meeting of Monday, October 17, 2022.

Motion by Huisman, second by Ristau to approve the Minutes from the Council Meeting of Monday, October 17, 2022. The motion was passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

No Consent Agenda.

CORRESPONENCE

Senior Center Newsletter November.

PUBLIC HEARING

No Public Hearing.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

City Attorney Frundt

Code Enforcement Property

Update on Nuisance Abatement 517 E 6th Street.

Frundt gave an update on the nuisance abatement at 517 East 6th Street. Frundt indicated that the fence had been repaired and advised that the City would be able to enter the property for the abatement, noting the City will need to find a service willing to do the removal items and secure proper liability insurance. Huisman inquired where the items would be stored and for how long. Frundt implied that that they would have to be stored at a locked facility such as the City Wastewater Treatment Plant and follow the statutory hold period before they could be sold for value. Huisman inquired the removal of the fence. Frundt suggested that the fence could be removed if not structurally compliant. Huisman added the possibility of the city purchasing the property for \$1.00 from the owner. Frundt advised that he include this as part of his letter to the property owner to determine if there would be interest in selling the property to the City for \$1.00.

Motion by Ristau, second by Huisman to include in the City Attorney's letter the purchase of the property to the city for \$1.00. The motion was passed unanimously.

City Project Engineer Ben Rosol:

2022 Street Project Updates:

Project Updates

Rosol indicated that that Holtmeier's is finished with their part of the 2022 Street Project, suggesting that the sod portion of the project is only half finished with only seven blocks of sod completed. Rosol indicated that due to the lack of watering of the sod that has been placed, this portion of the project will not be accepted until spring, and only then, pending the conditions of the sod. Rosol implied that he has had many conversations with the company about the watering and the requirements.

Blue Earth Police Department October 2022.

Included in packet.

Senior Center Report.

Included in packet.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Library Board Meeting 11.7.22

Economic Development Authority Meeting 11.10.22

Housing and Redevelopment Authority Meeting 11.10.22

Rural Entrepreneurial Venture Meeting 11.10.22

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

OLD BUSINESS

Faribault County Register Article – Code Enforcement

Cole Addressed the Faribault County Register Article – Code Enforcement, mentioning that it had been nicely written. Kennedy shared that the articles written for the Faribault County Register was a suggestion by Jamie Holland, implying that it was a good recommendation having staff contribute to this project so that residents have knowledge of what services the city staff provide.

NEW BUSINESS

WWTP PFAS Monitoring and Memo of Understanding.

Holland addressed the MPCA Memo of Understanding with the Council, advising that the MPCA has asked that the monitoring be completed outside the City's wastewater permit. By signing a Memorandum of Understanding the City agrees to a PFSA sampling plan, collecting of quarterly samples and work with industries such as Kerry Ingredients and others to reduce PFSA in the wastewater by working on a management plan with these facilities.

Motion by Hanna, second by Huisman to approve the WWTP PFAS Monitoring and Memo of Understanding. The motion was passed unanimously.

Cassem questioned the Blue Earth Light & Water RO project. Rosol advised that the project is a two-year project, plans are 80% complete, and the project is waiting for the bonding bill to be signed for funding.

Sewer Forgiveness Request – 115 E 10th Street.

Kennedy addressed the Beverly Dummer sewer forgiveness request, the property located at 115 E 10th Street is seeking a credit to their account for sewer for \$12.21, this being a onetime credit.

Motion by Hanna, second by Huisman to approve the Beverly Dummer sewer onetime credit forgiveness request for \$12.21. The motion was passed unanimously.

Cassem inquired why the request was such a small amount, and if staff was explaining that it was a one-time forgiveness. Kennedy advised that city staff doesn't speak with the requester, and that the information and request are coming from Blue Earth Light & Water. Cole suggested the Council consider setting parameters to the forgiveness program.

Honorary Council Member Program.

Kennedy reviewed with the Council the Honorary City Council Member Program, recommending that this would be the time to give feed back on the program and if this would be something the Council would like to continue to pursue or not. Kennedy reviewed the program expectations and timelines.

Motion by Cassem, second by Huisman to approve continuing with the Honorary City Council Member Program. The motion was passed unanimously.

Assessment Roll for Unpaid Charges 2022.

Kennedy brought forth the Assessment Roll for Unpaid Charges for 2022.

Resolution 22- 27 A Resolution Adopting Assessments for Unpaid Charges for Current Services.

Motion by Ristau, second by Erichsrud to approve Resolution 22- 27 A Resolution Adopting Assessments for Unpaid Charges for Current Services. The motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution 22-28 Accepting Donation to the City of Blue Earth Community Library and Fossil Discovery Center.

Motion by Huisman, second by Hanna to approve Resolution 22-28 Accepting Donation to the City of Blue Earth Community Library and Fossil Discovery Center. The motion was passed unanimously.

Huisman alluded to possibly slowing down with the donations. Cole advised that the Library Board had an extensive discussion regarding this with the board agreeing that slowing down perhaps would be appropriate, adding that they understand Pollard's passion to the Fossil Discovery Center. The board expressed their concerns that it is also a library and that Schutt needs to be able to continue to focus with the structure of the facility and her duties as the library director. Kennedy shared that the Library Board and City Council will be more involved in the fossil discover center decisions moving forward, with better communication efforts being a priority.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND OTHER BUDGETORY MATTERS

Investment Schedule

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND APPROPRIATIONS

Consideration of Payment of the Bills

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

CITY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Payroll Summary

Administrator Report.

Kennedy reviewed local elections in her report with the Council, advising that the LMC has identified some of the changes that have occurred with filings and filling for seats on City Councils.

NEXT WORKSESSION ITEMS

2023 Budget Discussion.

ADJOURN

Motion by Hanna, second by Huisman to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Vice mayor Cole adjourned the City Council Meeting at 5:57 P.M.