



**CITY OF BLUE EARTH MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, April 3, 2023, at 5:00 P.M.**

The Blue Earth City Council convened on Monday, April 3, 2023 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

Present: Councilmembers Huisman, Hanna, Walter, McNerney, Drew, and Honorary Councilmember Davis.

Absent: Councilmember Ristau.

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

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Quorum present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Scholtes led the Pledge of Allegiance

CHANGES TO AGENDA

7.1.4 Resolution 23-06 Accepting Bids.

10.4 Resolution 23-07 Declaring Certain Property Excess Property calling for the Sale.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Fiona Green, Faribault County Register; Josh Kafka, KBEW Radio; Heid Schutt, Blue Earth Library and Fossil Discovery Center; Steve Brown, Blue Earth Fire Chief, and Bruce Stensland.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the Council Meeting of March 20, 2023.

Motion by Huisman, second by Walter to approve the Minutes from the Council Meeting of Monday, March 20, 2023. The motion was passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Holland Travel Request

No Discussion

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

CORRESPONDENCE

MNDOT Public Open House 4.6.23

No Discussion

Senior Center Newsletter and Lunch Menu

No Discussion

Scholtes moved Item 10.1

2022 Blue Earth Fire Department Annual Report

Fire Chief Steve Brown was present to answer questions on the 2022 Blue Earth Fire Department Annual Report. The Council inquired the number of active firefighters. Brown indicated that currently there are 25 members with the intention of recruitment to get numbers back to 30 members. Scholtes recommended allowing the department up to 32 members. Kennedy advised Brown of recruitment grants and applying for them to help offset training and gear for new members.

PUBLIC HEARING

No Public Hearings

REPORTS FROM STAFF

City Engineer

Project Updates

Street Project Tree Replacement Reimbursement Program

Brown asked to be sent tree applications that the city has received, indicating that the due date for the application was March 31st.

2023 Street Project Recommendation and Bid Abstract

Brown reviewed the bid letting for the 2023 Street Project with the low bidder Holtmeier Construction coming in at \$3,853,766.54. The bid being 284,529.46 under the engineer's estimate.

Resolution 23-06 Accepting Bids.

Motion by Huisman, second by Drew to approve Resolution 23-06 Accepting Bids. The motion was passed unanimously.

Bolton & Menk Task Order No. 2

Brown addressed the Professional Agreement for General Engineering Services Bolton & Menk for the upcoming 2023 Street Project.

***Motion by Drew, second by Walter to approve Bolton & Menk Task Order No. 2.
The motion passed unanimously.***

City Attorney Frundt

602 E 7th Street Property

Frundt indicated that not much has changed since the last update, turning the discussion to Bruce Stensland. Stensland indicated that the shed doors would be installed by the end of the week and vehicles that are not registered would be moved inside the building with registered vehicles left outside so that he can continue working on them.

517 E 6th Street Update

Frundt indicated that there have been no changes at the 517 East 6th Street property, and the final date for compliance is April 15th. Huisman recommended sending in crews to clean up. The Council will review the property for the final time at the April 17 City Council meeting and make a determination at that time.

Project 3 Sisters

Frundt indicated that he sent the preliminary contract for review to Project 3 Sister's Attorney Sarah Wilson for the terms of the reacquisition. Frundt has not received anything in return. Scholtes inquired the Vacant Building fees, directing staff to send billing to the Project 3 Sisters attorney for \$500.00 per vacant building, along with any additional fines for snow removal.

Annexation Update

Frundt gave an update on the proposed annexation of portions of Blue Earth City Township. At this time he is finalizing the legal descriptions for the properties being annexed.

Scholtes inquired about the property located by KJLY, indicating that there is party considering purchasing this land. = Frundt recommended continued discussions in terms of what options there are ahead of and during the annexation process for that property regarding hunting and development.

Monthly Senior Center Report

No Discussion

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Library Board Meeting 4.10.23

Economic Development Authority Meeting 4.13.23

Housing and Redevelopment Authority Meeting 4.10.23

Rural Entrepreneurial Venture Subcommittee Meeting 4.13.23

Parks and Recreation Subcommittee Meeting 4.19.23

Senior Center Meeting 4.11.23

Joint Fire Service Advisory Meeting 4.11.23

Planning Commission Meeting 4.6.23

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

OLD BUSINESS

Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting Monday, April 10th 3:00pm

No Discussion

Resolution 23-04 Adopting Tax Abatement Policy.

Kennedy addressed the Tax Abatement Policy as a Single and Multi-family Housing Tax Abatement program to provide incentives and encourage the construction of new housing thus helping address the housing shortage.

Motion by Huisman, second by Walter to approve Resolution 23-04 Adopting Tax Abatement Policy.

City and School Facilities Joint Powers Board Meeting Update

Hanna indicated that the school board has not made a decision regarding the offer of the \$330,000.00 contribution to the tennis court project. Hanna and Huisman reported that the school's Finance and Facilities Committee need to meet to review priorities and budget. Scholtes suggested that a final decision needs to be made so that the city can prepare for its own Putnam Park project. Huisman suggested putting the project on the back burner at this time.

MN Edible Cannabinoids

Kennedy addressed MN Edible Cannabinoids; this topic had been discussed at the MCFOA conference. The Council discussed the regulation of Cannabinoids sales, licensing requirements, zoning requirements and moratoriums. Huisman recommended the city look into local revenues from cannabinoid sales. Scholtes suggested that staff keep Council informed of any updates as this works through the legislative session.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 23-05 Declaring Certain Property Excess and Surplus

Motion by Huisman, second by Walter to approve Resolution 23-05 Declaring Certain Property Excess and Surplus. The motion passed unanimously.

Board of Public Works Appointment – Doug Storbeck through remainder of term.

Motion by Huisman, second by Walter to Appoint Doug Storbeck through remainder of term for the Board of Public Works. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 23-07 Declaring Certain Property Excess Property and Calling for the sale.

Motion by Walter, second by Hanna to approve Resolution 23-07 Declaring Certain Property Excess Property and Calling for the sale. The motion passed unanimously.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND OTHER BUDGETORY MATTERS

Investment Schedule

No discussion

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND APPROPRIATIONS

Consideration of Payment of the Bills

No discussion

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

CITY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Payroll Summary

No discussion

Administrator Report

No discussion

Humane Society Agreement Update

Huisman updated the Council on the Humane Society agreement and inquired the next steps that should be taken with the existing building that was being utilized as the pound. Scholtes indicated that in past discussions that the conclusion was to demo the building, giving the Wastewater Plant back the utilization of that property.

NEXT WORKSESSION ITEMS

No Work Session

ADJOURN

Motion by Huisman, second by Walter to adjourn at 5:59pm. The motion was approved unanimously.