

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 19, 2021

5:30 PM

1. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call/Adopt Agenda**

The January 19, 2021 council meeting was called to order by Mayor Lowell Helget at 5:30 PM. Those present include Lowell Helget, Theresa Beckman, John Ryan, Nicholas Klisch. Others present were City Attorney Paul Muske, City Manager Joe Stremcha, City Clerk Amy Vogel, Bill Helget, Scott Johnson, Joe Micka, John Nicholson, Randy Haseleu, Wendy Krier, Derek Tonn, Greg and Linda Roiger, Renee Meine and Kristopher Morgan. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Theresa Beckman, second by John Ryan to adopt the agenda. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0

2. **Oath of Office**

A. Mayor Lowell Helget, Ward 1 Nicholas Klisch, and Ward 2 John Ryan.
The oath of office was conducted for Mayor Lowell Helget, Councilor Ward 1 Nicholas Klisch and Councilor Ward 2 John Ryan.

3. **Citizens' Forum**

None

4. **Consent Agenda**

Motion by Beckman, second by Klisch to approve the consent agenda. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0 Passed

5. **Old Business**

A. Ordinance Amending Variance Language - Hearing with Planning/Zoning at 5:15 PM Jan 19, 2021

Stremcha recapped the variance language change proposal that the planning commission approved and recommended to the city council for their approval. It makes the language more uniform with state law. Property owners still need to show unique circumstances in order to approve a variance. Motion by Theresa Beckman, second by John Ryan to adopt Ordinance 437 amending the language of Subd. 6 of Section 18.14 of the City Code regarding variances. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0 Passed

B. Res Regarding Water Rates

The council considered the proposed rate increases for the water and sewer utilities. Scott Johnson stated that the PUC funds are doing better than anticipated and

they are not proposing an increase to the electric fund at this time. The PUC commission did approve and recommend to the city council to move ahead with a 20% increase in water rates. Motion by John Ryan, second by Theresa Beckman to adopt Res. #21-011904 to increase water rates by 20% effective March 1, 2021. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0

C. Res Regarding Sewer Rates

The council then considered the sewer rates for the future. The PUC commission approved and recommended council approval of a 30% increase to cover the operations, the Central St project and the Hwy 14 project. Johnson stated that they would try not to raise rates for 2022 as was projected. Motion by Nicholas Klisch, second by Theresa Beckman to adopt Res. #21-011905 to increase sewer rates by 30% effective March 1, 2021. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0 Passed

6. New Business

A. Highway 14 - 2022 Project Updates

Bill Helget updated the council on the use of rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB) that can be automatic or push-button. Four locations were identified by the city as possible crossings but the state says there can only be two. The four locations were Range Rd, Park Ave, Cass Ave and E End Ave. Council agreed to eliminating Range Rd. MNDOT suggested using the automatic motion sensor ones and they will pay the full cost of the installation. If the city chooses the push-button, the state will not pay for them. There will be staff discussion on the preferred crossings. It was questioned whether a pedestrian count could be done.

There was also discussion on whether sidewalk should be installed along Hwy 14. The state has said that they would pay for 90% of the cost with the city being responsible for the 10%. The detour for Hwy 14 west of Springfield was discussed as there would be no detour for the project in Springfield. Traffic would go south on Range Rd and eventually to Hwy 71 and use only county roads.

B. Ruby's Heritage House Property - Purchase of parcels after demolition for \$7,500 total

Stremcha was contacted by Jim Potter to see if the city would help with demolition costs of Ruby's. It was suggested to purchase the lot after it is returned to class 5 gravel for \$7,500. The estimated demolition costs are \$22,000. It was questioned whether there would be an EPA concerns. Muske stated that he is not aware of anything. Motion by Theresa Beckman, second by John Ryan to approve the purchase of the gravel lot for \$7,500. All ayes.

C. Council Appointments - Mayor Helget

Motion by Theresa Beckman, second by John Ryan to approve the following council appointments: Helget – Airport, Parks, Rec Complex, Buildings and Fire; Ryan – Ambulance, Airport, Fire and Personnel; Klisch – Streets, Special Events and Weed Inspector; Beckman – EDA, Community Facilities, Rec Complex and Library; and

Rothmeier – Asst Weed Inspector, EDA, Police and Personnel. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0 Passed

D. Appoint Council President

Motion by Theresa Beckman, second by John Ryan to appoint Rothmeier as Council President. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0 Passed

E. Boards/Commission Appointments/Fire and Ambulance Officers

Motion by Theresa Beckman, second by Nicholas Klisch to appoint the following to committees: PUC – Tim Gramentz; Planning – Derek Tonn; Library – Deb Beyer, Sharon Pieschel, Wendy Krier; Charter – Shari Loomis, Kim Shoen, and David Carruthers; Airport – John Ryan; EDA – Ken Koll; and Community Facilities Board – Amy Baier, Paul Muske and Kari Scholtz; Welcoming Communities – Derek Tonn, Cheryl Neidt, Wendy Krier, Sharon Pieschel and Joe Stremcha; REV – Wendy Krier, Linda Carruthers, Michelle Berberich, Derek Tonn, John Ryan, Paul Pieschel and Joe Stremcha. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0 Passed

F. Establish Regular Council Meetings

Motion by Theresa Beckman, second by John Ryan to establish the regular council meetings as the third Tuesdays at 5:30 PM at the Community Center. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0 Passed

G. Medical Center - Medical Supply Surplus Inventory, Round 2.0 Bids to Award

Stremcha stated that only one bid was received for the remaining surplus items at the Medical Center. The individual submitted a bid for all at \$1,000 or \$313.50 at \$0.50/item. Beckman abstained from discussion. Motion by John Ryan, second by Nicholas Klisch to accept the bid for \$1,000 for all items. Motion by John Ryan, second by Nicholas Klisch to accept the high bid of \$1,000 for the remaining surplus items. Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 1 Passed

H. Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting - **Tuesday, April 28, 2021 5:30 PM**

Motion by John Ryan, second by Theresa Beckman to approve holding the Local Board of Review for April 27, 2021 at 5:30 PM. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0 Passed

I. Police Policy for Eyewitness Identification Procedures Policy

Motion by John Ryan, second by Theresa Beckman to approve the police policy for eyewitness identification procedures. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0 Passed

J. Approve Library Application for Pieschel Family Foundation Grants

Motion by Theresa Beckman, second by John Ryan to approve application to the Pieschel Foundation for library grants for the summer reading program and art show. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0 Passed

K. Blighted Homes Incentive Program - City of Windom Example

Muske shared a blighted home incentive program from the City of Windom. The home has to show danger to the public to be considered. This was just for council consideration. The council agreed to get the EDA's thoughts on this program.

L. Approve Subordination Request for 514 N Cass Ave

Motion by Theresa Beckman, second by John Ryan to approve the subordination request for 514 N Cass Ave. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0 Passed

7. Mayor/City Council/Staff Reports

8. Adjournment

Motion by John Ryan, second by Nicholas Klisch to adjourn at 06:40 PM. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0 Passed

Lowell Helget, Mayor

Amy A. Vogel, City Clerk