

Dassel, MN

Special City Council Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Clerk Boese swore in new Council member Amy Gaertner. Meeting called to order by Mayor Lalone at 6:05 pm.

a. Roll Call

Minutes:

Council members present: Gaertner, Landrus, Sombke, Thurn & Mayor Lalone. Council members absent: none

2. Business Items

a. Peter Meidal, Northland Securities - Capital Financial Plan

Minutes:

Peter Meidal with Northland Securities presented the existing and future Financial/Debt Plan for the General, Water and Sewer Funds. Meidal stated the General and Sewer Funds are in good financial shape and he recommended 3% increase in Water rates each year. Meidal also stated 35% reserves in the General Fund is a good financial measure. He used a 1% increase in levy projections for the plan.

b. 2024 Enterprise Fund Budgets - Liquor, Water, Sewer, Surface Water

Minutes:

This item was moved to Regular Meeting Agenda.

c. Department Heads - 2024 State of Departments

Minutes:

Museum Director Holje stated this year they are hoping to enlarge the ERGOT portions of the museum, they will be exploring grants to help with the project. Exhibits are continually changing, currently the James Stewart exhibit is on display. Exploring different options for future storage and at this time a temporary building is looking like the most viable option. Needing a double door to make it easier to move equipment and space for video storage. Ended the year \$150 over their projected rental revenue in 2023.

Liquor Store Manager Vetsch stated 2023 ended a little soft compared to 2022. The fee recovery on credit card transactions was implemented in June. Inventory was lowered by \$13,000 compared to the prior year. Inventory was done and we are still waiting on the results. The upcoming road construction and parking lot repairs will have an impact on sales this year. He is reviewing new trends including non-alcoholic products. THC/gummy alternative trends are hitting sales harder than expected. He is maintaining current staffing levels.

Council member Gaertner asked if it's possible to get numbers from area store that sell THC products to see how their sales are, and Council member Thurn questioned the legal ramifications.

Fire Chief Johnson reported they are still working on recruitment of new members. About a month and a half out on obtaining the permit for pull tabs, and they are working on some grants for equipment for the new truck. The Auto Aid program that is set up with Cokato has been working well.

Public Works Director Moy reported they are continuing their day to day operations at the water plant. They will begin construction of the new park in Summit Hills and make necessary repairs to the bathroom in Sellards Park. Some work needs to be done on the irrigation system and they will be replacing some siding on the lift stations. Moy is hoping to be able to purchase a salter for the toolcat to make salting the sidewalks easier.

Council member Sombke questioned the scheduling of sweeping in front of the downtown businesses. Moy stated they try to do it as early as possible prior to businesses opening.

Clerk Boese reported that the City is in good financial shape. She is in the process of training Deputy Clerk Bergum as she plans to retire in June or July. Clerk's office staffing will be discussed at the upcoming Special Meeting. She is in the process of getting ready for the audit. Elections are coming up, judges have training this week and she will be applying for reimbursement from the state for some of the cost. There have been having some issues with reconciliation since the switch to the new online payment processor which will hopefully be worked out soon.

3. Adjourn

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, Seconded by Sombke to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 pm. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0