

CITY OF MONTEVIDEO  
CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
July 17, 2023

The city council met in regular session Monday, July 17, 2023 in the council chambers at city hall. Council President Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council members present: Nathan Schmidt, Bryce Curtiss, Steve Sulflow and Beverly Olson (7:02 P.M.) Absent: Dan Sanborn. Mayor Erich Winter present.

Also present: City Manager Robert Wolfington, City Attorney Janice Nelson and City Clerk Glennis Lauritsen.

It was moved by Sulflow, seconded by Curtiss and unanimously passed to approve the agenda, with the following modifications:

**MODIFY: 5A) CONSIDER APPROVAL OF VERIFIED CLAIMS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JULY 13, 2023 IN THE AMOUNT OF ~~\$804,813.48~~ \$817,085.56.**

The revised list reflects the following additions:

MISCELLANEOUS

Prairie Five Rides - ½ annual fee \$ 3,500.00

POOL

Hawkins - Chemicals 2,592.08

UTILITY

MN Department of Revenue - Sales tax 6,180.00

It was moved by Sulflow, seconded by Curtiss and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 10, 2023, as presented.

4. Notices/Communications/Announcements or Appearance of Interested Citizens.
  - City Manager Wolfington acknowledged Ryan Gallagher in the audience, who he identified as the newest city employee hired to succeed Utilities Superintendent Byron Hayunga. Ryan introduced himself to the council, stating that he is excited to be a part of the team and looks forward to working for the City of Montevideo. He added that he was

attending the meeting simply to observe the proceedings. The council welcomed Gallagher.

5. Consent Agenda.

It was moved by Curtiss, seconded by Sulflow and unanimously passed to approve the following consent agenda items:

- 5(A) VERIFIED CLAIMS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JULY 13, 2023 IN THE (MODIFIED) AMOUNT OF \$817,085.56.

6. Public Hearings.

- None.

Council member Olson arrived at 7:02 P.M.

7. General Business.

- 7(A) 2022 AUDIT PRESENTATION.

Amy Bjornjeld, Dana F. Cole & Company, LLC, was on hand to review and discuss the 2022 Audit.

Following the presentation, it was moved by Curtiss, seconded by Olson and unanimously passed to accept the audit, as presented.

- 7(B) FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION PENSION PLANS REPORTING.

The Fire Relief Association's Schedule Form for Lump Sum Pension Plan was provided to the council at its July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, with the item tabled to the July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting pending further information. A council member had raised concern over the accuracy of the accrued liability for a number of the members, noting that the amounts differed even though the start dates were identical.

City staff met with a representative of the Relief Association and also consulted with the Office of the State Auditor to obtain information relative to the accrued liability calculation methods. That information was shared with the Relief Association's representative, and a copy of the email communication had been provided to the council.

It was noted that this is a Relief Association reporting requirement and their responsibility to ensure accurate information.

In order to be eligible for fire state aid, the schedule form must be fully completed, certified by the Relief Association officers, forwarded to the municipal clerk/independent secretary on or before August 1<sup>st</sup>, and submitted to the Office of the State Auditor. The city received the completed form on June 1<sup>st</sup>; therefore, the Association met that requirement.

It was moved by Sulflow, seconded by Curtiss and unanimously passed to acknowledge receipt of the report to the city, as required prior to August 1<sup>st</sup>.

7(C) LAND ACQUISITION PROPOSAL FROM WINTER FAMILY ENTERPRISE.

As a part of the July 10, 2023 council meeting, Winter Family Enterprise requested the council consider selling them a portion of Parcel ID #70-275-0128 - a 25' x 14' piece in front of the new section of the Millennium Theater. The proposal offered a \$350.00 purchase price. Because Erich Winter is the current mayor, the council asked that additional research on a fair/comparable square footage cost of similar properties so that there is no favoritism being afforded or precedent set.

City staff worked with the Chippewa County Assessor's Office to help determine the value of the proposed land purchase and determined that a price of \$2.08 per square foot was fair, or a total value of \$728.00.

It was moved by Curtiss, seconded by Olson and unanimously passed to move forward with the sale of the property and direct the city attorney to prepare the necessary paperwork for further consideration at the August 7<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

7(D) INN LIKE FLINN 2AM STATE LICENSE/PERMIT.

It was moved by Curtiss, seconded by Sulflow and unanimously passed to approve the submission of a renewal application to the State of Minnesota for the optional 2:00 A.M. closing of Inn Like Flinn, 305 South 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

8. Ordinances.

- None.

9. Discussion and Miscellaneous.

- Council member Curtiss cited the need for the city to continue to spray for mosquitos, noting the upcoming Chippewa County Fair event, racetrack activities, baseball games, etc.
- City Manager Wolfington provided the council with an update on the downtown street lights, noting that staff is working to repair one of the sensors.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 P.M.

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Glennis A. Lauritsen, Secretary

Approved by council August 7, 2023:

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President - City Council