

A regular meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, October 9, 2023, at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers with Mayor Kirby presiding. Council Members present: Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, and Touhey. Also participating: City Administrator, Joe Roby; Finance Director, Ryan Graff

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion by Council Member Touhey seconded by Council Member Huntington to agenda as presented. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, and Touhey. Motion carried 6-0.
4. **Public Hearing:** Motion by Council Member Schlueter seconded by Council Member Sullivan to open the public hearing. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, and Touhey. Motion carried 6-0.

**4A. 2023 Delinquent Account Utility Assessment**

Finance Director, Ryan Graff, presented to City Council that City Staff prepare a list at the end of August that includes all the delinquent utility accounts. In early September, staff sent 438 letters to property owners who have delinquent utility accounts which totaled \$581,228.80. As of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, \$128,000 worth of delinquent utilities had been paid. The final list will be presented to City Council at the November 13, 2023 regular meeting for approval and certification. The approved list will then be sent to Le Sueur County to be applied for the property owner's 2024 property tax. Discussion was held regarding the process in which the City chooses to use to collect on delinquent utility accounts. Essie Mostaghimi, 261 Elmwood Avenue, spoke to City Council about the difficulties in getting tenants that can pay their accounts especially when they get behind and the late fees start adding up. Mr. Mostaghimi expressed his frustrations and asked City Council to switch back to shutting people's utilities off so they can't get this far behind. Council Member Touhey asked what the incentive was for property owners to pay their bill? Council Member Sullivan commented that when Council did a price comparison the least expensive method was certifying onto the next year's payable taxes without shutting off during the year. Motion by Council Member Schlueter seconded by Council Member Sullivan to close the public hearing. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, and Touhey. Motion carried 6-0.

5. **Consent Agenda:** Motion by Council Member Swanberg seconded by Council Member Sullivan to approve the following consent agenda as presented:
  - 5A. City Council Minutes 09/25/2023
  - 5B. Disbursements Through October 9, 2023 Meeting
    1. Purchases over \$25,000
      - i. MMPA c/o Avant Energy – September 2023 Purchased Power - \$737,792.14
      - ii. Nielsen Blacktopping – 2023 Street Maintenance Payment Application - \$73,062.35
      - iii. MN Depart of Revenue – September 2023 City Sales Tax - \$50,830.00
      - iv. Short Elliot Hendrickson Inc. – 2023 Box Hangar Engineering - \$49,100.00
  - 5C. R2023-035: Designation of 2024 Polling Place

**5D. Personnel Action-Zamboni Driver**

Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, and Touhey. Motion carried 6-0.

**6. Public Comment:** None**7. City Administrator Update:**

Administrator Roby reminded City Council that the Future of City Forum was being held on Saturday at 10am at LSH. There was a special Airport Commission meeting held on October 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss how to use capital funds. A recommendation will be coming to City Council at their next City Council meeting. Staff continue to work on housing development but nothing notable to discuss at this time. RPAC meeting was held last week and it is being proposed that 6 campsites get added to River Park at a cost of approximately \$4,000. Veteran's Memorial Taskforce met to discuss final design plans for the monument at Legion Park. Thanks to the Fire Department and Police Department for their help with the Homecoming Parade, it was fun to see it return.

**8. Regular Agenda:****8A. Personnel Action- Public Services Director and Water & Wastewater Manager**

Administrator Roby reported that the hiring process for the Public Services Director position has concluded, and staff are recommending that Foster Transburg, who has been serving as Interim Public Services Director be approved as the permanent Public Services Director. Administrator Roby continued that if Mr. Transburg gets approved then Staff are recommending that current Interim Water/Wastewater Manager, Pete Burns move into the permanent Water/Wastewater Manager.

Motion by Council Member Touhey seconded by Council Member Sullivan to approve the hiring of Foster Transburg as Public Services Director. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, and Touhey. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Council Member Huntington seconded by Council Member Sullivan to approve the hiring of Pete Burns as Water/Wastewater Manager. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, and Touhey. Motion carried 6-0.

**8B. 2022-2023 Council Goals Update**

Administrator Roby presented City Council with the twelve goals that City Council adopted in 2022 and an update to each goal. He reported that some goals had been reached while others are in progress. Administrator Roby is recommending City Council set a work session in early 2024 to update goal status and prepare new goals.

**9. Comments/Reports/Items of Appreciation:**

- Huntington: Nothing
- Schlueter: Attended the Le Sueur County Officials Meeting being held on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Region 9 legislative meeting was held on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Region 9 Full Board meeting on Wednesday, and Planning Commission on Thursday, and I hope to see a good turnout at the Future of City Forum on Saturday.
- Sullivan: Nothing
- Swanberg: Upcoming EDA meeting on Wednesday
- Touhey: Nothing

- Kirby: Thanked Administrator Roby for going through the goals again. Sent his condolences to Council Member Schlueter who lost his father the week prior.

**Motion by Council Member Huntington to adjourn meeting at 7:49pm. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, and Touhey. Motion carried 6-0.**

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Lindsey Dhaene  
City Clerk