

Summary Minutes of Public Hearing and Council Meeting- August 12, 2019

Roll call indicated the following members present: Scott Bieseemeier, Bruce Boltjes, Ben DeVries, Mark Schutte and Nikki Reiter. City Staff Members Present: City Clerk Coleen Gruis, Maintenance Jason Harberts, Larry Lupkes. Guests: Jerry and Nancy Krull

Mayor Scott Bieseemeier opened the public hearing on Monday, August 12, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. to consider a tax abatement request from Jerry & Nancy Krull, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 469.1813 and 116J.993 through 116J.995. This request is to abate the City of Rushmore's portion of newly-generated, real estate taxes on the new residential home at 512 3rd Street for a period of 5 years; as defined in the Nobles Home Initiative guidelines. Discussion was held regarding the Nobles Home Initiative program. There were no comments from the public at this meeting or to staff prior to the meeting regarding this tax abatement. A motion was made to pass the Resolution Approving Tax Abatement For Certain Property Jerry and Nancy Krull - Parcel ID 29-0108-000. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried. The public hearing was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Rushmore met in regular session on August 12, 2019 in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Bieseemeier called the regular meeting to order at 7:11 P.M. Guests: Nobles County Deputy Mike Schei, Ashley Kass, Nick Harberts, Brian Gacke, Mr. Gacke, Michael Wagner.

Deputy Schei and Council discussed the problem with vehicles and trailers parked on the side of the streets for longer periods than City ordinances allow. Deputy Schei plans to look into the matter, discussion was held regarding the best way to enforce the 48 hour parking limit, or if this problem would fall under a traffic hazard, due to limited visibility, and the lack of two lanes when traffic meets. Discussion was held about rewriting the parking ordinance, making it easier to enforce.

A motion was made to approve the regular meeting minutes of the July 8, 2019 City Council meeting as presented at the meeting. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried. A motion was made to approve the special meeting minutes of the April 22, 2019 Truth in Taxation Meeting. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

After discussion of the updated accounts payable list, a motion was made to pass the following resolution: Mayor Bieseemeier and Clerk Gruis are instructed to make payment of all regular accounts payable. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried. A motion was made to approve the July 2019 Pledged Securities with First State Bank Southwest. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

Brian Gacke spoke to Council regarding his plans for a small slaughter facility for goats. He feels that while the lots on Thompson Avenue are not the correct space for the proposed facility, there may be other spots in the City of Rushmore that would be appropriate. He described his new plans for a 80' X 160' building that would slaughter 150 goats per day. This facility would keep all of the activity within the building, including housing the live goats overnight for the next day processing. This operation projects employing 8 to 10 workers and the meat would be inspected by the USDA. Council asked questions about odor, noise, water usage and the waste product that would go into the city lagoons. Brian Gacke said that he would work with the City to build the facility to address those issues. Council shared that residential feedback regarding having a slaughter facility in town showed a concern about odor and noise. Council asked Brian if he knew of a similar sized facility that we could contact to see what, if any problems were experienced with a small slaughter plant. Brian was not able to supply Council with that information.

Only one business proposal was received in answer to the advertised Request for Proposals regarding the City of Rushmore owned lots on Thompson Avenue. Ashley Kass spoke with Council about her written business proposal to purchase the city owned senior citizen building and adjoining lot that the City has listed for sale. Her proposal states that she would like to expand her current business, The Rushmore Tavern. With the additional building and adjoining lot she plans to expand her business space and bring in more entertainment such as bands, pool and dart leagues, sign painting parties, etc. Ashley would like to purchase both lots for 2,500.00. Ashley stated that if she does get both lots, the City can continue to push snow onto the empty lot. After some discussion, a motion was made to accept the offer of \$2,500.00 from Ashley Kass for the purchase of the senior citizen building and adjoining lot. Staff will contact City Attorney, Larry Lucht to prepare a purchase agreement that will also include an easement for the City to use the bare lot for snow removal. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

Michael Wagner spoke to Council regarding a land use permit for a lit sign on Thompson Avenue for I-90 Seeds. The sign is a Dekalb emblem that is 9.5' in length and will be on a 10' pole. Discussion was held regarding if the lit sign would be a nuisance to residential properties. I-90 will have the sign on a timer so it can be adjusted if it is needed. A motion was made to grant the land use permit from I-90 Seeds for a sign. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

Three land use permits were discussed between Council and staff. A motion was made to grant the land use permit request for a move in yard shed at 210 4th Street. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried. A motion was made to grant the land use permit for egress windows at 504 Circle Drive. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried. A motion was made to grant the land use permit for an unattached garage at 512 1st Street. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made to pass the Resolution To Accept A Donation Of \$4,100.00 to the Rushmore Fire Department from Adrian Town & Country from the Ribs and Rims Fundraiser. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

Maintenance items were discussed:

1. Jason has been in contact with Henning Construction regarding the repair of pond C at the wastewater lagoons and they should be here by the end of August.
2. The contractor for frost boil repair on 3rd Street has not come to Rushmore to repair that area. Council asked Jason to have Henning Construction do the frost boil repair when they come to work on the lagoon pond at time and material.
3. Tree trimming from the electric lines and boulevards was discussed. Carr Tree Trimming has not gotten us a quote yet. Discussion was held about the lack of visibility at 3rd & Drake. We will contact the homeowners to let them know city maintenance will be trimming some trees.
4. Jason and Larry are working on 7 fire hydrants that need springs, etc. as part of the maintenance program.

Discussion was held about what items should be included in the 2020 budget.

A motion was made to sign the Energy Assistance Program contract for the 2019-2020 heating season with SMOC. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

Annual employee reviews were held for full time employees, Larry Lupkes, Jason Harberts and Coleen Gruis.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor - Scott Biese-meier
Clerk - Coleen Gruis