

Greetings from the Rushmore Fire Department to the members of our community:

With the COVID-19 outbreak and current “social distancing” guidelines set forth by the Minnesota Department of Health, the CDC, and local governments, we as a department have no option but to Cancel our Relief Association Pancake Breakfast that was to be held on April 5th.

However.... The raffle must go on as scheduled and printed on our tickets. We NEED your help to reach our goal selling our tickets to raise money to purchase new equipment for our small but mighty department. If you would like to purchase a ticket, we can arrange for a firefighter to contact you. This isn't how we anticipated selling our tickets this year, but the safety of those in our community is of the utmost importance! Thanks for your understanding and continued support of our department.

Summary Regular Meeting – February 10, 2020

The City Council of the City of Rushmore met in regular session on February 10, 2020 in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Scott Bieseemeier called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

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. Guests: Nobles County Deputy, Nick Harberts, Ashley Kass, Gary Brink.

The Nobles County Deputy spoke with Council regarding snow removal and our ordinances. Consensus of Council was to send letters to violators of the parking ordinance during a snowfall event and to use Adrian Auto if illegally parked vehicles or trailers need to be towed.

A motion was made to approve the regular meeting minutes of the January 13, 2020 City Council meetings as presented at the meeting. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

Council was given an updated list of accounts payable. 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 January 2020 Pledged Securities with First State Bank Southwest. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

Rob Wierterma of CFE and Nobles County Commissioner Matt Widboom had scheduling conflicts and did not attend the Council meeting.

Gary Brink of Gary's Electric spoke with Council regarding the electrical needs for the expansion of The Rushmore Tavern.

Maintenance Report

Maintenance employee Larry Lupkes fell and broke his hip on February 1st while off duty. Discussion was held regarding getting temporary help to assist Jason with the maintenance duties. It is unknown when Larry will be able to return to work, and Jason will be attending MRWA training in St Cloud March 2nd – 5th. Mayor Bieseemeier and Greg Gruis have volunteered, and are currently training to run the water plant. Dustin Larson has been contacted, and is willing to run the road grader for any snow removal needed. After some discussion, a motion was made to hire Dustin Larson to help with snow removal using the city equipment as needed during Larry's absence. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried. Jason will contact Dustin Larson about running the grader.

Discussion was held about the school roof. Council had a previous estimate from Todd Homan to replace the school flat roof with a pitched roof. Only one new bid was received. Council would like Mr. Homan to attend the March Council meeting to make sure his estimate is correct before making a decision. John Blomme with MN Dept of Health was in Rushmore to do an annual inspection of the drinking water system. John will send a written report, but he verbally told Jason that our drinking water system looks good.

Discussion was held regarding which engineering firm to use to prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report for USDA funding of a new water tower and improvements to the drinking water system. Much discussion was held regarding which of the three firms would be the best fit for Rushmore. A motion was made to select Nero Engineering from Minneapolis. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made to pass the Resolution Accepting Donations For The Rushmore Fire Department for two donations. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

As per the fire department request, a motion was made to purchase a Knipco heater, with the cost to be split between the general fund and the fire department fund. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding keeping existing, and recruiting new, members for the Rushmore Fire Department. Due to retirements of long-term fire department members and the training requirements for new fire department members, the current fire department roster is down. A motion was made that the amount paid per call, training, and meeting be increased from \$5.00 to \$10.00, this increase to be retroactive to January 1, 2020. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried. Council would like to invite the fire department to a Council meeting to discuss an incentive system for the fire fighters that complete Firefighter I & II courses.

A motion was made to pass the Resolution To Approve Election Judges for The Presidential Nomination Primary held on March 3, 2020. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

Clerk Gruis reported that she and Jason are still working with FEMA regarding receiving funding to pay for emergency services and road repairs from the April 2019 excessive rains and ice storm.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor – Scott Bieseemeier
Clerk- Coleen Gruis