

Summary Minutes Regular Meeting – September 9, 2019

The City Council of the City of Rushmore met in regular session on September 9, 2019 in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Call to Order: 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, Larry Lupkes. Guests: Nobles County Deputy, Dan Kippley, Ali Joens, Ashley Kass, Nick Harberts

Deputy Schei did not have any items of interest for Council. Council asked him about 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 about rewriting the parking ordinance, making it easier to enforce.

A motion was made to approve the regular meeting minutes of the August 12, 2019 City Council meeting as presented at the 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 August 2019 Pledged Securities and to renew the storm sewer account certificate of deposit with First State Bank Southwest. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Bieseemeier asked Dan Kippley to address Council. Dan Kippley, with Ellis & Eastern Railroad visited with Council about a grant that the railroad is submitting to receive funds to repair the rail tracks. After explaining the project, Mr. Kippley asked if Council would give them a letter of support for the project along with an in-kind contribution to provide space, if available, to store construction equipment, rail, ties, etc. during the construction season. A motion was made to supply a letter of support, including the in-kind request, for the Ellis & Eastern grant. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

Council spoke with Ashley Kass about the purchase agreement prepared by City Attorney, Larry Lucht. The purchase agreement includes an easement allowing snow to be stored on the bare lot, and that a business expansion must occur on the property within two years of closing date. Ashley Kass found the purchase agreement acceptable. A motion was made to pass the Resolution Authorizing the Sale of City Property Not Needed For Public Use Parcels 29-0017-000 & 29-0018-000. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried. The purchase agreement was signed.

Ali Joens with Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership spoke with Council regarding policies and plans as part of the Small Cities Grant for Rehab Housing. Several policies and procedures were passed by Council. The City of Rushmore through the Small Cities Development Program will, to the greatest extent feasible, market to low and very low-income persons or businesses, and female or minority owned contractors.

Maintenance items were discussed:

1. Henning Construction moved in their equipment to begin the repair of pond C at the wastewater lagoons.
2. Carr Tree Trimming submitted an estimate for tree trimming for the City of Rushmore. A motion was made to have Carr Tree Service do the tree work, as per the estimate. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.
3. One of the 7 fire hydrants that need repair, will need to be replaced. A new hydrant has been ordered. Henning Construction will dig up the hydrant at 4th Street and Seney Avenue while they are here doing the pond work. The other hydrants have been repaired.

4. Jason reported that the water test results since the media was replaced in the water treatment plant are the best he has had.

A preliminary budget was presented by Clerk Gruis for the 2020 general fund and fire department budget. Changes were made to the presented budget to keep the property tax increase to approximately 3%, with an increase of \$4,100.00. A motion was made to accept the 2020 General Fund and Fire Department Fund Budget. Seconded, voting in favor, Mayor Bieseemeier, Councilmembers, Boltjes, DeVries, Reiter. Opposed, Councilmember Schutte, motion carried.

A motion was made to pass the Resolution Adopting 2019 Tax Levy, Collectable in 2020 listing the General Fund Certified Net Levy at \$139,100.00. Seconded, voting in favor, Mayor Bieseemeier, Councilmembers, Boltjes, DeVries, Reiter. Opposed, Councilmember Schutte, motion carried.

A motion was made to pass the Resolution to Accept A Donation to the Rushmore Fire Department. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding hiring a part time person in the office. After much discussion, a motion was made to advertise for a temporary part time office assistant for up to 10 hours per week. Suggested wage of \$12.50 per hour. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried. Clerk Gruis will put together a job description and place a help wanted ad in the City Newsletter going out in September and in the Nobles County Review.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor – Scott Bieseemeier
Clerk – Coleen Gruis