



MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 6th 2017 6:00 pm

- **CALL TO ORDER: Completed at 6:00pm by Mayor Walsh**
- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Completed**
- **ROLL CALL: Vetsch, Bissen, Albrecht, Pfiffner, Walsh**
- **ACTION TO CHANGE AGENDA: Aug.12 ACS Gambling, Albrecht \$250 LMC Meet, FD Pressure Test \$10.00**

Minutes by E. Leitzen:

The Hokah City Council met at 6:00pm on Tuesday, June 6th at the Hokah Fire Hall. In attendance were Mayor Walsh, City Administrator Blank, and council members Vetsch, Bissen, Albrecht, and Pfiffner. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Administrator Blank added an invoice for Council member Albrecht's attendance at the League of Minnesota Cities annual conference and a gambling permit for the American Cancer Society for an event taking place August 12. Council member Vetsch added a bill to the agenda as well, and council member Albrecht requested a change to the previous meeting's minutes to add her name to a motion made that had been previously unattributed. Council member Bissen requested clarification on the payee of a bill submitted for payment, and City Clerk Leitzen agreed to make the necessary changes and correct the mistake for proper payment. Council member Albrecht then moved to approve the amended agenda, and council member Pfiffner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The council moved on to speak with wastewater treatment plant operator Chris Oliver, who mentioned that heavy rainfall has caused some issues with inflow, meaning both clarifiers at the plant were running at full capacity. Administrator Blank supplied the council with information regarding the MNWarn mutual aid resolution, and Oliver detailed to the council that MNWarn is a cooperative agreement between municipalities that promises aid in the event of an emergency. Vetsch made the motion to approve the resolution, with Albrecht seconding, and the resolution was passed unanimously.

Next, the council heard from Hokah Police Officer Tim Irwin, who had been in conversation with Police Chief Robert Schuldt, to appoint Irwin as co-chair of

Emergency Management. Some of Irwin's training requires an official capacity for the department, which would require him to be appointed to the position by the Mayor. Mayor Walsh made the appointment, and the council then discussed modifying the recent parking ordinance to allow the loading and unloading of vehicles. Mayor Walsh made the motion to allow two hours for loading and unloading in city parking lots, and council member Bissen suggested twenty-four. Bissen repeated his arguments from previous meetings regarding the parking lots, and after comments from the gallery, Pfiffner seconded Walsh's motion and the council approved the modification to the parking ordinance. Ayes: Vetsch, Albrecht, Pfiffner, Walsh. No: Bissen.

The council then moved to hear from Oliver regarding streets & maintenance. Oliver reported that he had received several bids for mill & overlay resurfacing of the west & east municipal parking lots, along with 5 inch concrete and chip-seal bids for the west parking lot alone. Oliver also requested bids for curb work in the area of 7th and Cedar streets, reporting that there is insufficient curb to hold back the water for area homes during heavy rains. Oliver recommended using the streets budget for the curb repair, and answered questions from the gallery about the project. Council member Bissen asked who the council representative to the streets department was, and Oliver replied that it was Bissen. Bissen asked why he never hears about street projects, and stated that as the council's street representative he should be allowed to look at projects and give input. Bissen asked if it was possible to get local bids for the curb project, and Oliver offered to re-open the project to local bids. Mayor Walsh asked Oliver to give Bissen input on future projects. Several more comments were made from the gallery and from Walsh & Bissen regarding curb issues in the town. Oliver agreed to take the comments into consideration, and Walsh asked to have the issue moved onto next month's agenda. Bissen made a motion to chip seal the west parking lot, Albrecht second, passed unanimously. After the vote, Pfiffner asked Oliver if all of the bids will have to be re-entered for the next meeting, and Oliver replied that the bids will all have to be re-done in the hopes of also seeing bids from local contractors for the curb project.

The council and Oliver had a short conversation with the gallery regarding water lines, but no action was taken by the council. The council moved on to Parks & Recreation, where Oliver spoke to the council regarding the purchase of an additional lawn mower to supplement the currently aging mower. Oliver produced several bids ranging from \$7000 - \$21,000, and asked if there would be money in the budget for a purchase. Mayor Walsh asked city clerk Leitzen if there was money in the budget for a new mower purchase. Leitzen replied that the

parks budget did not have the money allocated for a purchase that large, with only around \$1600 in the parks budget for repairs. Council member Albrecht asked if there was money for the purchase, and Administrator Blank noted that the money for a repair of that size was not in the parks budget, and it would have to come out of the general fund. Albrecht asked if the financial officer knew whether or not there was money to spend on the purchase, and Leitzen replied that there was, though it was not in the parks budget. Vetsch made a motion to purchase a mower for \$9830, taking \$1600 from the parks budget and paying for the rest out of the general fund. Bissen second, and the motion passed unanimously.

There was no library report; the board moved on to planning & zoning. Council member Vetsch detailed the last meeting, and Blank noted that a public hearing will need to be held for a variance before the next council meeting. Council member Albrecht then spoke about a high turnout for summer Library events, bringing in attendance from La Crescent and Brownsville. Mayor Walsh then recognized Tom Danielson of Danielson Insurance, who detailed the renewals of city insurance and work comp policies. Danielson fielded questions from the Mayor & Council, and ultimately noted that the latest renewal has proven favorable for the city. The council then moved on to the establishment of a building committee as an advisory group to oversee changes, transitions, and future plans for city-owned properties. The Mayor appointed council members Pfiffner and Vetsch along with Administrator Blank, city clerk Leitzen, and Hokah citizen Mari De Jarlais to serve on the committee.

The Mayor opened the floor to council comments. Vetsch mentioned that he would be attending a meeting the following Monday regarding issues with the Fire Department's pagers and a possible upgrade to improve the service. Council member Bissen asked if the city had finalized the purchase of the Hokah school building, and what the plan was moving forward. Walsh replied that the committee was established to handle that issue, and will report back to the council their findings. There were more comments from the gallery regarding the purchase of the school, and Mayor Walsh asked if there was a city ordinance regarding portable toilets on residential properties. Police Chief Schuldts replied that it may fall under public nuisance law, but there is no ordinance specifically against it. The mayor asked about the maintaining of the levy, and Oliver responded that the DNR states the city can maintain the dike only to its original level. Council member Bissen asked Oliver to add some gravel to one of the sewer maintenance roads, and the council agreed.

Administrator Blank then spoke regarding the council minutes that are distributed before a meeting to the council and media outlets for the previous meeting. Blank noted that the notes are not to be made public until the council votes on and approves the notes at the official council meeting, and it would be improper to disseminate that information before it was approved by the council. Blank stated that some of the previous meeting's minutes were posted at the Sidewalk Café before the meeting began, and as a result he would not be including previous minutes in the council packets for future meetings.

As the next scheduled council meeting would fall on July 4th, the council voted to move the meeting one week later to July 11, 2017 at 6:00pm. Council member Vetsch made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Albrecht second, and the council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm.