



MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 / 6:00 pm
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

- **CALL TO ORDER:** At 6:00PM
 - **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 - **ROLL CALL:** Jerry Martell, Tom Oldenburg, Cindy Oldenburg, Lee Tippery. Absent: Mike Walsh
 - **ACTION TO CHANGE AGENDA:**
1. **Consent Agenda:** Motion to consent the agenda made by Jerry Martell. Second by Cindy Oldenburg. Aye: Jerry Martell, Tom Oldenburg, Cindy Oldenburg, Lee Tippery.

All items listed under the consent agenda are considered routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

1.1	Regular Council Meeting Minutes	August 3, 2021
1.2	Budget Meeting Minutes	August 17, 2021
1.3	Bills Payable Through:	September 7, 2021
1.4	Consolidated Balance Sheet	August 31, 2021
1.5	FD Fireman's Dance Temporary Liquor License	October 15, 2021
 2. **Library/City Hall/City Center Report:** Kirsten noted that they did not have a Board meeting since the last Council meeting, so she did not have a lot to update the Council on. She did inform the Council that the assistant librarian had put in her notice that she would no longer be working for Hokah. She was offered more hours at the La Crescent library so we will need to hire a new clerk. She would like to put together a hiring committee that would include a member of the Council. Jerry Martell asked Kirsten about the wages and Kirsten noted that starting next year, the new rate would be increased to \$14 due to the new County funding money received. The local libraries are working to standardize the wages so that the libraries are not competing with one another. Lee Tippery asked what the probation period will be. Kirsten asked the Council what the normal practice is. The city normally has a 1 year probation. Clerk Martell informed the Council that she had the La Crescent/Hokah School District Robotics team reach out to her regarding the team using the City Center gymnasium a couple nights a week for their practices. The city would not plan to charge any fees for the team to use the space.
 3. **Water/Wastewater/City Engineer Report:** No updates.
 4. **Police Dept./City Attorney Report:** No updates.
 5. **Emergency Management:** Bob informed the Council that Olivia Denney from Houston County Emergency Management is no longer working for the County. Until they fill her position, Brian Swedberg is working through the transition. Bob also informed the Council that he had reached out to the Governors office again regarding the Highway 16 speed reduction request to MNDOT. He had a long conversation with one of the staff and they discussed the steps the city has taken to get the speed limit changed along Highway 16 and the frustration that the city has with the outcome. They asked Bob for all correspondence, which he provided. A day later, they stated that they had a couple staff members working on it. Two days later Bob had been contacted by one of the MNDOT Engineers and they had concluded that the reduction of speed would have a negative effect. Both Bob and members of the Council disagreed. After a long conversation with the Engineer, they are going to reassess the speed limit. They also discussed some grant funding available for walking trails related to a safer Minnesota plan. He would look at the possibility of putting in a trail for people to walk. Bob informed the Council that he did go ahead and order the new display for the speed trailer, and we sent out invoices to the other Cities and the County who would share the cost. We should receive the display later in September.
 6. **Streets / Maintenance Report:** Matt Vetsch reported that Scotts Construction had completed the seal coating and they did a good job. He is happy to have it done so that it should have enough time to settle before winter. Vetsch also informed the Council that the school crossing in front of St. Pete's was installed and now they are working with MNDOT to program them correctly. Lee Tippery had been contacted by Jeff Sennes who was concerned about his mother Judy Sennes' driveway that had washed out after the last storm. Matt Vetsch said they had already taken dirt and filled in the area.

7. Planning Commission / Zoning Report:

- 7.1** Variance Extension Request-Randy & Sandy Munson: Cindy Oldenburg stated that the Zoning Board had met and reviewed the Variance extension request to add a second-floor apartment addition to the property. After further review they decided that he needed to apply for a building permit. Matt Vetsch discussed the request and noted that he had the building permit that he paid back in 2017 and he was just asking to extend that permit. Cindy Oldenburg asked if we need to wait until next month or if we could grant the permit extension. Lindsey Martell noted that she had reached out to Skip Wieser, and he stated that if the Council agreed, they could grant an extension from a previous permit application. After further discussion, Jerry Martell made a motion to approve the extension of the building project. Second by Cindy Oldenburg. Aye: Jerry Martell, Tom Oldenburg, Cindy Oldenburg, Lee Tippery.
- 7.2** Zoning Permit 2021-09: Robert Naleid: Cindy Oldenburg informed the Council of the application received from Robert Naleid to add a 12ft by 15ft deck onto the East side of the apartment building. The Zoning Board approved only an 8ft by 15 ft due to the setbacks along the street. If he would like it to extend the 12 feet, he would need to apply for a variance. Motion to approve an 8ft by 15ft deck addition on the east side of the building was made by Tom Oldenburg. Second by Jerry Martell. Aye: Jerry Martell, Tom Oldenburg, Cindy Oldenburg, Lee Tippery.
- 7.3** Zoning Permit 2021-10: Jerry Martell: Cindy Oldenburg informed the Council of an application received from Jerry Martell to attach a lean-to on his 28ft by 24ft garage. Motion to approve permit 2021-10 was made by Cindy Oldenburg. Second by Tom Oldenburg. Aye: Tom Oldenburg, Cindy Oldenburg, Lee Tippery. Abstain: Jerry Martell.

8. Recreation Board Report: Matt Vetsch asked when the Rec Board planned to hold the Dogapoolooza, but the Clerk was not sure when this was planned.

9. New Business:

- 9.1** 2022 Budget – Resolution Adopting Proposed Property Tax Levy: Motion to approve Resolution adopting the Proposed Property Tax Levy was made by Jerry Martell. Second by Cindy Oldenburg. Aye: Jerry Martell, Tom Oldenburg, Cindy Oldenburg, Lee Tippery.

10. Old Business:

11. Council Member's Comments/Community Input: Jerry Martell asked if the funds set aside for the sidewalk repairs outside the Fire Station from cashing out the Principal Financial insurance would be used, and the project completed yet this year. Matt Vetsch informed the Council that he was working with a company in La Crescent who does underground boring to get the wiring run to the digital sign. They would then replace the concrete outside of the Fire Station.

12. Mayor's Comments: The Mayor reported that the State of Minnesota had announced the city was granted \$721,625 through the SCDP grant program. He also stated that they hope to begin the projects in the spring of 2022 as CEDA and SEMCAC who are working with the grant will have a few things to do before then.

13. Staff Correspondence: Lindsey Martell reported that she has been invited to meet with the City of La Crescent, City of Houston, Houston County EDA and a volunteer to discuss the extension of the Root River Bike trail from the City of La Crescent to Houston. Lindsey asked for permission to continue participation on behalf of the city. She discussed a "joint of powers agreement" which is a formal, legal agreement with the agencies that share a common power. This would show a commitment to the extension of the trail and help make the process of applying for grants easier. The city would not be locked into the agreement. The group has met twice over the past month to discuss how they can move forward, and they have also invited the Minnesota DNR to understand the process and how they can work together.

14. Correspondence Received:

15. Announcements:

16. Next Council Meeting: October 5, 2021, 6:00 PM

17. Items for next Agenda:

18. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made at 6:56PM by Jerry Martell. Second by Cindy Oldenburg. Aye: Jerry Martell, Tom Oldenburg, Cindy Oldenburg, Lee Tippery.


Lindsey Martell, City Clerk


Lee Tippery, Mayor