

CITY OF VERGAS
COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
Virtual Zoom Meeting-cityofvergas.com
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
6:30 pm

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:30 pm, on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 for a public hearing in a Zoom virtual meeting with the following members present: Mayor Julie Bruhn, Council Members: Logan Dahlgren, Bruce Albright and Natalie Fischer. Absent: none. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers, Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane, Steve Peloquin, Dustin Nash, Loren Menz, Keith Sandau, Shane Poss, Sherri Hanson, Mike Novitzki, Mike Goettel, Austin Tegtmeier, Paul Pinke, Rhonda Ueke, Scott Kolbinger and Barbie Porter of the Frazee-Vergas Forum.

Mayor Julie Bruhn opened public hearing at 6:30 pm.

Vacation and Dedication of Glen Street was reviewed by Attorney Steve Peloquin.

Bruhn closed public hearing.

CITY OF VERGAS
COUNCIL AGENDA
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
(following public hearing)

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:50 pm, on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 in a Zoom virtual meeting with the following members present: Mayor Julie Bruhn, Council Members: Logan Dahlgren, Bruce Albright and Natalie Fischer. Absent: none. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers, Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane, Steve Peloquin, Dustin Nash, Loren Menz, Keith Sandau, Shane Poss, Sherri Hanson, Mike Goettel, Paul Pinke, Austin Tegtmeier, Mike Novitzki, Rhonda Ueke, Scott Kolbinger and Barbie Porter of the Frazee-Vergas Forum.

Mayor Julie Bruhn called the meeting to order.

Clerk-Treasurer Julie Lammers administered oath of office to Mayor Julie Bruhn and Council Members Bruce Albright and Natalie Fischer.

Bruhn presented Mayor's state of address.

Lammers reviewed Council member I Pad set up and document locations.

2-year vacant council position was discussed. Motion by Albright, seconded by Fisher to advertise and have interested applicants apply within 30 days with criteria utilized in the past. Voting yes: Dahlgren, Albright and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

No citizens' concerns were presented.

Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Fischer to accept agenda with the addition of Water-Sewer transfer and Event Center committee. Voting yes: Dahlgren, Albright and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Fischer to approve the following consent agenda items with the removal of late water and sewer bills.

- i. Council Minutes of the December 8, 2020
- ii. Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills totaling \$170,681.55.
- iii. Liquor Store bills for December 2020 totaling \$66,966.80.
- iv. General Fund/Special Revenue Money Market Account Report
- v. 2021 Investment Schedule/Bond Schedule

Voting yes: Dahlgren, Albright and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

90-day late water/sewer bills increased. Letters sent with payment plan option. There have been no assistance applications related to covid-19 relief.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Fischer to hold 2021 Council meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Voting yes: Dahlgren, Albright and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Albright to appoint Natalie Fischer as acting Mayor. Voting yes: Dahlgren, Albright and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Fischer to approve the committee/council appointments schedule provided, with the addition of Austin Tegtmeier to the Economic Development Authority/Housing Redevelopment Authority Board. Voting yes: Dahlgren, Albright and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Fischer to approve the following appointments: City Attorneys: Peloquin Law Office, P.A.; Official Newspaper: Frazee-Vergas Forum; Official place of advertisement of projects: cityofvergas.com website; and Official Depositories: Vergas State Bank. Voting yes: Dahlgren, Albright and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Vacation/Dedication of Glen Street was postponed to February meeting as all the property owners have not signed contracts regarding parcel lines.

Street committee report was discussed. Discussed plowing gravel roads and snow removal agreement with Otter Tail County. Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Fischer to ask street committee to meet again and propose policy for next City Council. Voting yes: Dahlgren, Albright and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Sherri Hanson provided the park board report seeking guidance on pickleball court plans. Council asked pickleball court committee to provide a map and proposal for the pickle ball courts. DuFrane mentioned the property owner beside the field has a gate behind the baseball field where he accesses his property. City will review property easements or streets going thru the baseball diamond.

Albright updated Council on Economic Development Authority/Housing Authority, which is focusing on 2-year goals.

Bruhn reviewed personnel reviews of the Clerk-Treasurer-Liquor Store Manager the Utilities Superintendent recommending a 2% raise for each as they are satisfactory employees. Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Fischer to give a 2% raise to Julie Lammers, Clerk-Treasurer-Liquor Store Manager and Mike DuFrane, Utilities Superintendent. Motion by Dahlgren and seconded by Fischer to make raises retroactive to January 1, 2021. Voting yes: Dahlgren, Albright and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Event Center report was provided by Lammers and Dahlgren noting progress of the remodel and smart room. Motion by Albright, seconded by Fischer to sell tv and tv stand at auction. Voting yes: Dahlgren, Albright and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Water and sewer investment CD will mature on January 17, 2021, Lammers recommended cashing and depositing in checking account. Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Fischer to cash CD and deposit into the checking account. Voting yes: Dahlgren, Albright and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

COVID 19 updated was provided by Lammers. City Office and Liquor Store building is open as well as the public restrooms. Event Center is still under minimal capacity. Utility assistance application for COVID relief expired on December 31, 2020 and Council decided not to continue as there has been no applications received.

Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane provided the following:

A. Water

1. Control panel has been successfully updated.
2. 1 water meter is left to be installed.
3. KLN Engineering contract was not presented correctly at the last Council meeting. Mike Novitzki of KLN Engineering reviewed contracts for the water tower. KLN Engineering is a water tower specialty firm. Contract approved in December covered 3 inspections and the cleaning of the internal tank of the water tower. These would take place every 5 years for \$9,300.00. Second agreement is for the washing of the exterior cleaning of the tank for \$5,500.00. Council asked KLN to provide financing plan to pay quarterly for second contract. DuFrane to provide date when tower was painted last.

B. Wastewater

1. Annuals have been done on lift stations. Lift stations appear to be in good shape apart from lift station on Scharf. The wood that is holding the control panel up is rapidly deteriorating. In the spring we will have to purchase a pedestal to put control panel on. No estimate currently.

C. Parks

1. Attempting to keep trail open from park to town.
2. Posts installed in front of trail walking bridge access point seem to be detouring snowmobiles from crossing bridge.

D. Streets

1. Talked with Ottertail County Supervisor, Kristi Fields, to check our agreement on Main Street regarding snow removal. Kristi stated the City is doing what has been agreed upon and have done an awesome job.
 - a. Agreement with Ottertail County on snow removal, requires the City to have snow removed on Main Street by 7:00 am after a snow event. County reimburses City for snow removal on Main Street as it is a county road. County is responsible for plowing during a snow event.

E. Other

1. DuFrane stated he would like a credit card. Credit card will be used to facilitate purchase of parts on the internet. Credit card use is an approved practice with an agreement of use in place that can be used.

DuFrane noted he is still having problems with email, which has existed for a long time. To follow up with Paul Haarstick regarding issues.

Lammers reviewed Liquor Store activities. The sign has increased sales on Wednesday's and customers have made positive comments on the sign.

The business for which the meeting was called having been completed, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Clerk-Treasurer Julie Lammers, CMC