

CITY OF VERGAS
COUNCIL MINUTES
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER & ZOOM
Tuesday April 13, 2021

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:30 pm, on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at the Vergas Event Center and on a Zoom virtual meeting with the following members present: Mayor Julie Bruhn, Council Members: Logan Dahlgren, Bruce Albright, Paul Pinke and Natalie Fischer. Absent: none. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers, Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane, Steve Peloquin, Vanessa Perry, Carol Albright, Sherri Hanson, Sydney Dahlgren, Austin Tegtmeier, Denny Anderson, Dennis Breitzman, John Lotzer, Henry Dietrick, Doug Sofar, Lyle Krieg, Pat Shannon, Jeff Laney, Sheila Laney, Scott Kolbinger, Emily Schauer, and Barbie Porter of the Frazee-Vergas Forum.

Mayor Julie Bruhn called the meeting to order.

No citizens' concerns were discussed.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Fischer to accept agenda with the additions of construction permit for 136 N Broadway. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Fischer to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Council Minutes of the March 9, 2021
- b. Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills totaling \$54,042.28.
- c. Liquor Store bills for March 2021 totaling \$41,676.39.
- g. Late water/sewer bills

Motion passed unanimously.

Veterans Memorial Committee Members Dennis Breitzman, John Moltrzer, Henry Dietrick, Lyle Krieg, Doug Sofar. They spoke in support of the memorial. The project was started during a pandemic they have made up brochures and they have already raised \$30,000.00. They need between \$85,000 and \$100,000 for the project. They feel the land is very visible by the ball field and they would like people to come in and enjoy the area. They feel this is a different type of memorial than what is at the cemetery. Veteran Dennis Anderson stated the proposed cost of this memorial is extremely high and if you have money for veterans, it should be given to help veterans that are committing suicide. For one tenth of the cost you could fix up the memorial we already have in this town. Veteran Pat Shannon also stated he was opposed to the memorial by the ballfield as well. There is no parking, and we are encouraging people to cross the busy street. There is no reason you cannot update the one at the cemetery. This location is right next to the railroad and highway and there is nothing peaceful about this space. \$100,000 is a lot of money and it can be spent in better ways – many Veterans are homeless; it could be spent there. Austin Tegtmeier stated with the \$30,000, you could use to update the memorial we already have. Bruhn reviewed the phone calls from citizens she has received regarding noisy railroad, traffic, and parking would be used by Skal not the memorial. Sherri Hanson stated citizens would like to see a memorial for the veterans. It is the location they feel is the issue. Breitzman responded with the comment that most people did not know we had a memorial in Vergas and this location would be very visible. Shannon questioned how people could get to the memorial. Breitzman stated they would be putting in parking spots. Proposed to regroup and talk with the citizens concerned. Bruhn stated final approval from the City will come when a construction permit is issued. Council has given support of the project, but the project has not been approved. Breitzman stated they would be willing to talk with all groups. Bruhn asked Lammers to arrange a meeting for groups. Shannon requested two plans so people could see a choice. Both Bruhn and Dahlgren asked groups to bring suggestions to an informational meeting. Lammers will set up an informational meeting for the Cemetery Board, Veteran's Memorial and the Veteran's concerned citizens.

Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Pinke to approve Vergas Community Club – Looney Days Committee for Parade Route, Street Closings - Aug. 13-15 and an On-sale Liquor License - Beer Garden - located on Railway Avenue for August 14, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Fischer to approve construction permit for 421 W Lake Street for a 40x60 shed and 200 yards of Class 5. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve construction permit for 116 Park View Drive to build a new home, Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Fischer to approve construction permit for 1060 E Scharf Ave for shoreline work. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussed the request for a 10x12 shed to be put on the empty lot located at 92 Park View Drive. Owner Jeff Laney stated they plan on building a home within the next two years. Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Fisher to make an exception to the ordinance and allow the shed on 92 Park View Drive. Attorney Peloquin stated that we do need to be careful, and Council is setting a precedence. Motion passed unanimously.

Construction permit for 88 Park View for the following: 550 sq ft paver patio, boulder wall, fireplace was discussed and sent to planning commission for further review.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve construction permit for 114 Park View Drive for rip rap. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Pinke to approve construction permit for 136 Main St for a sign. Motion passed unanimously.

Engineer Scott Kolbinger reviewed contract with KLJ Engineering Company and introduced Emily Schauer who will be helping with the work in Vergas. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Albright to continue contract with KLJ Engineering for one year. Motion passed unanimously.

Bruhn attended the LMC Webinar: The New Normal: Economic Recovery and Resilience in your Community and reviewed information. Details are not yet available for funds, but we will have until 2024 to capitalize on the funding.

Albright reviewed EDA/HRA meetings held on March 12, 2021 and April 7, 2021 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Albright encouraged all Council Members and citizens to attend the Annual meeting on April 21, 2021 at Billy's Corner Bar. EDA is requested waiving the construction permit fee for 5 years when they add jobs and/or square footage. They would like commercial store owners to be able to apply to the EDA to waive the permit fees. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve EDA to waive construction permits. Motion passed unanimously.

Albright reviewed Planning Commission meeting minutes of March 22, 2021 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve the Interim Use permit for Mark Sand and Gravel, raise the bond to \$100,000 and approve the task order for \$5,000 for KLJ to provide gravel pit survey. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve Resolution 2021-003 (A complete text of the resolution is part of permanent public record in the City Clerk's office) regarding Otter Tail County Community Development Agency community Growth Partnership Grant Program. Motion passed unanimously. Questioned if we should wait for a month before moving forward with the comprehensive plan. Fischer and Bruhn stated the City has been working on comprehensive plan for 3 years and we do want to move forward with this. This will be discussed again next month. Townline Road has been being discussed and the City has not dedicated the road. We have contacted Meadowland to find the center line of the road. Albright has located one of the survey pins. will continue to look for the pins and we can table the spending of \$950.00 for Meadowland to locate. Discussed ATV's, type 1 cannot be driven on the roads legally and type 2 can if City allows it and planning commission will continue to modify this to be consistent with the state and county laws.

Lammers reviewed the Vergas Event Center meeting held on March 10, 2021 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Discussed approving the change in exercise fee from \$20.00 to \$10.00 when exercising at the Event Center. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Dahlgren to change the exercise fee to \$10.00 a session. Motion passed unanimously. Lammers provided Smart Room policy. Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Fischer to accept the smart room policy with format updating. Motion approved unanimously.

Bruhn reviewed personnel committee meeting held on April 7, 2021 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office) Motion by Pinke, seconded by Fischer to approve hiring policy, Liquor Store Manager Job description, additional hours for part-time employee with 5-day coverage from utilities department. DuFrane questioned 5-day coverage and it was explained with two employees, employees will not be able to take the same day off and there would be employee coverage 5 days a week. Motion passed unanimously.

Sherri Hanson reviewed the Park Board meeting held on March 25, 2021 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Hanson invited everyone to the April 22 Earth Day celebration. Discussed swimming lessons and asked for Council to decide if we should be getting an independent contractor or having a City employee. Current instructor is paid \$35.00 per student and her helper is paid \$15.00 an hour. Park Advisory Board is going to review this again for next month. Have a request regarding renting paddle boards, kayaks, etc... There is no ordinance regarding business at the park. Council stated we would need to put it out for bid and limit it to one business which must provide liability insurance. Hanson asked if Veteran's Memorial can advertise and use City to fundraise money. Council stated they will need to wait until conflict is resolved.

Pinke reviewed Yard Waste meeting, no minutes were taken during the meeting. Pinke, Albright and DuFrane attended the meeting. Currently there is a mudding problem at the yard waste and Torey Sonnenberg has removed sand and leveled off the area, he proposed 3 inches of class 5 be placed on top of sand. Albright does not feel this will help the issue. Purchasing 10 barriers to direct traffic and will discuss looking into moving site to City Farm.

Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane provided the following:

1. Parks
 - a. Pier broke the rope. The DNR helped retrieve the pier then placed it in the location it belongs. The next day the ice shifted came to shore broke 4 floats and bent 4 of the 5 poles. DNR will be in this week to fix it. No charge
2. City Farm.
 - a. I have talked to Tom Falk and Felts plumbing to get estimate on clean up the house debris. Both said interested but never showed up.
3. Water
 - a. Hydrants are flushed.
4. Wastewater
 - a. Will be attempting to flush sewer this month.
5. Streets
 - a. Streets were swept by Detroit Lakes public works. On 4-6
Finished on 4-8
6. Recycle center
 - a. Had arrangements with Tory Sonnenberg to pick up concrete barricades from Kost concrete. He said would be here last week but never showed up. We put out wood barricades for temporary barrier.

Lammers reviewed Liquor Store activities. One Liquor Store employee has given notice but will not be replaced as we will be hiring a manager. Received 2 quotes for boards on the side of building Schepper Custom Builders for \$2,600.00 and Summer Construction for \$5,600.00. Awarded bid to Schepper Custom Builders.

The following City meetings were mentioned:

- a. Emergency Planning Summit April 15, 2021 (All Council Members, DuFrane) Zoom
- b. Continuation of Board of Review April 27, 2021, 1:00 pm (All Council Members, Lammers)
- c. MN Clerks & Finance Conference-June 15-18, 2021 (Lammers) St Cloud
- d. Board of Review Training Opens July 1, 2021 (All Council Members)
- e. Household Hazardous Waster Mobile Collection July 8, 2021 10 am -2 pm (Volunteers needed)
- f. MN Rural Water Conference – Aug.24-26, 2021 (DuFrane) St Cloud
- g. Clerks Advanced Academy-September 23-24, 2021 (Lammers)
- h. Municipal Beverage Association (MMBA), September 25-28, 2021 (Lammers) Arrowwood
- i. League of MN Cities Annual Conference (Mayor, Council & Lammers)

The business for which the meeting was called having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Clerk-Treasurer Julie Lammers, CMC