

CITY OF VERGAS
COUNCIL MINUTES
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER & ZOOM
Tuesday, November 9, 2021

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:30 pm, on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at the Vergas Event Center and on a Zoom for a hybrid regular council meeting with the following members present: Mayor Julie Bruhn, Council Members: Bruce Albright, Paul Pinke, Logan Dahlgren and Natalie Fischer. Absent: none. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers, Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane, Sherri Hanson, Jeff Zitzow, Shane Poss, Vanessa Perry, Attorney Tom Winters and Engineer Emily Schauer.

Mayor Julie Bruhn called the meeting to order.

No citizens' concerns were addressed.

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Fischer to add the following additions to the agenda: Mayor's Update, and Event Center report and remove the October 12, 2021, City Council minutes from the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- a. Council Minutes of September 14, 2021
- b. Liquor Store bills for October 2021 for a total of \$83,666.79.
- b. Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills for a total of \$85,493.36.
- c. Late water/sewer bills
- d. General Fund/Special Revenue Money Market Account Report
- e. 2021 Investment Schedule/Bond Schedule
- f. American Rescue Plan Funding 2021-2026

Motion passed unanimously.

105 Main Street easement was discussed regarding the opening of building on City property as well as parking and loading area. Motion by Albright, seconded by Fischer to approve easement prepared by City Attorney Tom Winters (complete test of easement can be viewed at the Vergas City Office). Motion passed unanimously.

Sherri Hanson requested Main Street be blocked off from 12-6 pm on Saturday, November 27, 2021, for the Vergas Community Club to celebrate a small-town Christmas. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Dahlgren to allow Main Street to be shut down from 12-6 pm on Saturday, November 27, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

Dahlgren reviewed water and sewer committee meeting minutes of October 25, 2021 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). The media at the water plant is leaking and needs to be replaced as soon as possible. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to purchase Kurita media for \$113,400 and have Lammers find financing. Motion passed unanimously.

Bruhn reviewed personnel committee minutes of October 30, 2021 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Motion by Albright, seconded by Dahlgren to approve the self-assessment form provided by committee. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Fisher to approve the updated Covid-19 preparedness plan. Motion passed unanimously.

Albright reviewed street/sidewalks/yard waste committee meeting minutes of October 26, 2021 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Motion by Pinke, seconded by Albright to raise the yard waste fees to \$60.00 a year. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Fisher, seconded by Dahlgren to acquire permits for Vergas's property owners at no cost. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Fisher, seconded by Pinke to authorize council persons to meet with neighboring Townships to discuss yard waste issues/costs. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Albright,

seconded by Fischer to have 2 signs purchases and posted on each end of Scharf regarding not being on the truck route. Motion passed unanimously.

Sherri Hanson reviewed the Park Board meeting held on October 28, 2021 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office).

Albright reviewed Planning Commission meeting minutes of October 25, 2021 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office).

Albright reviewed EDA/HRA meeting minutes of November 3, 2021 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Vanessa Perry, member of EDA/HRA asked Council to forgive the water and sewer accessory charges for S & Z Properties and Summers Construction. Council stated they were unable to forgive charges due to current expenses, but the EDA/HRA may want to look at paying the \$750 for each of the businesses.

Lammers reviewed the Vergas Event Center meeting held on October 13, 2021 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office).

Discussed the berm that was installed at 88 Park View. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve payment of \$2,500.00 for the berm. Motion passed unanimously.

Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane provided the following:

1. Parks
 - Docks and pier are put up for the season.
2. Streets
 - Streets should be graded 1 more time this week.
 - Street sign inspection report. (provided to council with the street committee minutes)
3. Wastewater
 - Ponds are empty. Primary 2.61 ft of water and Secondary has 2.65 ft of water in it.

DuFrane and Lammers reviewed Mn Rural Water training they attended and will work with the water and sewer committee to update plans.

Lammers explained the city has been a part of the VANYM Safety Committee, but they have disbanded due to New York Mills leaving the group and the City of Vergas will need to move to another safety committee. Motion by Albright, seconded by Dahlgren to accept resolution approving Regional Safety Group (complete copy of resolution located at the city office) allowing city employees to attend meetings in Fergus Falls. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve Lammers to attend Financing Your Community Projects training on December 6, 2021, in St Cloud Mn. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Julie Bruhn reviewed League of MN Cities meeting held here in Vergas at the Event Center with 10 people attending including herself and Julie Lammers.

The business for which the meeting was called having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Clerk-Treasurer Julie Lammers, CMC