

CITY OF VERGAS  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER & ZOOM  
Monday, February 10, 2025

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:30 pm, on Monday, February 10, 2025 at the Vergas Event Center and on a Zoom for a hybrid regular council meeting with the following members present: Mayor Dwight Lundgren, Council Members: Bruce Albright, Paul Pinke, Dean Haarstick, and James Stenger. Absent: none. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers; Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane; Liquor Store Manager Kyle Theisen; Attorney Tom Winters; Editor Bob Williams of the Frazee-Vergas Forum; West Center Initiative Representatives Ben Schierer and Griffen Peck; and Citizens Paul Sonnenberg, Ryan Weibye and his Attorney Jack.

**Call to Order**

Mayor Dwight Lundgren called the meeting to order.

**Citizens' Concerns**

Snowmobile trail was addressed. Snowmobilers are driving across lots in the new development by Glenn Street and on the wrong side of the road along Scharf. Lammers has spoken with the club, and they will be resigning the trail. DuFrane stated the fence along Townline Road is in the road right of way and would like to see it moved out of the right of way. Discussed the trail issue is an ongoing project, and we will need to continue to educate people.

**Agenda Additions and Deletions**

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve the agenda with the following item added: Ryan Weibye, Lake Access and the following item removed: City Insurance. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Stenger to approve the following consent agenda:

- A. Council Minutes of January 10 and January 30, 2025
- B. Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills totaling \$60,819.36.
- C. Liquor Store bills for January 2025 totaling 82,913.82.
- D. Late water/sewer bills
- E. 2025 Investment Schedule/Bond Schedule
- F. General Fund Special Revenue Money Market Account
- G. 2025 Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances
- H. Committee Reports: Planning Commission, Municipal Building, Event Center and EDA/HRA
- I. Forms: Computer Use Policy and Social Media Policy

Motion passed unanimously.

**West Central Initiative Energy**

Griffen Peck, West Central Initiative provided a presentation regarding solar power on city buildings. The Vergas Event Center is the best investment for solar panels. Incentives include Otter Tail Power rebate, IRS credit and West Central Incentive Grant Gap. (The written report is available at the City Office). Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke, to allow West Central Initiative to proceed with getting quotes for panels with Lake Country Service Co-op. Motion passed unanimously.

**Ryan Weibye Lake Access**

Ryan Weibye, owner of property at 1156 E Frazee Avenue stated he has no access to his property, but the past owner had permission to store his dock and drive down the trail twice a year to put his dock in. The trail and boardwalk was already in place when Weibye purchased the property. Weibye requested permission to drive motorized vehicles on the non-motorized trail. Albright reviewed the past discussions regarding the steps and the trail. Asking for a golf cart to bring elderly people and fuel for his boats along the trail. City Attorney Winters stated the city cannot enter into a written agreement to disobey the law. Weibye stated he has been charged with a misdemeanor for putting steps in the county right of way. Weibye stated the misdemeanor has been dropped for putting in the steps but asked the city for permission to have the steps from the city. Weibye's attorney requested access to his property. Weibye requested an easement be adjusted. Lundgren stated we cannot revise our easement without the county's approval. Weibye asked for permission for steps, permission to drive golf cart and vehicle on the trail. The council asked attorneys to bring an agreement to council to review. The council also asked Weibye to put in writing exactly what they want as it keeps changing. This property is owned by Otter Tail County and the City has a lease for the property. Winters will contact Otter Tail County regarding what they are requesting.

**Committee Reports**

### Park Board

Lammers reviewed the park advisory committee meeting held January 23, 2025 (minutes available at the Vergas City Clerks' Office). Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger to approve allowing Vergas Community Club to put sponsorship banners on the baseball field fence. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve Vergas Community Club to hold events on the ballfield excluding the infield for Looney Days, Hairy Man and Small Town Christmas with the understanding the conditions are favorable by DuFrane and Tony Sailer. Motion passed unanimously.

### Streets

Albright reviewed streets/sidewalks/yard waste committee meeting held February 4, 2025 . (minutes available at the Vergas City Clerks' Office) Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve Widseth engineering (Blaine Green) to advertise for construction bids for alley/parking lot project. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger to transfer 2024 funds of \$500 to the city shop, \$1,500 for sidewalks and \$1,500 for recycling to be carried over to the money market account. Motion passed unanimously. The committee is still discussing dust control policy.

### **Staff Reports**

#### Utilities Superintendent

Lundgren congratulated DuFrane on the certificate of recognition for drinking water from the MN Department of Health.

#### Clerk-Treasurer Report

Lammers provided written report.

### **Mayor's Minute**

Lundgren has spoken with Frazee about working together with some items and he has brought this to the community club. Lundgren will be doing a Vergas history project and would like to have information others may have. Lundgren stated all employees are doing a good job and he does not have a problem with any of them. Lundgren is still looking at setting up a coffee with the Mayor at the coffee shop.

### **Information & Announcements**

#### Trainings:

- A. MN Rural Water Conference – March 4-6, 2025 in St Cloud (DuFrane)
- B. MN Clerks and Finance Officers – March 17 -21, 2025 in Brooklyn Center (Lammers)
- C. Clerks Advanced Academy- September 18-19, 2025 (Lammers)
- D. LMC, Loss Control Workshop March 26 in Alexandria (DuFrane, Engebretson, Lammers)
- E. League of MN Cities Annual Conference June 25-27, 2025 in Duluth (Mayor, Council & Lammers)
- F. Municipal Beverage Association (MMBA) April 20-23, 2025 (Theisen) Alexandria Arrowwood
- G. 16th Annual Operator Expo (MN Rural Water) August 20, 2025 DuFrane, Engebretson)

#### Events:

- A. Local Board of Review, April 10, 2025 Vergas Event Center Council Chambers, 1:00 pm (Mayor, Council and Lammers)
- B. Household Hazardous Waste Day, Thursday, June 26, 2025 10:00 - 2:00

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The business for which the meeting was called was completed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Vergas Clerk-Treasurer  
Julie Lammers, CMC