

VERGAS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER & ZOOM
Tuesday, April 12, 2022

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:30 pm, on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 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: Natalie Fischer, Paul Pinke, Bruce Albright and Logan Dahlgren. Absent: none. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers, Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane, Robert Williams of the Frazees-Vergas Forum, Attorney Tom Winters, Engineer Emily Schauer, Brianne Balcer, Jeff Hatlewick, Kyle Theisen and Sherri Hanson.

Call to Order

Mayor Julie Bruhn called the March City Council meeting to order.

Citizens' Concerns

No citizens' concerns addressed.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Fischer to approve the agenda with the addition of a construction permit. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Council Minutes of the March 8, 2022, March 28, 2022 and April 6, 2022

Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills

Liquor Store bills for March 2022

General Fund/Special Revenue Money Market Account Report

2022 Investment Schedule/Bond Schedule

American Rescue Plan Funding 2021-2026

Late water/sewer bills

Motion passed unanimously.

2022 Community Growth Partnership Grant

Lammers reviewed the application from JRMH Holdings regarding the Laurence Acres blight conditions. This will be a 50% grant thru the Otter Tail County to the City of Vergas. Once items are cleared off property copies of paid invoice from property owner will be submitted to Otter Tail County and check for 50% of expenses will be sent to City and City will write check to property owner. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve Resolution 2022-004, (complete text available at the City Office) regarding the Otter Tail County Growth Partnership Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

Construction Permit

Albright motion, seconded by Pinke to approve a construction permit for 281 Bennet Road 12x16 shed. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Park Board

Sherri Hanson reviewed the Park Board meeting held on March 24, 2022, (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Motion by Pinke, seconded by Albright to deny the request to allow docks and lifts from 1156 Frazee Avenue on city property due to park playground being placed in this area. Motion passed unanimously. Discussed damage done to the boardwalk from snowmobiles, DuFrane is checking with

Travis of MN Boardwalks regarding pins and repairs to the boardwalk. Working with Nancy Jacobson regarding swimming lessons. Hanson stated they are working with NDSU on a final plan and hope to have to council in June. Discussed the need for the swimming park, loon park, Long Lake park etc. have a name.

Street Committee

Albright reviewed street committee meeting held on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Discussed diagonal parking on 1st Avenue, looking into the painting being done once a year. DuFrane has provided quotes for pickup and v-plow. The 2023 price will not be available until August. Council asked DuFrane to provide trade in price for city pickup and quotes. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Dahlgren to proceed in getting price of pickup and plow as well as price for current pickup. Motion passed unanimously. Discussed drainage on the alley between Altona Square and the Municipal Building.

Comprehensive Planning

Julie Bruhn updated Council on the Comprehensive Plan.

Personnel Committee

Fisher stated Personnel Committee completed the review for Matthew Engebretson, Maintenance Employee with a satisfactory rating and no raise at this time as he received a cost of living raise in January. Lammers stated she has completed the annual review of Ronola Richards, Receptionist with a satisfactory rating and no raise at his time as she received a cost of living raise in January. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Albright to approve reviewed for maintenance and receptionist employees. Motion passed unanimously.

Planning Commission

Albright reviewed Planning Commission meeting minutes of March 28 and April 11, 2022, (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). They will be having two public hearings regarding new developments. Reviewed the Interim use permit for Mark Sand and Gravel. Vice President Mark Hattlewick asked council to approve the permit due without the report as they have projects they need to start hauling for as soon as road restrictions are off to do so crushing needs to begin as soon as possible. This report has been completed in past years and could take up to 30 days to receive. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve the permit with the condition if findings are found in the Engineer report will be added to the permit. Motion passed unanimously.

EDA/HRA

Albright reviewed EDA/HRA meeting minutes of April 6, 2022, (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 24 at 6 pm.

Event Center

Lammers reviewed the Vergas Event Center meeting held on April 6, 2022 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Event Center will be closing on April 28 for walking. Five of the six advertisers on the sign will be renewing leaving one spot needing to be filled. Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Pinke to approve event center policy and sign policy. Motion passed unanimously. Discussed security at the event center and the difficulty we are having with them in the past we have had security as part time employees. Motion by Pinke, seconded Albright to approve hiring security employees at the event center. Motion passed unanimously. Personnel will review hiring part-time employees as security for the event center. Lions have sent a letter and agreement stating they would like to sell us the bar for \$1.00 and rent the community room for \$1.00 for ten years, committee recommend the attorney review. Motion by Albright, seconded by Dahlgren to accept the bar property for \$1.00 and have attorney rewrite the lease through 2022 and Lion's provide city key to room. Motion passed unanimously.

Municipal Building Telephone System

Corporate Technologies is not able to install the Microsoft phone systems with our current phone numbers. Arvig owns the rights to this phone number, so we need to either change our phone number or stay with Arvig. Winters will look into legality of Arvig releasing the phone number. Microsoft phones with corporate technologies will need to change the phone number if we are unable to get Arvig to release our phone number.

Staff Report

Utility Superintendent Report

Bruhn provided DuFrane with certificate from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for exceptional compliance. Bruhn thanked Mike DuFrane and Matt Engebretson for their work on reports. DuFrane provided following information the cost for generator hookups is \$41,000 and \$50,000 for the pull behind generator. We can get a generator from MNWarn if an emergency occurs.

Report provided by DuFrane:

1. Water

- a. The work is taking place on the water treatment filters.
- b. The tower is running in summer mode.
- c. The wells are set at running 75 gpm
- d. I talked to fire chief and let them know we are running at half capacity.

2. Wastewater

a. The city wastewater ponds are about at full capacity. I will be starting my spring Discharge when legal to do so.

3. Parks

a. Spoke with Travis from Mn boardwalks. He said they will be coming and checking on floats and pipes. No time was set when they would be here.

Liquor Store Manager

Theisen reviewed financials for 2021 and the first quarter of 2022. New cooler has been installed and refacing the walk-in cooler. The inside of the store has been painted. Largest concerns are parking and price increases. Inventory value is lower than a year ago.

Clerk-Treasurer

Lammers provided report on the 2022 MCFOA Conference she attended March 22-25, 2022.

Information & Announcements

Reviewed the training provided with the agenda.

1. Otter Tail County Emergency Management Plan, April 21, 2022 (Mayor and Council) zoom
2. Municipal Beverage Association (MMBA) (Theisen) April 30-May 3, 2022 Arrowwood
3. Veteran's Memorial Dedication, June 11 (everyone)
4. League of MN Cities Annual Conference (Mayor, Council & Lammers) June 22-24, 2022 Duluth (must register by April 29)
5. Hazardous Waste Day, Thursday, July 7, 2022, from 10-2 (Everyone) Vergas Event Center
6. Clerks Advanced Academy- (Lammers) September 15-16, 2022 New Ulm MN

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Julie Lammers, CMC
Vergas Clerk-Treasurer