

VERGAS COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
VERGAS EVENT CENTER & ZOOM  
Tuesday, October 11, 2022

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:30 pm, on Tuesday, October 11, 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: Bruce Albright, Natalie Fischer, Paul Pinke and Rebecca Hasse. Absent: None. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers, Utilities Superintendent Michael DuFrane, Liquor Store Manager Kyle Theisen, Robert Williams of the Fraze-Vergas Forum, Engineers Brian Green, Sherri Hanson, Jon Olson and Judy Kvam.

**Call to Order**

Mayor Julie Bruhn called the City Council meeting to order.

**Citizens' Concerns**

Lammers read thank you letter from Pastor Beatty for the use of the Event Center on Sundays from June-August.

**Agenda Additions and Deletions**

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Albright to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

- a. Council Minutes for September 13, 2022
- b. Bills paid between Council meetings for a total of \$69,874.37
- c. Liquor Store bills for September 2022 for a total of \$94,030.58
- d. Late water/sewer bills  
and the removal of the following items:
- e. General Fund/Special Revenue Money Market Account Report
- f. 2022 Investment Schedule/Bond Schedule
- g. American Rescue Plan Funding 2021-2026

Motion passed unanimously.

**Water/Sewer late Fee Reduction Request**

Lammers reviewed bills and information given to the owner. Albright, commented he has looked into this by speaking with office staff and Meryl Kvam owner of 310 S Pelican Avenue who has requested his late fees for the last 3 months be dropped due to a misunderstanding between himself, renters and the city. Judy Kvam stated she felt the late fees should be forgiven. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to deny the request. Motion passed unanimously.

**Conditional Use Permits**

Lawrence Lake Acres

Jon Olson project Engineer stated that the road is about 90% ready for construction. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve the conditional use permit for Lawrence Lake Acres as recommended by Planning Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

325 East Frazee Avenue

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve the conditional use permit for 325 East Frazee Avenue as recommended by Planning Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

Parcels 82-000-50-0027 and 82-000-50-0027-008

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve the conditional use permit for parcels 82-000-50-0027 and 82-000-50-0027-008 as recommended by Planning Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

**Easements – Townline Road**

Lammers stated Attorney Tom Winters is working on easements and will speak with property owners and attorney of one property owner to proceed with easements.

## **Committee Reports**

### Budget

Bruhn reviewed budget and explained no changes have been made since the September meeting.

### Park Board

Sherrri Hanson reviewed the Park Board meeting held on September 22, 2022, (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Albright stated 7 trees need to be removed by 88 Park View Drive. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to have DuFrane work with Hager to remove 2 trees in the trail easement and 3 trees by the wall to Long Lake Trail planter. Motion passed unanimously. All funds have been raised for the pickle ball courts and they will continue to raise funds for upkeep. Shannon Carpenter handed out pamphlets for Council members regarding their management plan. They would like to add a sign to replace the baseball sign. Bruhn stated the City needs to accept the pickleball court and the Veteran's Memorial by resolution. Carpenter stated the committee would like to see landscaping done around the pickleball courts at the city's cost, but they would share in the cost of the sign. Council stated they would like to look at a quote for landscaping before proceeding. The hairy man festival was a success and Hanson thanked Council for use of the ball field.

### Streets/Sidewalk/Yard Waste

Albright reviewed Streets/Sidewalk/Yard Waste meeting minutes of September 20, 2022 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Committee requested Widseth to prepare feasibility process and Council tabled to November meeting.

### Liquor Store/Licenses/Municipal Buildings

Bruhn reviewed Liquor Store/Licenses/Municipal Building Committee meeting minutes of September 29, 2022 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Motion by Albright, seconded by Fischer to approve quote from Loren Menz to move the door and wall in the municipal hallway for \$1,500.00. Motion passed unanimously. Discussed Otter Tail County property located at 140 E Linden and recommendation of removing building and making a parking lot. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to proceed with receiving County property, remove building and making into parking lot. Motion passed unanimously. Lammers will proceed with applying for County grant for removal of building and discussing parking rental with Altona Square.

### Planning Commission

Albright reviewed Planning Commission meeting minutes of September 26, 2022 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). No recommendation outside of conditional use permits.

### EDA/HRA

Albright reviewed EDA/HRA meeting minutes of October 4 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). There were no council recommendations.

### Water and Sewer Committee

Fischer reviewed Water/Sewer Committee meeting minutes of October 6, 2022 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). They are recommending the water ordinance state no wells may be drilled in the city limits and will bring proposed ordinance to November meeting. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve 25 cents per 1,000-gallon increase for water and no increase in sewer rates for 2023. Motion passed unanimously. 2023 budgets were deferred to November meeting.

### Event Center

Lammers reviewed Event Center meeting of October 10, 2022 (minutes not yet available). Discussed Event Center agreement with the Vergas Lion's for the rental of an office space located by the bar for \$1.00 until December 31, 2023. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Hasse for the Mayor to sign agreement with the Vergas Lions. Motion passed unanimously. Event Center Advisory board denied request for Festival of Trees to have a reduced rate due to policy stating Fundraising event will not be recommended to the City Council. Committee requested line 7 of the Free Use or Reduced rent policy to be changed to Fundraising event will not be recommended to the Council unless they come from the Vergas Lion's, Vergas Community Club or the CDH-Vergas Fire Department. If this change is made the committee recommends a 50% reduction in rate, changing their rate of \$800.00 for the rental of the event center to \$400.00. Council asked committee to review wording of line 7 of the agreement and not use names of organizations. Motion by Albright, seconded by Hasse to lower the rate to \$200 for the festival of trees event as the Vergas Community Club has given over \$12,000 to the Event Center in the past 2 years and the funds from this

event will go to Christmas lights for the City of Vergas. Voting yes: Pinke, Hasse and Albright. Voting no: none. Abstain: Fischer. Motion passed.

## **Staff Report**

### Utility Superintendent

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve resolution 2022-008 (a complete text of the resolution is part of permanent public record in the City Clerk's office.) approving purchasing sand from Ottertail County. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve resolution 2022-009 and 2022-010 (a complete text of the resolution is part of permanent public record in the City Clerk's office.) approving seal coat and traffic marking from Ottertail County. Motion passed unanimously. The dates to purchase a new pickup for the City of Vergas is November 7-10, 2022 and the street committee will work with DuFrane on purchasing.

### Liquor Store Manager

Theisen provided inventory and sales information to the Council. Theisen reviewed Liquor Store web page and will focus on lowering inventory this winter.

### Clerk-Treasurer

Lammers reviewed bid for updating city cameras with Arvig. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve the purchase of an adapter for City Camera and change them to the Exacq Mobile as other municipal cameras for a bid of \$3,450.00 to be paid out of American Rescue Funding. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Information & Announcements**

November Elections, November 8, 2022, 7 am - 8 pm Vergas Event Center

November Council Meeting will be held, Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Vergas Event Center

## **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Julie Lammers, CMC  
Vergas Clerk-Treasurer