

CITY OF VERGAS
COUNCIL MINUTES
Vergas Event Center and Zoom
Special Council Meeting, Wednesday, May 24, 2023

The City Council of Vergas met at 4:30 pm, on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at the Vergas Event Center for a hybrid special council meeting with the following members present: Mayor Julie Bruhn, Council Members: Bruce Albright, Paul Pinke and Natalie Fischer. Absent: Dean Haarstick. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers and Jeff Hattlewick.

Call to Order

Mayor Julie Bruhn called the meeting to order.

Loon Placement

Lammers reviewed a request by Vergas Community Club to place 2 metal loons on City property, one by the trail end closest to Long Lake Park and one by the Vergas Event Center. These are set on a premade cement base and secured into the ground with spikes. They are transportable if needed. Fischer commented that the community club discussed putting the loon in Peterson Park instead of in front of the Event Center. Motion by Albright, seconded by Fischer to allow Vergas Community Club to place 2 metal loons on city property at either the Event Center or Peterson Park and at the trail end. Motion passed unanimously.

Event Center

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Albright to approve resolution 2023-009 (complete copy of resolution located at the city office and on the city web page) for the donation to the Vergas Event Center. Motion passed unanimously.

Emergency – Water

Bruhn reviewed the debriefing meeting of the water emergency which took place on Friday, May 19, 2023. Fischer stated all businesses should be called in the future not just the businesses affected in the area. The Water/Sewer committee will review procedures and make recommendations as well as propose a fine for the business causing the emergency. Bruhn thanked Julie Lammers and Mike DuFrane for the job they did with the emergency.

Ordinance Updates

Albright reviewed the updated Gravel Pit Ordinance planning commission has recommended for approval. Questions regarding reclamation were discussed. Hattlewick stated there is black dirt in piles by the trees and along the side of the property not seen from the road with grass coverage that will be used for reclaiming property once it is fully mined. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Fisher to approve policy to move forward to public hearing on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 6 pm. at the Vergas Event Center for a hybrid setting. Motion passed unanimously.

Albright reviewed Open Burning Ordinance planning commission has recommended for approval with changes consisting of the following: DNR permits must be provided to the Clerk-Treasurer 48 hours before burning and informing the city of what is going to be burned. Bruhn mentioned removal of Fire Marshal and Assistant Fire Marshal from the policy and changing the three-foot logs to 3 foot or less. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve the ordinance with discussed changes for a public hearing on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 6 pm. at the Vergas Event Center for a hybrid setting. Motion passed unanimously.

Liquor Store

Hiring

Lammers requested Council hire Sara Stone at step one of the PayScale per Liquor Store Manger Kyle Theisen's recommendation. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to hire Sara Stone as a Municipal Liquor Store clerk at step 1. Motion passed unanimously.

Engineering plans for Municipal Building

Lammers presented proposed Engineering plans for the updates for the municipal building. Council requested municipal building committee be present for the next meeting with engineer regarding the plans, making the bathrooms handicapped accessible is considered, looking into adding on to the southside of the building for employee bathrooms and/or more storage and Liquor Store Manager Theisen providing a cost return on investment.

Adjournment

The business for which the meeting was called having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Vergas City Clerk-Treasurer
Julie Lammers, CMC