

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council
Monday June 27th, 2022**

The regular city council meeting of the City of Echo Minnesota was called to order by Mayor Ray Sweetman at 7:00 pm at the Community Center.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Ray Sweetman

Present: Mayor Ray Sweetman, Councilman Mark Schettler, Councilman Jessie Dehn, Councilman Jody Chmelar, Councilman Reid Hanson, Clerk Brian Pitzl, Fire Chief Matt Dunphy, EMS Chief Chastity Kuehn, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen,

Citizens/Guests: Lynn Kuehn, Jane Garvin, Daneen Dhoore, Sara Oberloh, Paula Busack

Lynn Kuehn addressed the council concerning the condition of the road in front of her son's house in town. She stated that she fell on the uneven surface and requested that action be taken to repair the road permanently. Council will look into the costs of repair. Daneen Dhoore presented a building permit request to the council for consideration. Paula Busack presented the board with several concerns including water bill issues, dog and cat license enforcing, abandon vehicles, city council members not coming to meetings, concerns with maintenance supervisor doing work in Belview, and other issues she has brought to the council prior that have not been addressed. No action was taken.

Sara Oberloh from Oberloh and Associates presented the City Financial Audit Report for the year of 2021. She will send the report to the state as is mandatory. Motion to approve audit was made by Councilman Dehn, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, May 10, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes and Resolution 2022-600 Approving Election Judges for Primary Election was made by Councilman Hanson seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motions passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve consent agenda including Bills for Payment, Payroll, and Bank Information made by Councilman Dehn, seconded by Councilman Hanson. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

Fire Department - Chief Matt Dunphy: Chief Dunphy informed the council that the department voted to approve Mark Schettler to become a member of the department. Motion by

Councilman Dehn, seconded by Councilman Hanson to approve the departments recommendation pending the passing of a physical by Mr. Schettler. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler abstaining. Informed the council that he has been in contact with the Belview Fire Department regarding scaled down training while still complying with the state, for attracting new firemen to the department.

First Responders - Chas Kuehn: Informed the council that the LUCAS automated CPR machine has been received from the city of Cottonwood and that the city will be receiving an invoice for the cost to be paid by donations already received for the First Responders fund. Will need to order minimal supplies for the devices. Will reevaluate the possibility of new members.

Maintenance Supervisor – Bryan Nielsen: Informed the council that it would cost \$250 to redo the plumbing to pex for the bathrooms at the park which are now copper and have several leaks. Motion by Councilman Dehn, Seconded by Councilman Hanson to approve the work. Motion carried unanimously. Ordered more mosquito spray due to it being 6-12 months out. Waiting to hear back for possible grants for capping the old city well. Would like to purchase a small refrigerator for the shop to keep water samples in while waiting to get them transported for testing. Councilman Dehn will donate an old refrigerator he has. The camera system by the fire department building will be going up shortly to monitor the pop machine that will be placed by the fire hall.

Clerk - Brian Pitzl: The clerk was in Duluth the previous week for training. Noted that the filing dates for city offices is August 2nd to August 16th. Informed the council that the city will not likely be receiving the 2021 second half LGA payment due to the Legislature not passing a tax bill. Since the primary election is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8th, the City of Echo will need to reschedule their August meeting. The council will make the decision at the July meeting.

Mayor Sweetman – Reported on the City Wide Clean up day held June 11th. Participation was low. Recommended sending letters to specific residents that could benefit from the opportunity to discard certain items from their properties.

Councilman Chmelar –

Councilman Dehn – Informed council that he has accepted a job offer out of town and will be resigning from the council effective July 31st. Council will deal with this issue at the July meeting when it becomes official.

Councilman Schettler – Had a citizen inquire about the stipulation and differences of a modular home would be compared to a mobile home. A modular home would need to have a permanent foundation. Received a couple complaints of the community center not being up to standard of cleanliness. Clerk will make sure that it is cleaned properly.

Councilman Hanson – Inquired about several stones at the cemetery in need of repair. Maintenance supervisor informed him that some of them are currently being fixed.

Old Business:

Aged balance report for past due water bills was discussed. Clerk was instructed to send out letters of disconnection to customers with water bills over 90 days past due.

Further conversation was had on the water/sewer rate study. Rural water has raised their rates several times over the past few years, but the City of Echo has not increased the cost to their citizens. It was decided to increase the base rate to \$37.50 for water and \$37.50 for sewer, with an additional charge of \$6.53 per 1000 gallons for water and \$4.86 per 1000 gallons for sewer. The new rate would not include the first 2000 gallons for free and residents will be charged for the water they use. The new rate will take effect with the July billing.

New Business:

Building permits were presented as follows: Tianna & Tanner Lentz to expand their existing deck. Bryan Nielsen to move a small shed next to his current garage. Daneen and Tim Dhoore to move an existing garage from one lot to another. Motion made by Councilman Schettler and seconded by Councilman Chmelar to approve the permits. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Dehn and second by Councilman Hanson to adjourn regular meeting and go into a closed meeting for employee review, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Motion was made by councilman Dehn, seconded by Councilman Hanson to adjourn the closed meeting, and reopen regular meeting. Motion carried with Mayor Sweetman and Councilman Schettler absent. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Motion to increase the clerk salary to \$18.50 per hour. Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Chmelar, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Motion made by councilman Schettler, second by Councilman Hanson to adjourn meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

I, the undersigned, Brian Pitzl, City Clerk in and for the City of Echo, Minnesota, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes.

Mayor Raymond Sweetman

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl