

Minutes and Proceedings of the City
Council of the City of Emily in the
County of Crow Wing, State of Minnesota
Including accounts audited by said Council

March 13, 2024

The Emily City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 in the Council Chambers and was called to order by Mayor Tracy Jones at 6:03 p.m. Councilmembers Bryce Butcher, Gerhart Hanson, Andrew Hemphill, and Gregory Koch were present. City Engineer Jeff Ledin, S.E.H., and Alex Voit, S.E.H., attended the meeting remotely. Cari Johnson, City Clerk/Treasurer, was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Jones recessed the regular Council Meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 6:03 p.m. The proposed 2024-02 Fee Schedule Ordinance included amendments to Section 152 Land Use and Subdivisions for addition of a fee for modification of variance, conditional use permit, or interim use permit condition(s), addition of a per_unit description for the interim use permit fee, and update to the per_unit descriptions for variance and conditional use permit fees. Mayor Jones requested public comment. No public comment was received. Mayor Jones closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular Council Meeting at 6:05 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER BUTCHER MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COUNCILMEMBER HEMPHILL SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Jones requested a motion of approval of the Consent Agenda including meeting minutes of the February 13, 2024 Council Meeting and February 20, 2024 Special Council Meeting and the Treasurer's Report from February 2024: Checking Beginning Balance \$1,144,433.26 and Ending Balance \$1,058,666.24; Receipts to General fund \$18,715.60, Sewer fund \$4,401.56, Total \$23,117.16; and Claims for Approval: \$66,583.70 including Pine River State Bank checks #61199 to #61278 and automatic withdrawals #330772 to #330778; Investments \$396,042.67; Total Checking/Investments \$1,454,708.91. **COUNCILMEMBER KOCH MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. COUNCILMEMBER HANSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC FORUM: None.

SPEAKERS: Dan and Fran Barrett sponsor The Log Cabin Yetis softball team. Barrett reported the ten teams in the league decided to use Emily's baseball fields and the league holds two annual tournaments. Barrett requested the Council purchase an electronic scoreboard for the main baseball field. Barrett also requested the scoreboard recognize Barry Hite because Hite is the team's biggest fan, coached the players when they were younger, and attends all the games. Barrett provided a quote from Varsity Scoreboard for a total of \$4,645 including personalization. Barrett obtained a verbal quote from Northern Lakes Electric for \$1,500 to install the electrical with Maintenance personnel completing the trenching work.

Wayne Dosh, Senior Engineering Technician and Certified Bridge Inspector, and Rob Hall, Assistant County Highway Engineer, attended the meeting regarding the bridge report and bridge maintenance. Dosh reported on the Roosevelt Drive over Crooked Creek Bridge #L2877. Dosh reported the superstructure of the bridge is rated as a 4, which is poor condition, the condition of the bridge has deteriorated to the point where annual inspections are required, and the bridge is ranked third up from the bottom in the County. Dosh reported maintenance is needed to address washing under the wood portions of the abutments for stabilization, replace bolts on the timber rail, and remove a large tree that is across the channel. Dosh reported during high water the bridge has had scour problems in the past, which have been stabilized with the addition of concrete. Dosh reported as long as the concrete remains the bridge is protected from scouring unless the river gets under or behind the concrete. Dosh recommended watching the bridge during times of high water. Dosh reported the deck bituminous has potholes and the beams have section loss, so Dosh no longer recommends overlaying the deck. Overlaying the deck would cost \$25,000 to \$30,000.

Dosh stated no more weight may be added to the bridge. Dosh recommended patching the deck as needed until the bridge is replaced. Dosh reported there is a waterproof membrane under the bituminous to keep water from reaching the beams, but the current condition of the membrane is unknown. Dosh reported the State has been using a mastic sealant over the top of bridge decks and that may be an option for the City to provide some time before bridge replacement. Dosh reported the worst of the flaking rust is on top of the lower flanges of the interior steel beams and primarily in the wheel paths. Dosh reported the flaking rust is bad enough that loss can be measured, but there has been little section loss. Dosh believes the beams are ½", so loss of 1/32" is only 10% loss. Dosh reported the load ratings account for section loss of the beams. Dosh reported about 10 years of good life are left in the bridge. Dosh reported the bridge replacement process for funding takes about 4 to 5 years. The first step in the replacement process would be to get on the bridge replacement list, which requires an engineer's estimate. The bridge replacement process would include acquiring right-of-way for expansion.

Rob Hall recommended completing minimal maintenance to keep the bridge functional and working until replacement. Hall reported there are a number of funding options, but the main one is the Local Bridge Replacement Program. The Local Bridge Replacement Program funding is available on a first come, first served basis. Hall recommended the City work with the City Engineer on development of a bridge replacement design over the next year. Hall reported the design process would include the type of bridge, the amount of right-of-way the City would need to purchase, and how to keep one bridge functional while constructing another. Hall recommended using the State bonding program because it currently has healthy funding. Hall reported there are other options, including a couple of federal funding programs, but the processes have more requirements, reports, and up-front costs and do not pay more than the State's bonding program would. Hall reported with the State bonding program typically the City would pay the first \$10,000 towards the bridge replacement and the first \$10,000 towards the engineering. Hall reported the program could provide 70% to 80% of the cost of the bridge. The cost of the approach to the bridge would be a local cost and the design of the bridge determines the amount of approach needed. The purchase of right-of-way would also be a local cost. Hall reported the box culvert design is wider and may require more right-of-way.

Jeff Ledin, City Engineer, S.E.H., reported the City has been planning to order the preliminary design work for the Roosevelt Drive Bridge replacement and included funds in the budget for 2024. Ledin reported the City needs to determine right-of-way and environmental needs. Ledin reported the location may not be conducive to box culverts and a bypass would be needed downstream. Ledin recommended meeting with Dosh, Hall, and City representatives before starting on the preliminary design. Ledin reported the County has ranked the bridge very low, so the City is justified in expending funds to replace the bridge. Ledin reported construction costs will keep increasing and recommended starting the process soon.

Wayne Dosh recommended the City have an average daily traffic count completed for the bridge. Dosh reported the last count was completed in 1986 with an average of 15 cars per day crossing the bridge. The location has grown and traffic has drastically increased. Hall reported the County could set up the traffic count. Hall reported the traffic count would be considered during the application review process.

Dosh reported the Roosevelt Drive Bridge is on the County's resolution for replacement as a priority. Dosh reported the cost for bridge replacement with a box culvert design is estimated at \$939,000 with construction in 2029. Dosh reported roughly \$188,000 would be grading work, which does not qualify for bridge funding and would be local cost. Dosh reported an estimated 40% to 45% of the cost would be for the culvert, which would be a two cell pipe. The State bonding program would require the City to construct a bridge with a 30' to 32' wide deck with two 11' wide driving lanes and 2' wide shoulders to replace the current single lane bridge. Dosh reported constructing a new bridge would cost \$931,000 in 2029. Dosh estimated \$128,000 for the grading work. Dosh reported bridge construction costs increase by 4% to 4.5% per year. Dosh reported bridge replacement costs double every 10 to 12 years. Hall reported the grant would pay more for the bridge than the box culvert due to grading costs, but the box culvert style requires less long-term maintenance. Hall reported box culvert style bridges are pretty self-maintaining with very little water damage. Dosh reported crack sealing would be needed every 3 to 4 years for box culvert style bridges. Dosh reported typically concrete bridges would need to be sealed with epoxy every 3 to 5 years and any damage from scouring would need to be repaired. Dosh reported no guardrails would be required with a box culvert style bridge due to low traffic flow, but bridge railing would be required.

Jeff Ledin reported a prior plan for sandblasting and repainting the current bridge beams was more expensive than warranted by the life of the bridge. Ledin reported minimal maintenance should be completed, such as patching the potholes, to keep the bridge going. Ledin reported riprap should be installed under the abutment, but any other

maintenance should be set aside. Ledin reported the City should concentrate on bridge design, right-of-way acquisition, and environmental clearance to be ready for the bridge replacement. Ledin reported there are currently more funds available for bridge replacement than historically, so the City should prepare for the bridge replacement soon. Ledin reported a good preliminary bridge design and having the time-consuming requirements completed will put the City in the best position for funding.

After Council discussion Jeff Ledin reported S.E.H. will present an agreement for development of the preliminary design to replace the Roosevelt Drive Bridge at the April Council Meeting for Council consideration. Crow Wing County is in favor of the City moving forward with replacement of the bridge. Ledin reported he will collaborate with Crow Wing County on development of the design proposal. Ledin reported S.E.H. will complete the topographic survey and land survey and Crow Wing County will complete the traffic count and participate in a site meeting.

The Council thanked Wayne Dosh and Rob Hall for attending the meeting.

A Special Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 1 p.m. for a field trip to review roads for the Feasibility Study.

The Council thanked Jeff Ledin and Alex Voit for attending the meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Chad Genz reported the February Fire Department meeting was held with 15 members present and reported 0 fire calls. All equipment was checked and the Fire Hall was cleaned.

MAYOR JONES MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE A FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT RATE DECREASE FROM 3.14174% TO 2.874% AND FIRST RESPONSE COVERAGE CONTRACT RATE DECREASE FROM .67776% TO .51838%, FOR A TOTAL RATE DECREASE FROM 3.8195% TO 3.39238%. COUNCILMEMBER KOCH SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR JONES MADE THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-16 DECLARING EQUIPMENT OR PROPERTY AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF THE SAME TO DISPOSE OF THE 1999 GMC FIRE PUMPER TRUCK TO CROOKED LAKE TOWNSHIP AT A PRICE OF \$15,000. COUNCILMEMBER KOCH SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED. Granite Electronics will remove the radio from the fire truck before it is sold and install the radio in the new fire truck for approximately \$1,000.

The Council discussed decommissioning the 1998 Polaris 6 wheel ATV. There had been a question of whether a firefighter could tow the Polaris 6 wheeler and trailer with their personal vehicle. A firefighter's own liability insurance would be primary when towing a City trailer. If the firefighter did not have sufficient liability limits, the City's auto liability would be excess coverage. The Council did not approve the option to make the City's liability insurance coverage primary for \$12 per person, with no physical damage coverage, for any firefighter using a personal vehicle to tow the trailer and Polaris 6 wheeler. The City had purchased a Ranger side by side to replace the Polaris 6 wheeler. The Fire Department members voted to keep the Polaris 6 wheeler. There was a discussion regarding the location of the 6 wheeler in the Fire Hall and difficulty in utilizing it. The possibility of moving the 6 wheeler to the old Maintenance Shop for ease of access was discussed. The Council made the decision to keep the 6 wheeler for now and may revisit whether to sell it in one year.

The Council also discussed possible decommissioning of 16 air packs and 30 air bottles that are out of service and stored in the old Maintenance Shop. Chief Genz will contact the DNR to determine if there is an excess property donation program for old air packs and bottles.

Chief Genz presented a plaque for Chad Jordan to recognize Jordan for his 17 years of service to the City as a firefighter.

FIRST RESPONSE UNIT: Council Liaison Hemphill reported the March First Response Unit meeting was held with 7 members present and reported 6 calls in February. The Food Shelf requested an AED for the building. The First Responders have a couple of extra AEDs at this time. A First Responder representative could do monthly checks on the AED. **MAYOR JONES MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOOD SHELF'S REQUEST FOR AN AED IN THE CITY OWNED FOOD SHELF BUILDING. COUNCILMEMBER HEMPHILL SECONDED THE**

MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR JONES MADE THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-15 ACCEPTING DONATION TO THE CITY OF \$200 FROM BEATRICE RHODE TO THE FIRST RESPONSE UNIT EQUIPMENT FUND. COUNCILMEMBER HEMPHILL SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

LAW ENFORCEMENT: The Council discussed options for former Police Department vehicles as follows:

- 2016 Ford Explorer
 - Repurpose as an EMS rig pending the total cost to remove equipment and repurpose and to hire inspection and possible repair of the front end.
 - Sell to Guardian Fleet Safety for \$7,500.
 - Sell to Enforcement Lighting to decommission the vehicle for \$500 (deducted from sale proceeds) including pick up, sale of equipment, work with Adesa Auto Auction for 10% sale fee, and the City could set a minimum bid.
- 2008 Ford Explorer
 - Sell to Guardian Fleet Safety for \$2,500.
 - Sell to Enforcement Lighting to decommission the vehicle for \$500 (deducted from sale proceeds) including pick up, sale of equipment, work with Adesa Auto Auction for 10% sale fee, and the City could set a minimum bid.

COUNCILMEMBER BUTCHER MADE THE MOTION TO DECOMMISSION THE 2016 AND 2008 FORD EXPLORER SQUADS BY SELLING THEM TO GUARDIAN FLEET SAFETY. COUNCILMEMBER HEMPHILL SECONDED THE MOTION. COUNCILMEMBER BUTCHER AMENDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-17 DECLARING EQUIPMENT OR PROPERTY AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF THE SAME FOR SALE TO DISPOSE OF THE FORMER POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES TO GUARDIAN FLEET SAFETY FOR \$7,500 FOR THE 2016 FORD EXPLORER SQUAD AND \$2,500 FOR THE 2008 FORD EXPLORER SQUAD. COUNCILMEMBER HEMPHILL SECONDED THE AMENDMENT. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Lt. Katzenberger, Sheriff's Office, and an interior designer from Connect Interiors inspected the former Police Department rooms to provide a renovation plan for the proposed northern outpost. The designer recommended the prior Police Chief's office become a conference room that could be used by the Sheriff's Office or by the City. The designer provided a design for the main Law Enforcement office and conference room. The designer will send quotes from Connect Interiors for the recommended furniture, carpet, and paint, including colors and finishes. The City is not required to choose the designer's provided options and plans to request additional quotes. Quotes have been requested for update of the City Hall's access and security system.

WASTEWATER: The Wastewater Operator and Maintenance Supervisor inspected the rapid infiltration basins for required maintenance. The Wastewater Operator reported some of the distribution tubes have been hit and some have been cut off from the tee. PeopleService is proposing to provide personnel to assist with replacing the tubes back to the way they were installed. Maintenance personnel would assist by digging trenches with the tractor, hauling sand, and refilling the rapid infiltration basins to the proper level with sand.

PLANNING & ZONING: Council Liaison Koch reported the Planning Commission approved an outdoor market permit for the Emily Wesleyan Church and will be holding a public hearing for an ordinance amendment to the Highway Mixed Use district description.

Quotes were requested for construction of a doorway and installation of a door between the Planning and Zoning Office and Clerk's Office for counter access and safety. One quote was received so the project was tabled until the next Council Meeting for additional quotes.

ATTORNEY: No report.

ROADS: **MAYOR JONES MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MCCOY CONSTRUCTION & FORESTRY EQUIPMENT RENTAL AGREEMENT FOR A 2023 JOHN DEERE 320P BACKHOE LOADER, WITH OPTION C, FOR A TOTAL INSURABLE VALUE OF \$180,000 WITH POSSIBLE TRADE-IN OF 1987 BACKHOE TRACTOR, NO DOWN PAYMENT, AND PURCHASE/PAYMENT AT THE END OF JUNE. COUNCILMEMBER KOCH SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

COUNCILMEMBER KOCH MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE RENTAL OF A STREET SWEEPING BROOM FROM RDO EQUIPMENT FOR UP TO 2 WEEKS AT A RATE OF UP TO \$1,800 PER WEEK FOR A TOTAL OF UP TO \$3,600. COUNCILMEMBER BUTCHER SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

MAINTENANCE: Maintenance Supervisor Brian Foster reported grading roads, fixing potholes, picking up roadside garbage, park work, and cemetery work.

CITY HALL: The Council discussed two quotes for installation of a bottle filling station/fountain at City Hall. The Pike Plumbing and Heating quote was for \$3,000 to purchase and install a bottle filling station/fountain. The cost to purchase the bottle filling station/fountain from Amazon would be \$1,129. **MAYOR JONES MADE THE MOTION TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO SHIP CROW WING ENERGIZED FOR A PARTNER AWARD FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF UP TO \$1,500 FOR AN UNFILTERED BOTTLE FILLING STATION/FOUNTAIN WITH NO INSTALLATION COSTS. COUNCILMEMBER KOCH SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.** The partner award would pay for the bottle filling station/fountain and the City would pay for the installation.

CEMETERY: No report.

PARKS: The Council discussed two quotes for replacement of the tops of the dugouts using Park Funds. The quote from Genz Construction for replacement of four dugout tops was \$24,909.12 and the quote from Emily Masonry was \$4,900 for replacement of two dugout tops or \$9,000 for replacement of four dugout tops. The lower block portions of two of the dugouts were replaced, but not the tops. The Council made the decision to table the quotes and inspect the dugouts to determine necessary repairs.

COUNCILMEMBER HANSON MADE THE MOTION TO PURCHASE AN 8' X 4' ELECTRONIC BASEBALL SCOREBOARD WITH PERSONALIZATION FROM VARSITY SCOREBOARDS USING PARK DEDICATION FUNDS. MAYOR JONES SECONDED THE MOTION. Discussion included Northern Lakes Electric provided a verbal bid of \$1,500 for electrical work. **ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

One quote has been received to construct new pickleball courts and another has been requested.

LIBRARY: No report.

PERSONNEL: **MAYOR JONES MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE DEPUTY CLERK AMY PROKOTT'S ATTENDANCE OF THE 2024 YEAR TWO MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL CLERKS INSTITUTE IN ST. CLOUD FROM MAY 6 TO MAY 10 AT THE COST OF UP TO \$560 FOR REGISTRATION, 5 NIGHTS IN HOTEL NOT TO EXCEED \$875, AND REIMBURSEMENT OF MILEAGE, PARKING, AND FOOD. COUNCILMEMBER HEMPHILL SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

COUNCILMEMBER BUTCHER MADE THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF PAM RODEN FROM THE PARK COMMISSION EFFECTIVE MARCH 13, 2024. COUNCILMEMBER HANSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

COUNCILMEMBER KOCH MADE THE MOTION TO APPOINT WES MURNANE TO THE PARK COMMISSION FOR A 3 YEAR TERM OF MARCH 14, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2026. MAYOR JONES SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Two additional members are needed for the Park Commission.

The Council did not approve LMC Annual Conference attendance.

MAYOR JONES MADE THE MOTION TO ALLOW UP TO TWO PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE LAND USE 101 TRAINING ON MARCH 27 FROM 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M. IN STAPLES, FREE REGISTRATION, WITH REIMBURSEMENT OF MILEAGE. COUNCILMEMBER HEMPHILL SECONDED THE

MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

The Council did approve attendance of other training options of Open Meeting Law and Data Practices or Practical Leadership.

EMILY WATERS: MAYOR JONES MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2024 EMILY WATERS COMMITTEE APPLICATIONS FROM JAN MOSMAN, JEAN MCLEOD, AND DAN BRENNAN. COUNCILMEMBER KOCH SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report.

CODIFICATION: The proposed 2024-02 Fee Schedule Ordinance included amendments to Section 152 Land Use and Subdivisions for addition of a fee for modification of variance, conditional use permit, or interim use permit condition(s), addition of a per_unit description for the interim use permit fee, and update to the per_unit descriptions for variance and conditional use permit fees. MAYOR JONES MADE THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE AMENDED 2024-02 FEE SCHEDULE ORDINANCE AS PRESENTED. COUNCILMEMBER KOCH SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED. MAYOR JONES MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE SUMMARY OF THE AMENDED 2024-02 FEE SCHEDULE ORDINANCE FOR PUBLICATION. COUNCILMEMBER KOCH SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Rick Sandri, North Star Manganese (NSM), provided a report. Sandri reported Electric Metals hired Brian Savage as the new President and Chief Executive Officer. Sandri reported NSM is completing a new Resource Estimate with Forte Dynamics on the drilled portion of the Emily Deposit. The report is expected to be released this Spring. The metallurgical testing and analysis of drilled samples continue to be assessed at Kemetco Research and are expected to continue through mid-2024. Sandri reported environmental visits associated with site reclamation (regrowth in disturbed areas) were reinitiated, and then later suspended, associated with the freeze/thaw conditions at the site. When the weather gets warmer the environmental visits will be reinitiated on a regular basis until the site has met the required reclamation levels. NSM continued its discussions with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on its mineral lease applications on State mineral lands in the Emily area. The activity will be ongoing into 2024.

There were three major storms in 2022. One storm went to the Federal level and two storms stayed at the State level. The final project worksheets were submitted to the State and the City has been reimbursed \$21,114.82, which closes out the paperwork and reimbursement requests for the last of the three storms.

The Council discussed the request to determine interest in the City leasing land from a property owner at little or no cost for public use as an outdoor gun range, including insurance requirements. The Council decided not to pursue opening a gun range. The issue died for lack of a motion.

The Council discussed the request for City Hall to issue physical burning permits. The DNR prefers burning permits to be obtained online. If there was a need for a physical location, the DNR would prefer a location with longer operating hours than City Hall. The Council made the decision not to pursue the issuance of burning permits at City Hall.

NEW BUSINESS: MAYOR JONES MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2023 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PUBLICATION. COUNCILMEMBER HEMPHILL SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE: Discussion included Crow Wing County regarding final tax rates, Crow Wing County regarding public comment period for Land Use Ordinance revisions, MidMinnesota Federal Credit Union regarding the request to bid for bank account or investment of excess money, Landsburg Landscape Nursery regarding thank you for business last year, WonderTrek Children’s Museum regarding thank you for hosting February Pop-up Play Lab Event, and U.S. Treasury regarding updated ARPA FAQs on affordable housing.

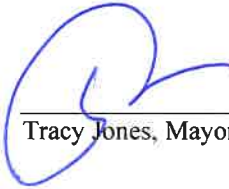
SCHEDULED UPCOMING MEETINGS: The Fire Chief, First Responder Chief, and Council Liaisons will be requested to meet and review City Code to combine the departments.

COUNCILMEMBER BUTCHER MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:52 P.M. COUNCILMEMBER KOCH SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:


Cari Johnson, MCMC, City Clerk/Treasurer


Tracy Jones, Mayor