**Minutes of the Regular Meeting-7:30pm Tuesday**

**November 14, 2023**

**Mendota VFW 1323 Sibley Memorial Hwy,**

**Mendota Minnesota**

1. Call to order: Mayor Mielke called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Present: Mayor Mielke. Council Members Golias, Perron, and Donnelly. Attorney Tom Loonan, Engineer Lucas Jones, City Clerk Kathy Krotter. Captain Wegener and Council Member Rasmussen were absent.

4. Agenda: Mayor Mielke made one change to the agenda. Added number 8 as Schedule fee and then moved everything else up one number. Motion to approve agenda by Mayor Mielke, seconded by Council Member Golias. Approved 4-0.

5. Approval of October 10, 2023, City Council Meeting minutes. Motion to approve last month’s minutes, with one correction. Motioned by Mayor Mielke and seconded by Council Member Golias. Approved 4-0.

6. Treasurer’s Report: Motion to pay the bills by Council Member Golias and seconded by Council Member Donnelly. Approved 4-0.

7. Public hearing on Bee Keeping Ordinance Lawyer Tom Loonan gave some background on the bee keeping zoning ordinance. Bees are classified as non-domestic animals. This ordinance would permit the use of bee keeping. Bee keeping can be done on lots 5 acres or larger. This would update section 8.04032 of our ordinance, zoning code section 512A. Mayor opened public hearing at 7:36 pm. Ordinance was discussed. Closed public comment at 7:39pm. Mayor stated that we do have one person in town that does have bees.

Lawyer stated that if they have been keeping bees for a long time they would be considered as a legal non-conforming use, which is a use that is in conformity prior to the change going into place. They will be able to continue with the bee keeping but would not be able to expand with the new zoning ordinance. Section 804.1 goes back to our code dealing with domestic animals, and bees do not fall into this category. Ordinance 23-12 adopting to mend the Ordinance for bee keeping in the City of Mendota, Motioned by Mayor Mielke and seconded by Council Member Golias, Approved 4-0

8. Swanson Haskamp Contract and Adoption of Fee Schedule : Lawyer Tom Loonan explained the reason for the agreement with Swanson Haskamp and what the purpose is for the contract. The city has been talking about hiring an outside consultant. Jennifer would help with the planning and handle the zoning administration, project management and special services. Swanson Haskamp would fill the gap between the engineer services that Lucas would supply, the legal services that Tom would supply and the services that Kathy supplies. Jennifer provided an agreement for the city that goes through 2024. After discussion, Resolution 12-13 was motioned by Council Member Golias, Seconded by Council Member Donnelly. Approved 4-0

9. American National Bank Conduit Bond Clerk explained that Mr. Burns from Taft, wanted to know if the city was interested in another bond. Motion to accept bond by Council Member Clark and seconded by Council Member Perron. Approved 4-0

10. 2024 Grant Application: Clerk explained the 2024 Waste Abatement application that the city would have with Dakota County recycling. It is basically the same agreement that has been approved in past years. The grant provides money for the city for recycling events, and making sure residents are informed about different recycling procedures in their county. Motion to accept the 2024 Grant Application by Council Member Golias and Seconded by Council Member Donnelly. Approved 4-0

11. Jack Nord – Sibley House. Jack asked when the clerk needed to get into the Dupois house for the election. Clerk stated that she needed to set up after 4pm on Wednesday and would need to get back in Thursday morning at 6am until about 9 pm. Jack also informed the city that he tendered his resignation with the Minnesota Historical Society. His last day will be November 22. He will be working in Stillwater, in a larger position. Council members thanked him for what he has done for the Sibley site during his time there.

12. Public Comments: Opened at 8:20 pm. Resident asked about any updates on the property at 265 E Street. Lucas stated that they are pumping the spring water until they get their drainage well done. Lucas also received a call from their plumber today and has sent in a Gopher 1 locate. The plumber is looking for where the sewer lines are, so Lucas provided them with a map. The developer will be hooking up to the sewer lines and city water from the fire hydrant that ends on Third and E Street. Closed public comment at 8:22 pm.

13. Council Comments: Open council comments at 8:22 pm.

Council Member Rasmussen: Absent

Council Member Golias: Made a statement that it used to be when you are building you used to order the garage door when the garage was done, now you order the garage door before you even start building. The supply chains have sure changed.

Mayor Mielke: Talked about the trees and would like the clerk to let Miller Tree Service know that if they are in the area, could they stop by and talk to the Mayor before winter, about some trees that need to be removed. Mayor had no mail. Mayor attended the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program. They are looking at Inver Grove Heights and Eagan joining their program. Reminder to have everyone come out and vote on the 16th of November.

Council Member Donnelly: Halloween went well, it was nice to see everyone. Thanks to Lucas for giving Clark the information on the watermain project. Clark sent it out to all the candidates, running in District 52B. Wanted them to know that this was a big issue for us. Clark stated that he has heard back from all of them. One of the candidates is Jay Miller and he is backed by Rick Hansen who was are Rep before. All the candidates have pledged to put the watermain project on their docket.

Council Member Perron: Asked about when the Walsh’s wanted to move the garage and put an apartment above the garage, did we tell them no. Council Member Golias stated that no, that was not the case. They did not meet the set backs for moving the garage.

Closed council comments at 8:29 pm.

 14. Staff Comments: Open Staff Comments at 8:29 pm.

Captain Wegener: Was absent. Clerk stated that there were 16 incidents in October resulting in 2 cases. Captain stated that if anyone had any questions that they could reach out to him in an email.

Lucas Jones: Like Clark had stated Lucas put together a watermain project flyer, updated some of the cost numbers from last year and got it out to Clark to send it out to the candidates.

Lucas stated that he told the city that he was going to look at water and sewer access charges and rates for our neighboring communities. They are all the same. The charges are exactly what Met Council requires and what St Paul water requires.

Lucas sent out some plans and information to the plumber working at 265 E Street. He thinks they got what they needed because they did not call him back.

Met Council called Lucas and stated that they could not find the final copy of the 2040 Comp plan. They wanted to make sure they had it in their file, so Lucas sent it back over to them.

Lucas told the Mayor that his comment about low to medium income, correct the city is above that. But there are opportunities for project level surveys to be done.

Lucas did receive some correspondents from Mendota Heights and the DOT. The DOT has been asked to evaluate the impact and potential cost to rename Sibley Memorial Highway to Highway 13. The DOT is trying to understand how many properties would be affected.

Lawyer Tom Loonan: Stated that he is still having discussion with Judd Fenlon and their project. Worked on updating the bee ordinance. Working with Jennifer about getting her to work with the City again.

City Clerk: Clerk reached out to the State of Minnesota that referred her to Dakota County about keeping wells open. It is allowed but the well must have an outside source for pumping the water from the well. Asked about the Lot Combination at 265 E Street. Primary election is Thursday November 16th, and the Election will be Tuesday December 5th, 2023. Tree lighting is November 25th.

Closed staff comment at 8:39 pm.

 15. Adjourn: 8:39 pm. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Council Member Donnelly and seconded by Council member Golias. Approved 4-0.