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

**February 13, 2024**

**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, Rasmussen and Donnelly. Attorney Christina Benson, Engineer Lucas Jones, and City Clerk Kathy Krotter. Attorney Tom Loonan and Captain Wegener were absent.

4. Agenda: Agenda accepted as presented, no changes. Motion to approve agenda by Mayor Mielke, seconded by Council Member Golias. Approved 5-0.

5. Approval of January 9, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve last month’s minutes. Motioned by Mayor Mielke and seconded by Council Member Golias. Approved 5-0.

6. Treasurer’s Report: Motion to pay the bills by Council Member Golias and seconded by Council Member Perron. Approved 5-0.

7. Public Hearing for Park Dedication Fee: Jennifer Haskamp explained that the city is having a public hearing for the Park Dedication fee requirements to be added to the ordinance. This is the first step; the second step is adding it to our fee schedule. The park dedications would go into the Chapter 8 zoning. Jennifer worked with Lucas Jones to get the cost for the park dedication fees. After the park dedication fee is decided on, fees are collected and placed in a fund, there would be a public participation meeting with the city to see what neighbors would like to see go into the park once enough money had been collected.

The mayor opened the public hearing at 7:39 p.m. Jennifer read the ordinance. Discussions were done between the residents, council, engineer and Jennifer.

The public hearing closed at 7:48 pm. The park dedication fee was motioned by Council Member Golias and seconded by Council Member Rasmussen. Approved 5-0. Resolution 24-06 was read by Mayor Mielke for publication for the park dedication, Chapter 8 ordinance number 806.07. Park dedication fees. So resolved by Mayor Mielke and seconded by Council Member Golias. Approved

5-0.

 8. Public Hearing MRCCA Ordinance: Jennifer Haskamp explained that this is also an amendment to Chapter 8 of our zoning ordinance. A few months ago, the city adopted an ordinance for the MRCCA, but the city adopted the wrong language. Jennifer changed some things to make it work with our zoning ordinance. The mayor opened the public hearing at 8:01 pm. MRCCA ordinance was discussed. Closed public hearing at 8:04 pm.

Moved to adopt new MRCCA ordinance by Council Member Golias and Seconded by Council Member Donnelly. Approved 5-0. The summary statement will be published. The mayor read the MRCCA Ordinance 24-07.

9. Public Comments: Opened at 8:08 pm. Lance Perron announced his retirement from plowing the streets of Mendota at the end of April 2024. Resident commented on the ordinances online and said you have to scroll through all the pages just to get the section that you are looking for. The engineer Lucas stated that is what he has been working on. Lawyer Christina Benson said that she has also been working on that and has converted the ordinance to a searchable PDF but has not had the time to add the section for finding certain ordinances yet. Closed public comment at 8:10 pm.

10. Council Comments: Open council comments at 8:10 pm.

Council Member Rasmussen: Nothing

Council Member Golias: Welcome back Mel. Thank you to Lance for all the work he has done for the City of Mendota.

Mayor Mielke: Mayor has two pieces of mail if anyone would like to look or read it. Represented the city at the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program. Mayor said he will be chairing the Mendota Days event again this year. Mendota days will be July 12th and 13th. Mayor said there was a gentleman that did the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon’s website for around $1500.00, maybe we could have him look at ours.

Council Member Donnelly: Happy to see Mel back. Thanked Lance for the snow plowing. Supports the website updating, we are well overdue.

Council Member Perron: Nothing

Closed council comments at 8:14 pm.

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

Jennifer Haskamp: Had nothing more to add, since she spoke on the Park Dedications fees and the MRCCA Ordinance.

Captain Wegener: Was absent.

Lucas Jones: The city and Lucas received a call from the Met Council on Monday that they had noticed that our flow was half of what they normally see from the lift station. The Met Council checked their equipment and found that it was working properly and requested that the city check some of the sanitary sewer systems to see if there was a leak or a blockage. Lucas did that today and everything looked fine. Recordings at the lift station are every fifteen minutes.

Reached out to the Mayor and Kathy after the last meeting about a grant opportunity that the department of health has to test private wells. It is a 100% grant with no kick in by the city. Minimum grant amount was $50,000 max of $100,000. Lucas has drafted that and will send it to us, to take a look at, it is due by the end of the week. The program is three-years. Money would be available in July if we get the grant.

Culverts- Lucas went back and looked at the reports that his company had done for inspections in 2021. Not going to touch anything that is structurally damaged, like bottoms rusting out. Lucas was looking for items that could be cleaned, like ditches. Found eleven that were partially filled and five that were completely buried. We can put together a quote, set up by each location.

Small communities’ grants are being looked at also.

(Steve MS4.)

Spoke about getting the planning committee together. Decided on Wednesday February 28, 2024, at 7p.m.

Lawyer Christina Benson: Talked about the website. She recommended a recodification that she just did with another city. And that it would be a good idea to put it in the budget for next year. One possibility might be with the League of Minnesota Cities. All ordinances would be searchable online, printable, downloadable, updatable for 200 to 450 dollars a year. It can be hosted on their website.

The league has three online courses, which are about an hour, which would be helpful to the planning committee, and they are free or cost zero to 15 dollars.

Mayor thanked Sargeant Phil for coming to the meeting tonight.

City Clerk: Stated that she received a call from Xcel Energy, to update our franchise fee with them for electric and gas. The last time it was done was in 2004 and it is a twenty-year contract.

Mayor signed the agreement for the recycling grant for Dakota County to get the last of our money from 2023.

Mr. Schultz has put down black rope for the erosion problem of his property.

Mr. Fenton had the graffiti covered on the Benson Metals building.

Closed staff comment at 8:36 pm.

 12. Adjourn: 8:36 p.m. Motion to adjourn by Council Member Donnelly and seconded by Council Member Perron. Approved 5-0.