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

**June 11, 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, Attorney Tom Loonan, Engineer Lucas Jones, City Planner Jennifer Haskamp, Captain Wegener and City Clerk Kathy Krotter.

4. Agenda: Agenda accepted as presented, no changes.

5. Approval of May 14, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve last month’s minutes as is, by Council Member Golias and seconded by Council Member Perron. Approved 5-0.

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

7. Resolution Variance for Mendota Bend: Resolution is for the denial of the Mendota Bend project. The denial identifies all four of the requested actions. The project would exceed the maximum height, the height exceeds the maximum height and is taller than existing buildings that are approximately 30 feet. The proposal height is not compatible with existing buildings and would change the character of the neighborhood. Resolution 24-13 was motioned by Mayor Mielke and seconded by Council Member Perron. Approved 5-0

8. Excel Energy Contract: Christina gave an update on the contract. The person she has been working with is happy with what they have worked out. The contract is the franchise agreement between the city of Mendota and Xcel Energy. (Gas and Electric)

9. Public comments: Open public comments at 7:38 pm. Maria asked about Mendota Bend. Dana asked about 265 E Street. Dana asked about the telephone pole by Gunnars house and Xcel said that the pole belongs to Century Link. Rachel asked about the home at 1337 Second Street. Clerk stated that Dakota County has it for taxes due and the County states that the State of Minnesota owns it.

Closed public comments 7:53 pm

10: Council Comments: Open Council Comments at 7:53 pm

Council Member Rasmussen: Nothing

Council Member Golias: Asked about the property at 1264 Sibley Memorial Hwy. Council Member Golias has heard that the roof is leaking, you could fall through the floor and that it was unsafe to live in there, yet Council Member Golias heard that someone is living there. Some kind of action should be taken.

Mayor Mielke: Mail, if anyone wants to look at. Met with MnDOT last Thursday to see if Judd could acquire the triangle part of land so he could have better access to the underground parking for his development. Representative Virnig, representatives from MnDOT were there, Judd and Mayor Mielke. They said that they need the property for stormwater litigations in the future. Right now, the lease has expired with MnDOT. Mendota Days is hot and heavy, Mayor has been putting posters around to promote the event. Final 30 day count down. Mayor had permission from MnDOT to close the road. All he needs is approval from Council for the road closure. Mayor Mielke asked the Lawyers to draw up a resolution for the closure. So, Resolution 24-14 gives approval from Council for the road closure for Mendota Days. Motioned by Mayor Mielke and Seconded by Council Member Perron. Approved 5-0 Mayor asked about applications for Council Members Perron’s position on the council until the election.

Council Member Donnelly: The firefly alley is back. Last year we sprayed and killed all the mosquitoes and all the firefly’s died. This year we are living with all the mosquitoes, but the fireflies are back.

Council Member Perron: Formally, withdrew her resignation until the election in November and will stay until January 2025.

Closed Council comments at 8:07 pm

11. Staff Comments: Open Staff Comments at 8:07 pm.

Captain Wegener: May was a light month opening only two cases, with one of those being a compliance check. Captain stated that Highway 13 had slope failure and that between Watchler and Sylvandale the road has been closed, until mid-August. Council member Golias asked if the Police would get notifications about the Mendota Bridge and the closures, because soon they will have to take down the huge signs across the bridge to replace them. Captain stated that they do not get informed about any closures unfortunately. The Police department never got notice that 13 was closed until a resident posted it on Facebook. Captain mentioned that sometimes the engineering department will get an update from MnDOT. Captain will keep us informed.

Jennifer Haskamp: Stated it has been quiet since the last meeting. Jennifer has spoken to Judd a couple of times, and he is reevaluating what they are going to do with the property. The planning commission should be aware that there might be a meeting this month, if Judd decides to go forward.

Lucas Jones: The survey is on the schedule for the water extension. Lucas figured it would be proactive to reach out to the 1 Windy Ridge and 10 Windy Ridge, to let them know what is going on and what options the city has for going down the hill with the water.

Next month we should find out if we were awarded for the safe water, well users grant. Then we could reapply for bond grant money and state that this is why we need it.

Lawyer Christina Benson: Last meeting there was a request from VFW to place a light pole on the property where the jail is located. So Christina has a license agreement for the placement of that pole. Does the city want to charge them to put the light on the city’s property and do you want to charge them for the electricity. Motion to authorize the Attorney to finalize the agreement Council Member Golias and Seconded by Council Member Perron Approved 5-0

The legislative session has ended and there are quite a few changes. If the city has any desire to regulate or restrict cannabis items in any way, such as edible or drinks, they should do it now before it becomes effective. If the city wants to control this, they should adopt an interim ordinance prohibiting potential hemp sales. It needs to be in our ordinance, and in the city’s zoning ordinances. Relicensing and qualifications start July 24 through August 15 for permanent license. Right now, a person can have eight plants in your home. But a person cannot sell it outside of their home. If anyone needs more information, please feel free to reach out to Christina.

Lawyer Tom Loonan: Christina covered it all.

City Clerk: Working on newsletter with the Mendota Days information in it. Working on the recycling report for the first half of the year for the recycling grant. Meetings for the upcoming elections and new rules for city clerks. Council Member Donnelly asked if the city could do another cleanup day. Mayor suggested we do them on odd years.

Closed staff comment at 8:40 pm.

12. Adjourn: 8:40p.m. Motion to adjourn by Council Member Donnelly and seconded by Council Member Perron Approved 5-0.