

## TRIMONT COUNCIL MINUTES

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular meeting was duly held remotely via Zoom on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020 at 5:30 o'clock P.M.

The following members attended remotely: Mayor Troy Schmidtke, Council Member Thomas Hage, Council Member Bruce Borntreger, Council Member Sterling Adamson, and Council Member Brian Krumwiede.

Mayor Troy Schmidtke presided over the meeting.

During the community comment period, Megan Morgan asked the council to reconsider her application for a permit to have chickens on residential property, which was denied at the last meeting. **Motion made by Council Member Sterling Adamson, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to reconsider the matter.** Roll Call Vote Ayes: Hage, Borntreger, Adamson, Krumwiede, Schmidtke. Nays: None. Following discussion, it was agreed that basic guidelines need to be set. The number of hens is limited to 5, no roosters are allowed, permits are active until canceled by the resident or by the city if problems develop, and the area must be kept clean with no offensive odors. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Sterling Adamson and carried to approve the permit for Megan Morgan.** Roll Call Vote Ayes: Hage, Borntreger, Adamson, Krumwiede, Schmidtke. Nays: None. Permits will be considered on a case by case basis, based on individual circumstances.

Police Chief Ross Wiggin reviewed the department report. Estimates will be obtained for the cost to add a cover to the squad truck bed for council consideration. It was decided to offer the old squad for sale when the new one is in service. No part-time officers are working during the pandemic. The added cost for overtime may be covered by a FEMA grant the county is working on. It was decided to cancel National Night Out this year. A smaller event may be held if the pandemic is under control at that time. Council was asked to decide on taking possession of property on which a house was damaged by fire last year so the property can be cleaned up. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Sterling Adamson and carried to contact the city attorney to begin the process.** Roll Call Vote Ayes: Hage, Borntreger, Adamson, Krumwiede, Schmidtke. Nays: None.

At 6:00 P.M. a Public Hearing the Planning Commission was called to order. Commission Chair Adamson reviewed the purpose of the hearing, to consider a variance application from Robert and Betty Connors to waive the requirement that an accessory building be placed on a lot with a main building, and also to waive the requirement that a camper be parked on a lot with a residential home. No comments were made by those present. The Public Hearing was closed and the council meeting was reopened. Chairman Adamson advised the planning commission unanimously recommends approval of the variance. **Motion made by Council Member Sterling Adamson, seconded by Council Member Bruce Borntreger and carried to adopt the following Resolution**

### **Resolution 2020-13**

**Resolution adopting findings of fact and reasons for approval for variance application of Robert and Betty Connors**

Roll Call Vote Ayes: Hage, Borntreger, Adamson, Krumwiede, Schmidtke. Nays: None.

Public Works Supervisor Mike Paulson provided a department report. Televising began this week. The company has agreed to televise the abandoned drainage tile east of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE to see where the water is going. The City has no stake in the tile, which is on private property, but it will be checked to make sure it isn't a factor in the I & I problem. Street repair bids are pending. The sealcoat bid already obtained is under budget. There is extensive patching needed, so it will have to be prioritized. The contractor will be asked for an opinion on the remaining life of the streets due to the amount of deterioration present. A cost estimate was provided for a new locator at \$985. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Bruce Bortrager and carried to approve the purchase.** Roll Call Vote Ayes: Hage, Bortrager, Adamson, Krumwiede, Schmidtke. Nays: None. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Bortrager, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to approve hiring Ron Reicherts for summer mowing.** Roll Call Vote Ayes: Hage, Bortrager, Adamson, Krumwiede, Schmidtke. Nays: None. More help is needed for trimming and other seasonal work, and for building maintenance. Discussion took place as to hiring more help or contracting out some of the work. Various options will be explored. Watermain flushing is tentatively planned for June and catch basins will be cleaned in the fall as time allows. Council was advised of a number of building maintenance projects needed, including various repair work at the library, roof leaks at the bus garage and three buildings at the wastewater plant, a leak at the Triumph Hall, and various work at the fire hall. Contractors will be contacted for estimates. Mayor Schmidtke noted it may be necessary to establish a buildings committee to help coordinate the considerable amount of work required. Also discussed was the need to repair a number of catch basins. A concrete mud-jacking contractor will be repairing the shop floor and will be asked to provide estimates for that work.

Fire Chief Ryan Kuehl asked for council approval for installation of a flag pole in front of the fire hall. Fire department members have agreed to take turns to ensure compliance with all flag etiquette requirements. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Bruce Bortrager and carried to approve the request.** Roll Call Vote Ayes: Hage, Bortrager, Adamson, Krumwiede, Schmidtke. Nays: None. One of the lights on front of the hall stays on all the time. **Motion made by Council Member Sterling Adamson, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to replace both lights with LED fixtures.** Roll Call Vote Ayes: Hage, Bortrager, Adamson, Krumwiede, Schmidtke. Nays: None. Fire and ambulance departments are now being allowed to hold on site training, rather than doing so remotely, and the council was asked if they had any concerns with doing so. Council approved and advised that department members who are concerned should be excused from attending. Discussion took place regarding the need for more storage space in the fire hall. The east bay, used by the city, will be needed indefinitely as there is no timeline for acquiring another shop for the street department. Council Member Adamson asked about the possibility of finding another place to store the dive team equipment. The arrangement with the dive team will be revisited and they will be invited to a council meeting to discuss further. Council was advised that because the fire department boat is rarely used, it could be sold and the proceeds might be put toward the purchase of a ranger. The meeting with the council and all city employees that was scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> but canceled due to the pandemic will be tentatively planned for July.

Ambulance Director Nathan Vrieze advised that a \$5,000 donation is forthcoming from the Martin County Area Foundation, to be used toward the purchase of the cot lift system.

There is \$10,338 still needed, but there are other grant applications pending that can be used as reimbursement for the purchase. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Borntrager, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to approve the purchase of the power load from Stryker at a cost of \$26,232.79.** Roll Call Vote Ayes: Hage, Borntrager, Adamson, Krumwiede, Schmidtke. Nays: None.

A walk-thru with engineers is planned for this Thursday to go over a portion of the trail route they have drafted. Engineers and MNDOT officials will be invited to an upcoming council meeting to discuss concerns about the layout of the Main Street and Highway 4 intersection.

The EDA loan to the Town Center matures in July. They will be invited to the June Council meeting to discuss the matter.

The collections process for utility bills was reviewed and it was decided to maintain the revised process for the upcoming month. It will continue to be reassessed monthly for the term of the pandemic.

**Motion made by Council Member Sterling Adamson, seconded by Council Member Bruce Borntrager and carried to adopt the following Resolution**

**Resolution 2020-14  
Resolution approving contribution**

A request for funding assistance was received from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. **Motion made by Mayor Troy Schmidtke, seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede and carried to approve a contribution of \$125 again this year.** Roll Call Vote Ayes: Hage, Borntrager, Adamson, Krumwiede, Schmidtke. Nays: None.

A zoning permit application from Theron Ibarra was considered for installation of a fence. He owns half of a townhouse and both owners want to share the fence by installing it on the property line. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Borntrager, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to deny the permit because it lacks the required 2-foot setback.** Roll Call Vote Ayes: Hage, Borntrager, Adamson, Krumwiede, Schmidtke. Nays: None.

**Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Bruce Borntrager and carried to approve the consent agenda as follows:**

- Approval of minutes from the April 20, and April 23, 2020 meetings as printed.**
- Approval of City's April, 2020 financial statements as presented.**
- Approval of zoning permit applications from: Brandon & Marissa Poppe, Bruce Russenberger, Dan Krumwiede, Robert & Betty Connors.**
- Approval to pay the following bills:**

Aerzen USA	\$ 251.12	Banyon Data Systems	\$ 1385.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$ 2689.67	Bolton & Menk	\$ 1081.00
Borntrager Auto Body	\$ 11.25	Bound Tree Medical	\$ 477.80
Cardmember Service	\$ 722.05	Carquest Auto Parts	\$ 90.76

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Expert T Billing	\$ 120.00	Farmers State Bank	\$ 513.70
Feder Mechanical	\$ 445.00	Fleet & Farm	\$ 165.61
Frontier Communications	\$ 733.18	Gloria Schmitz	\$ 20.00
Gopher State One Call	\$ 227.30	Greener World Solutions	\$ 4272.00
Hawkins Inc.	\$ 8011.22	Heiman Fire	\$ 1183.55
Henry Schein Medical	\$ 38.74	Hometown Sanitation	\$ 4219.62
Kahnke Bros Tree Farm	\$ 715.00	Kuehl's Electric	\$ 85.23
Mankato Fairmont Fire	\$ 673.00	Martin County Sheriff	\$ 270.00
Martin County Star	\$ 33.60	Martin County Treasurer	\$ 1.65
Midwest IT	\$ 228.75	Minnesota Energy	\$ 711.07
MN Child Support Services	\$ 183.66	Moore & Ace	\$ 556.00
Postmaster	\$ 117.95	Quill	\$ 70.44
River Bend Business	\$ 828.56	SASCS LLC	\$ 4110.00
SC Regional Fire Assn.	\$ 100.00	South Central Electric	\$ 3908.77
Short Elliot Hendrickson	\$ 126.25	Town Center Super Valu	\$ 170.97
Triumph State Bank	\$ 513.70	UC Laboratory	\$ 702.75
USA Bluebook	\$ 500.42	USABLE Life	\$ 5.60
Verizon	\$ 658.72	Wex Bank	\$ 249.79

Roll Call Vote Ayes: Hage, Borntreger, Adamson, Krumwiede, Schmidtke. Nays: None.

In other business, discussion was held regarding hiring a contractor to mow property when it is in violation of the city grass and weed ordinance, with the cost billed to the property owner and added to property taxes if it isn't paid. City owned property cleanup projects are on hold pending the return of STS services.

**Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede and carried to adjourn.** Roll Call Vote Ayes: Hage, Borntreger, Adamson, Krumwiede, Schmidtke. Nays: None.

Signed, Troy Schmidtke, Mayor

Attest: Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk