

TRIMONT COUNCIL MINUTES

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular meeting was duly held at the Trimont Community Building, and also remotely via Zoom, on the 15th day of June, 2020 at 5:30 o'clock P.M.

The following members were present: Mayor Troy Schmidtke, Council Member Thomas Hage, Council Member Bruce Bortrager, Council Member Sterling Adamson, and Council Member Brian Krumwiede.

Mayor Troy Schmidtke presided over the meeting.

No comments were made during the community comment period.

Police Chief Ross Wiggin presented the department report.

Martin County Emergency Management Director Abigail Nesbit was present to review the Martin County Hazard Mitigation Plan. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Bruce Bortrager and carried to approve adoption of the Martin County Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented.** Information was provided about how to submit expenses for reimbursement that the City has incurred due to Covid-19. Nesbit also advised that PPE will be provided to polling places for use at upcoming elections.

Bill Helget with Bolton & Menk Engineering was present to review the current draft of the trail plan from the Town Center to Birch Street. Lengthy discussion took place regarding the type and number of lights to be placed along the trail. Approval was given to use black aluminum poles, and the decorative light style that was proposed. The council would prefer to install 13 poles, rather than 19 as is in the plan now, if that is an option. The change will be submitted to MNDOT for feedback. Council was advised that an additional \$62,000 grant has been awarded to the City to use toward the trail project. Discussion took place regarding MNDOT's idea to add bump-outs at the corner of Highway 4 and Main Street to make room for pedestrians using the trail, and there is concern about semi-trucks having enough room to make turns at the corner. One suggestion made was to consider changing the trail route to move it off the highway to avoid the problem. The Council will set a meeting with MNDOT to discuss the concern before plans are final. Helget advised the highway project has been delayed to 2023-2024 due to a detour conflict with another project.

Jerry McGee and Dave Faber were present to discuss the outstanding EDA loan to the Town Center that reaches maturity on July 8th. Interest will begin to accrue at 4% at that time. Discussion included the possibility of reducing the interest rate, and to require interest only payments for a time. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Sterling Adamson and carried to approve an extension of the loan to January 1, 2021, with no interest accrual or payments due this year.** McGee will draft the extension to sign. He also asked if the EDA could look into grant opportunities for the Town Center to help reduce their debt load.

Karen Cavett with SEH was present to review the equipment needed at the wastewater treatment plant to deal with the wipes and other non-flushable material that is clogging pipes and pumps. The grinder shreds them but they need to be removed from the system with a mechanical screen. The cost estimated for the equipment is \$350,000 to \$450,000.

Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede and carried to approve drafting plans for installation of the mechanical screen.

Discussion was also held regarding sections of land that may be viable as a location for sewer ponds that the city plans to put in service within the next 5 years. Elevations for a few select areas will be determined and owners will be contacted to begin discussions on the city's plans.

Public works department business was briefly discussed. The majority of work hours are spent at the wastewater and water plants due to failing equipment and the age of the facilities in general.

Discussion took place regarding utility penalties and collection policies. It was decided to continue with the current process for the coming month.

Motion made by Council Member Sterling Adamson, seconded by Council Member Bruce Borotrager and carried to adopt the following Resolutions

**Resolutions 2020-15 and 2020-16
Resolutions approving contributions**

Zoning permit applications were considered from Michael Ennis for a fence, storage shed, and an arbor, and also from Ashley Ibarra for a fence. They share ownership of a duplex, each owning half. It was determined the shed was moved in prior to obtaining a permit, and discussion followed about how to deal with residents who fail to obtain a permit prior to proceeding with projects, and also about no longer providing early approval for projects when residents don't plan far enough ahead to wait until the next council meeting. No decisions were made on those issues. Fence setbacks are two feet from property lines, but because this is a duplex, the owners prefer to put the fence on the property line due to the nature of the property. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Borotrager, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to approve the Ibarra fence permit. Motion made by Council Member Bruce Borotrager, seconded by Council Member Sterling Adamson and carried to approve three permits for Ennis, and to allow the fence between the duplex to be installed on the property line.**

The clinic building and the adjacent property were found to share a water service. Each of them has a meter, but the service line from the main is believed to be shared because the building was once owned by one business. In addition, the sewer line for the other building runs under the clinic building. The adjacent property is being sold and they are asking for an access easement for the sewer line. Their attorney is drafting the easement and the council agreed to sign it. The property is proposed to be used as a residence, though it is zoned commercial. That use is allowed per city ordinance, but the buyer is requesting the city sign a conditional use agreement stating as such, so a loan can be approved for the purchase. Council agreed to sign the document.

Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede and carried to increase the rental rate for the community room to \$40.00 effective immediately.

Council work sessions were discussed and it was decided to begin holding one per month on the first Tuesday, beginning at 5:30 P.M., with the first one on July 7th. No formal council action will take place during these work sessions.

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 May 18, 2020 meeting as printed.

Approval of zoning permit applications from: Marlene Krumwiede, Dennis and Kelli Harder (3).

Approval to pay the following bills:

B & D Repair	\$ 36.25	Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$ 2689.67
Bolton & Menk	\$ 937.50	Brian Krumwiede	\$ 50.00
Cardmember Services	\$ 410.48	Core & Main	\$ 1219.14
Costello, Carlson, Butzon	\$ 5040.00	Crystal Valley	\$ 521.00
Delta Dental	\$ 74.70	Dept. of Human Services	\$ 400.00
Dodge of Burnsville	\$24,619.00	Expert T Billing	\$ 150.00
Farmers State Bank	\$ 513.70	Fleet & Farm Supply	\$ 92.86
Frontier Communications	\$ 731.72	Generator System Services	\$ 456.07
Gloria Schmitz	\$ 60.00	Gopher State One Call	\$ 239.05
Holtz Lawn & Yard	\$ 1091.37	Hometown Sanitation	\$ 4249.43
Hydro-Klean	\$32,742.97	Indoff Inc.	\$ 34.95
Kuehl's Electric	\$ 266.97	League of MN Cities Ins.	\$ 25,151.00
MacQueen Equipment	\$ 189.24	Magney Construction	\$ 7811.97
Martin County Star	\$ 466.20	MCFOA	\$ 45.00
Midwest IT	\$ 228.75	Midwest IT	\$ 228.75
MN Assn. of Small Cities	\$ 439.05	MN Child Support Services	\$ 183.66
MN Dept. of Health	\$ 823.00	MN Energy	\$ 311.74
MN Public Facilities Auth.	\$96,400.00	Moore & Ace	\$ 530.15
Northview Bank	\$ 5291.00	Nuway Coop	\$ 852.53
Postmaster	\$ 118.30	Ross Wiggin	\$ 27.00
Streicher's	\$ 219.97	Stryker Medical	\$ 26,232.79
Town Center	\$ 22.60	Triumph State Bank	\$ 513.70
UC Laboratory	\$ 527.40	US Postal Service	\$ 120.00
USABLE Life	\$ 5.60	Utility Logic	\$ 1017.52
Verizon	\$ 336.53	Wex Bank	\$ 241.09

Mayor Schmidtke advised he received notice that Trimont has been awarded funding for Small Cities Development Program grants in the amount of \$431,250.00, pending the expected award from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Grant agreements will be issued once DEED receives its award from HUD.

Council Member Hage suggested revision of the employee handbook is needed. Mayor Schmidtke will speak to the city attorney on the matter. Copies were provided to all council members to bring suggestions to the July work session.

There are a number of outstanding maintenance projects needed on city buildings and Mayor Schmidtke asked for a council member willing to join him on a building committee to begin working on the problems. Council Member Bortrager volunteered. Quotes are pending on doors and windows for the fire hall. Shingles on the bus garage look good, so the water leak might be due to condensation due to a lack of air circulation. It will be looked into further.

Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Bruce Bortrager and carried to close the meeting for a scheduled employee review of Mike Paulson.

Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Bruce Bortrager and carried to reopen the meeting.

Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede and carried to adjourn.

Signed, Troy Schmidtke, Mayor

Attest: Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk