

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 21st day of September, 2020 at 5:30 o'clock P.M.

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

Mayor Troy Schmidtke presided over the meeting.

During the community comment period, Sarah Glidden expressed concern about traffic safety around the school, which was described as chaotic and dangerous. She and other parents will also be talking to school officials. Ideas included having one-way traffic in the parking lot, adding another crossing guard, and adding a stop sign to the parking lot exit. Letters of concern from a number of concerned citizens were given to the council. Justin Lubben asked the council to consider the addition of sidewalks to his zoning permit application on tonight's agenda.

John Anthony addressed the council regarding equipment breakdown insurance that could be added to the city insurance policy at a cost of \$1443 per year. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Bruce Bortrager and carried to approve adding the coverage.**

Mayor Schmidtke proclaimed September, 2020, as National Suicide Prevention Month.

Police Chief Ross Wiggin presented the department report. A FEMA grant was obtained in the amount of \$4,211.94 through Martin County to pay for overtime expenses incurred due to part-time officers being unable to take any shifts early in the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussion was held regarding the nuisance animal ordinance which states if an animal generates three complaints of barking in a three-month period, the city can order the animal be removed from the city. Permission was given to do so if the resident is unable or unwilling to abate the problem. Hazardous material has been removed from the Reese property. STS is still not working due to Covid-19 so the property will be cleaned out by Advanced Health and Safety using CARES funds. The Dahle property has been deeded to the city and will be secured to prevent trespass.

Fire Chief Ryan Kuehl reviewed the department report. Jacob Scheff resigned from the department. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Bortrager, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to accept the resignation.** Department bylaws have been updated and changes were reviewed. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Bruce Bortrager and carried to approve the bylaws as amended.** A request was made to purchase additional tables and chairs to replace some older ones and also to add seating to allow for social distancing in the meeting room. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger and carried to approve the request.** The pancake feed fundraiser will be held on October 25th and it will be a drive-thru event.

A liquor license application from Ocie Nelson for Brews and Q's was reviewed. Chief Wiggin advised the background check is not yet complete. Council was also advised there are delinquent property taxes due on the property, as well as delinquent city utilities. The application was tabled until the next meeting.

Public works department business was discussed. Street repair quotes were considered from MR Paving for patching at a cost of \$45,926.40 and from Midwest Asphalt for crack filling for \$6,981. Additional quotes could not be obtained for work to be done this year. The water fund will pay for patching from watermain breaks, which is \$21,200 of the patching cost. Council was advised there are two more small main breaks that will be repaired this week. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Borntreger, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to accept both cost estimates for street repair.** Further discussion took place regarding two dead trees to remove from the city park. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger and carried to approve hiring Snyder Tree Service to do the work.** Also discussed was the opening for temporary public works help. One application has been received. Supervisor Paulson will make contact to see if they are still interested. The snow removal contract with Ormsby was reviewed. It was decided to discontinue offering the service to give staff more time to concentrate on work in trimont and to reduce wear and tear on the equipment. Ormsby will be notified verbally and with a letter. Mayor Schmidtke updated the council on Joint Powers business. A different jetter truck is needed due to ongoing problems with the current truck. Trimont's portion of a new unit would be 27%, based on population. After trade in, the cost for a truck costing \$110,000 would be around \$16,000. Also considered was a joint powers mutual aid agreement that would provide public works assistance on an as needed basis. The city attorney will be consulted to review the document. An insurance claim is open for water damage to the Triumph Hall and they need cost estimates to repair or replace the wood floor and carpeting. Discussion continued about removing the doorway to the bar hallway. Further research will be done to check for easements and on the location of properly lines.

Motion made by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to adopt the following resolution, with Council Member Brian Krumwiede abstaining

Resolution 2020-24

Resolution to contract with a city official

Motion made by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to adopt the following resolution, with Council Member Bruce Borntreger abstaining

Resolution 2020-25

Resolution to contract with a city official

Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Bruce Borntreger and carried to adopt the following resolutions

Resolution 2020-26, 2020-27, 2020-28, 2020-29, 2020-30, and 2020-31

Resolutions to approve the uses of CARES funds

The 2021 proposed budget and levy were reviewed. Consideration was given to requests from the fire department that were reviewed at the August meeting.

Building repair expense will be increased by \$12,000 for a new front door and a window for the fire hall, \$2,500 will be added to salaries to increase fire wages to \$18.00 per hour, and officer pay will increase to \$1,500 for the chief, \$300 for each assistant chief, and \$400 for the secretary, for a total cost of \$1,000. Joint Powers will be increased by \$20,000 for the estimated contribution for a new jetter truck, with the cost to come from reserves, due in part to lower street repair expenses in 2020. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Bortrager, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to approve the proposed levy of \$351,772 for 2021, the same as in 2020.** Mayor Schmidtke announced the public meeting to discuss the budget and levy will be held on Monday, December 21st at 6:00 P.M., when public input will be accepted.

A consulting agreement was considered for grant writing services from Brenda Nielsen. Additional information will be requested to include the approximate number of hours remaining on the EAB grant project, and also for details and estimated hours to complete the trails grant that is in progress.

Motion made by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger, seconded by Council Member Bruce Bortrager and carried to approve the consent agenda as follows, with the addition of sidewalks on the Justin Lubben zoning permit application, as amended:

Approval of minutes from the August 17, 2020 meeting as printed.

Approval of financial statements from July, 2020 as presented.

Approval of zoning permit applications from: Todd Krumwiede, Justin Lubben, Dennis and Kelli Harder.

Approval to pay the following bills:

Advanced Health, Safety	\$ 11,938.00	B & D Repair	\$ 21.00
Beemer Companies	\$ 6574.68	Blue Cross Blue Sh.	\$ 2151.73
Bortrager Auto	\$ 539.54	Brian Krumwiede	\$ 200.00
Cardmember Service	\$ 732.17	Core & Main	\$ 910.33
Delta Dental	\$ 74.70	Farmers State Bank	\$ 513.70
Frontier Communications	\$ 734.47	Galls	\$ 566.94
GDF Enterprises	\$ 328.69	Gloria Schmitz	\$ 60.00
Gopher State One Call	\$ 16.20	Hawkins	\$ 2928.12
Holtz Law Care	\$ 100.00	Hometown Sanitation	\$ 4742.93
Hydro Klean	\$ 32,834.24	Indoff	\$ 101.75
Martin County Star	\$ 61.60	Metering & Technol.	\$ 905.12
MN Child Support	\$ 183.66	MN Energy	\$ 215.87
Moore and Ace	\$ 844.48	Pallet Rack Now	\$ 1563.62
Poppe's Car Wash	\$ 10.00	Postmaster	\$ 117.95
Rick DeBoer	\$ 375.00	Riteway Business	\$ 401.49
Ross Wiggin	\$ 230.42	Schmidt Siding	\$ 2280.50
SEH Engineering	\$ 12,028.90	Sentinel	\$ 99.60
Service Master	\$ 3455.33	South Central Elec.	\$ 10,519.61
Texas Refinery Corp.	\$ 824.76	Triumph State Bank	\$ 513.70
UC Laboratory	\$ 555.15	USABLE Life	\$ 5.60
Verizon	\$ 783.47	Wex Bank	\$ 434.97
WW Goetsch	\$ 1422.57		

In other business, a list of job duties performed by the previous administrative assistant was provided to the council to use in considering future hiring for that position. Council was advised that an additional election judge is needed as a substitute to serve in the absence of a judge during the General Election. A questionnaire was provided for staff to complete to give the council with a better understanding of job responsibilities. Lacey Schmidtke has agreed to take over cleaning of the community building and Triumph Hall on a contract basis.

Motion made by Council Member Brian Krumwiede, seconded by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger and carried to adjourn.

Signed, Troy Schmidtke, Mayor

Attest: Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk