

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 December, 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, Ocie Nelson addressed the council to request that the city ordinance related to the employment of felons in establishments holding a liquor license be amended to make it the same as state statute. The council agreed to look into it.

Sealed bids received for the 2014 Ford Explorer were opened. Two bids of the 22 received tied at \$10,000. Travis Skelton and Tyler Trieglaff with the City of Frazee will be contacted for the opportunity to increase their bid one time, and the sale will proceed to the highest bidder.

Judd Schultz with Minnesota Valley Action Council reviewed policies for the Small Cities Development Grant the City was awarded. Work is expected to begin this spring or summer. Protocols are in place that pertain to COVID-19. Surveys were completed by 30 residents, with 15 projects expected to be completed with the funding. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Bortrager, seconded by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger and carried to adopt the following Resolution**

Resolution 2020-41

Resolution to establish policies and procedures for the administration of loans

Dan Hamlet with Edward Jones advised the council of options to reinvest cash holdings from matured investments of endowment funds. He advised that long term investments can be sold if the City needs the funds for projects. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Bruce Bortrager and carried to approve reinvesting the funds in the best available bonds, with the city clerk to be notified to give verbal approval.**

Jerry McGee, Randy Grupe, and David Faber were present to discuss the Town Center EDA loan that comes due on January 1, 2021. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger and carried to extend the loan to September 30, 2021, with interest charges waived to that date.**

At 6:14 P.M., the Truth in Taxation hearing was called to order. Mayor Schmidtke recommended adding an amount to future levies to build a fund for fire department equipment. Council Member Bortrager suggested starting the reserve fund using the \$7500 budgeted for fire department capital outlay, so any unused amount rolls over to the following year, and to continue to levy that amount annually for a fire department PPE reserve fund. Wages and employee contributions toward health insurance were reviewed. Following discussion, Mayor Schmidtke called for comments and questions from those attending the meeting in person and also via Zoom. There were none made.

Motion made by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to approve a \$2.00 per hour increase for Ross Wiggin and a 2.5% cost of living increase to other current employees. Motion made by Council Member Bruce Bortrager, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to approve establishing a reserve fund for fire department PPE by levying \$7,500 annually. Approval was given to increase the ambulance secretary wage from \$300 to \$400 to match the increase made for the fire department secretary beginning in 2021. It was decided to leave \$20,000 budgeted for the purchase of a jetter truck through Joint Powers, using reserve funds, with that amount to be used to hire or rent a jetter truck if one is not purchased. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Bruce Bortrager and carried to approve the final levy in the amount proposed of \$351,772, the 2021 budget as proposed, and with the reserve fund approved for the fire department.** The levy remains the same as in the prior year.

Chief Ross Wiggin reviewed the police department report. Council was advised there is someone working on grants for his department, and it was proposed that they be compensated for writing grants, and additionally for grants received. It was agreed to discuss this further with that individual before making a decision on compensation.

Public Works Supervisor Mike Paulson went over the department report. The insurance claim for water damage at the Triumph Hall remains stalled as the adjuster is insisting on an estimate for the cost to repair the wood floor, and there are no companies available in the area to provide the estimate. A merchant is coming to provide an estimate to replace the flooring, and if the claim remains stalled, the insurance agent will be contacted for help. There is a water leak in the main that runs under the railroad tracks between 6th and 7th Avenue S.E. There are valves and a hydrant in that area that should be replaced, and if they are included, the estimated cost is between \$30,000 and \$35,000. Approval was given to proceed with the work including valve and hydrant replacement. The railroad is working with the city and a representative has agreed to provide flagging services. The land purchase related to sewer ponds should be final in February, at which time further discussion will take place regarding a location for the ponds.

Discussion took place regarding the use of city equipment only by city employees for city business. This would include assisting the fire department, as a city department, but there was concern about other equipment the department lends out, such as tables and chairs. Chief Kuehl will look at the policy in place for this, and policies from other cities will also be gathered for further discussion at the next council meeting. **Motion made by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to approve hiring Brett Meyeraan in the Fire Department.** Information was provided for the cost of the equipment needed by the department, per the discussion held in November. There are grant applications pending, and Kuehl proposed waiting until after the first of the year to see what comes in before a decision is made.

Council reviewed a request for proposals for property cleanup and restoration at 181 3rd Avenue SE. The garage will be demolished, and that debris and everything remaining from the house burn will be removed, including all concrete present. It was decided to request a second separate proposal for clearing brush, weeds and junk from the property. Proposals will be considered at the January regular meeting.

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

Resolutions 2020-40 & 2020-43

Resolutions approving contributions

Motion made by Council Member Bruce Borntreger, seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede and carried to write-off uncollectible 2019 ambulance accounts receivable.

Motion made by Council Member Brian Krumwiede, seconded by Council Member Bruce Borntreger and carried to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Approval of minutes from the November 16, 2020 meeting as printed.

Approval of financial statements from November, 2020 as presented.

Approval to pay the following bills:

Advance Auto Parts	\$ 164.02	All Season Services	\$ 2389.73
Alpha Wireless	\$ 162.00	American Welding	\$ 134.98
B & D Repair	\$ 222.20	Blue Cross	\$ 2927.66
Borntreger Auto	\$ 342.43	Cardmember Svcs.	\$ 57.30
City of Trimont EDA	\$ 128.95	Clifford Anderson	\$ 720.00
Computer Technology	\$ 3606.00	Crystal Valley Coop	\$ 12,500.00
Delta Dental	\$ 74.70	Display Sales	\$ 59.00
Dustin Drager	\$ 117.60	Expert T Billing	\$ 210.00
Farmers State Bank	\$ 513.70	Frontier Comm.	\$ 716.48
Galls	\$ 1322.94	Gopher State	\$ 22.95
Hawkins Inc.	\$ 1617.32	Hometown Sanit.	\$ 4335.10
Indoff Inc.	\$ 62.26	Itron Inc.	\$ 1207.08
Jetter Clean	\$ 329.00	Kuehl's Electric	\$ 82.52
Lacey Schmidtke	\$ 150.00	Martin Co. Treas.	\$ 1.65
Martin County Star	\$ 100.80	Mike Paulson	\$ 627.50
Minnesota Energy	\$ 1086.60	MN PFA	\$ 1930.00
Moore and Ace	\$ 196.84	Nic Miller	\$ 16.78
North Cedar Concrete	\$ 13,897.00	Northview Bank	\$ 18,291.00
Poppe's Store	\$ 10.00	Postmaster	\$ 119.35
Quill	\$ 70.97	River Bend Bus.	\$ 19.47
Schmidt Siding & Window	\$ 2280.50	SEH Engineering	\$ 184.50
Snyder Tree Service	\$ 2599.00	South Central Elec.	\$ 7747.03
Streicher's	\$ 374.96	Stryker Medical	\$ 627.98
Techmatic Inc.	\$ 1670.97	TC Super Valu	\$ 70.55
Triumph State Bank	\$ 513.70	Triumph State Bank	\$ 12.00
UC Labs	\$ 767.05	US Postal Service	\$ 556.85
USAbile Life	\$ 16.80	Verizon	\$ 1487.03
Westrum Leak Detection	\$ 692.50	Wex Bank	\$ 312.77

In other business, the 2021 council meeting schedule was provided. Discussion took place regarding the regulation of vehicles parked on the grass. Although currently allowed, if they are licensed and operable, regulation may be required when it becomes a nuisance.

Three written complaints were received related to property violations and tree trimming. Prior notice was provided to property owners in all cases, and it was determined that no action was required on the complaints. The January work session that was to be held on Tuesday, January 5th, will be moved to the following week due to the late regular January meeting. It will be held on Tuesday, January 12th.

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