

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 19th day of April, 2021 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, Josh Ellanson advised that Fun Fest is going forward as usual in July. The Rusty Spur Saloon expects to have a caterer's license by then and will serve at the park.

Greg Burkhardt with Burkhardt and Burkhardt was present to review the 2020 year-end audit statement. A clean audit opinion was given, with no compliance findings. It was advised to consider increases to utility rates to cover operating expenses in those enterprises. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger and carried to accept the audit statement as presented. Motion made by Council Member Bruce Bortrager, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to adopt a revised Capital Asset Policy as recommended by the auditor.**

Police Chief Ross Wiggin reviewed the department report. He has been asked to work as a hostage negotiator for the Heat Team. Home agencies are responsible for officer wages when they perform those duties. The owner of property at 220 Apple Street East is interested in deeding the property over to the city for cleanup once the previous tenant has moved out. A meeting of interested residents was recently held to talk about housing development in Trimont. There were 8 in attendance. The group looked at city owned lots that are available for development, land that might be obtained for a new development, and the possibility of allowing tiny homes to be built in Trimont. They will continue to meet periodically.

Public Works Supervisor Mike Paulson went over the department report. Painting and repair work at the library has been completed. Flooring has been ordered for the Triumph Hall. The east door may need to be replaced. Estimates will be obtained. Pricing for new water meters and related software was provided for discussion. The brand of meters currently in use is no longer made and on hand inventory is depleted. The meter reading equipment and software in use is obsolete. The new meters are read via cellular transmitters. There is a .95 monthly charge per meter for that service, but it includes detailed reporting services to which residents can have access. More discussion will take place at the next meeting. **Motion made by Council Member Brian Krumwiede, seconded by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger and carried to approve replacing the entire lower floor at the Triumph Hall. Motion made by Council Member Bruce Bortrager, seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede and carried to hire Christian Hugget in the seasonal public works position.**

Fire Chief Ryan Kuehl provided a department report. A status update on the rescue truck chassis was provided, and new air packs will be here soon. A copy of department policy related to employee use of equipment at the hall was provided for review.

Erika Ask addressed the council to talk about property development and the sale of city owned lots. She advised of problems getting clear title to some property obtained through tax forfeiture. Additional research will take place to avoid the problem in the future. Discussion will continue at the May work session.

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

Resolution 2021-10

Resolution approving gambling premises permit

Discussion took place regarding a request from a business owner to allow Sunday liquor. A special election to obtain voter approval is required to do so. Council agreed to check into the cost to hold an election on the question.

A chicken permit application was received from Gretchen Olson. She would like to house ducks instead, due to allergies. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Bruce Borntreger and carried to approve the permit, with the same rules as for chickens.**

A policy provided by the League of Minnesota Cities was reviewed that if adopted would provide emergency paid sick leave to city employees under certain circumstances as part of the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act, with federal tax credits available to cover the cost.

Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger and carried to adopt the policy and to return 5 days of sick leave to Bradey Schmidt.

Further discussion took place regarding the use of city owned property and equipment by city employees. It was decided to check with other cities regarding how they handle this before a decision is made. Personnel policies were briefly discussed, with further discussion to take place at the May work session.

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

Approval of minutes from the March 15 and March 19, 2021 meeting as printed.

Approval of financial statements from February and March, 2021.

Approval of zoning permit applications from: Sarah & Jeremy Glidden, Rhonda Potts.

Approval to pay the following bills:

Abigail Swenson	\$ 140.00	Advance Auto Parts	\$ 32.94
Advance Health, Safety	\$ 4461.50	Aerzen	\$ 293.76
American Solutions for Bus.	\$ 189.46	American Welding	\$ 33.76
Beemer Co.	\$ 3995.15	Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$ 2927.66
Bolton & Menk	\$ 2992.50	Borntreger Auto	\$ 127.95
Burkhardt & Burkhardt	\$ 11,750.00	Cardmember Services	\$ 6.32
EDA to City of Trimont	\$ 687.12	Core & Main	\$ 2420.08

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Delta Dental	\$ 74.70	Expert T Billing	\$ 240.00
Farmers State Bank	\$ 513.70	Fastenal	\$ 28.08
Fleet & Farm	\$ 48.72	Frontier Communications	\$ 751.26
GDF Enterprises	\$ 160.11	Gopher State One Call	\$ 16.20
Hawkins	\$ 15.00	Heiman	\$ 114.58
Hometown Sanitation	\$ 4382.93	Indoff Inc.	\$ 33.47
John Forstrom	\$ 1658.61	Lacey Schmidtke	\$ 215.00
MacQueen Equipment	\$ 1178.05	Martin Co. Auditor	\$ 764.00
Martin Co. Attorney	\$ 510.00	Martin Co. Recorder	\$ 46.00
Martin County Star	\$ 193.20	Mayo Clinic Ambulance	\$ 320.81
Midwest IT Systems	\$ 275.00	Minnesota Energy	\$ 796.08
MN Pollution Control	\$ 1450.00	Moore & Ace	\$ 885.69
Nuway Coop	\$ 1024.62	Postmaster	\$ 119.35
Plunkett's Pest Control	\$ 192.87	Quill	\$ 65.24
River Bend Business	\$ 6.54	SASCS, LLC	\$ 2740.00
SC MN Ems	\$ 500.00	SEH	\$ 1514.00
South Central Electric	\$ 4885.63	SPS Works	\$ 91.74
Town Center Super Valu	\$ 198.15	Triumph State Bank	\$ 513.70
UC Laboratory	\$ 754.10	US Able Life	\$ 11.20
Verizon	\$ 334.02	Van Iwaarden	\$ 1200.00
West Martin Joint Powers	\$ 4453.19	Wex Bank	\$ 624.59
WW Goetsch	\$ 8861.00		

In other business, council reviewed proposals from Bevcomm to provide phone and internet services to city buildings. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Borntrager, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to accept the proposal to provide services to the water and wastewater plants and to the library at this time.** Options for land for sewer ponds was briefly discussed. Engineers will be contacted to see if another property that was not included on the earlier list is suitable for this use.

Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger and carried to adjourn.

Signed, Troy Schmidtke, Mayor

Attest: Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk