

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 17th day of May, 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.

No comments were made during the Community Comment period.

Fire Chief Ryan Kuehl provided a department report. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Bortrager, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to hire Jacob Ebeling on the Fire Department.** Discussion held regarding an invoice generated for a private burn that got out of control. The department assisted with an earlier burn of the property, but some areas didn't burn, which may have contributed to the out-of-control incident. Council agreed to reduce the charge to \$750. A revised invoice will be sent. The department will be without a rescue truck for a time when the box is getting transferred to the new chassis. Mutual aid will be available, but consideration was given to possibly buying a truck from another agency to use during that time. Council determined the cost to be too high for the relatively short period of time. Fun Fest will be hosting a truck pull and they asked for a fire truck and ambulance to be on site during the event. Mayor Schmidtke agreed to make the arrangements.

Police Chief Ross Wiggin reviewed department business. Anderson shelter was recently vandalized and the juveniles responsible will be charged for the offense. It has been submitted to insurance. It will need to be made ready for upcoming graduation rentals. There was additional damage at Memorial Park. The owner of 220 Apple Street East is undecided now about deeding the property over to the city for cleanup. If not, the owner will be held responsible to get it cleaned up in a timely manner. Consideration was given to Ordinance 2021-03 to amend hours of operation for golf carts on city streets. Changes were made to remove the section requiring the use of original equipment and to have a rear facing brake light. Council Member Hage introduced the ordinance with the revisions noted.

Dennis and Kelli Harder addressed the council over Zoom to discuss a proposal to rehab 220 Apple Street East. Because the owner is now undecided about relinquishing the property, the proposal was reviewed for future consideration. It was agreed to call a special meeting if it becomes available prior to the city-wide cleanup to allow them to set junk out at that time.

Council Members Russenberger and Bortrager briefly reviewed community development. Darwin Anthony will be invited to the June meeting to talk about property for future development.

Public Works Supervisor Mike Paulson was unable to be present due to an emergency at the wastewater treatment plant. The department report was reviewed. The proposal for new meters and software was discussed. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Bortrager, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to approve ordering 30 meters to start the new program, using a portion of the money from the Coronavirus Recovery Funds for that order, and for the software required to read the new meters.**

Dana Faber addressed the council to notify them she is retiring as librarian at the Trimont Library as of the end of May. She encouraged the council to ask Martin County for more hours of service at the library because it is as busy as others in the county and they are open for five days each week instead of three. Council expressed appreciation for her service to the Trimont community.

Information was provided regarding the estimated cost to hold a special election on Sunday liquor before the next general election. The city attorney has been consulted regarding passing the cost along to the business owner who made the request for further discussion.

A property owner is requesting consideration for the city to vacate an unused alley that runs for half the block behind their house. The matter was tabled to allow time for staff to gather information about all such alleys in Trimont so they might be dealt with all at once.

Motion made by Council Member Brian Krumwiede, seconded by Council Member Bruce Borntrager and carried to adopt the following Resolutions

**Resolutions 2021-11 & 2021-12
Resolutions approving contributions**

Discussion took place regarding building repair and maintenance. The back door of the library needs to be replaced. A new front door for the fire hall is in the budget, and Mayor Schmidtke will get a second quote to consider for the project.

Personnel policy matters were discussed. Concern was voiced about overtime hours, how to limit them to emergencies only, and how to determine what constitutes an emergency. On-call and call-out policies are currently not addressed in the handbook. The personnel committee suggested a policy to pay a minimum of two hours for call-outs and then actual time worked beyond that. Further discussion on these matters will take place at the upcoming work session.

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

- Approval of minutes from the April 19 and April 22, 2021 meeting as printed.**
- Approval of zoning permit applications from: Lawrence Cihak, Trevor Yochim, Williams Hoyles, Nick Mahle (fence and shed only, must meet setbacks), Deb Seckinger (if lots combined), Brian Carlson, Jo Ann Beatty, Josh Paulson.**
- Approval to pay the following bills:**

Amborn Lumber	\$ 79.99	American Welding	\$ 33.15
Banyon Data.	\$ 3680.00	Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$ 2927.66
Bolton & Menk	\$ 1064.00	Borntrager Auto	\$ 3264.14
Delta Dental	\$ 74.70	Expert T Billing	\$ 150.00
Farmers State Bank	\$ 513.70	Feder Mechanical	\$ 746.07
Fun Fest	\$ 500.00	Frontier Communications	\$ 684.03
Gov Office	\$ 570.00	Gopher State One Call	\$ 150.10
Hawkins	\$ 15.00	Heiman	\$ 316.55

Hometown Sanitation	\$ 4526.70	Indoff Inc.	\$ 149.48
John Forstrom	\$ 364.52	Kuehl's Electric	\$ 307.20
Lacey Schmidtke	\$ 117.39	Mankato/Fairmont Fire	\$ 580.00
Martin Co. Sheriff	\$ 90.00	Martin Co. Star	\$ 435.40
Midwest IT Systems	\$ 275.00	Minnesota Energy	\$ 730.46
MN Dept. of Health	\$ 823.00	MN Pollution Control	\$ 23.00
Moore & Ace	\$ 574.47	Nuway Coop	\$ 1340.99
Postmaster	\$ 122.40	Poppe's Store	\$ 10.00
Ritter Ag	\$ 18.42	River Bend Business	\$ 5.47
Southern Mn Initiative Fund	\$ 125.00	SEH	\$ 5174.40
South Central Electric	\$ 3971.16	Trimont Fire Relief Assn.	\$ 140.00
Triumph State Bank	\$ 513.70	UC Laboratory	\$ 542.20
USable Life	\$ 5.60	Verizon	\$ 343.60
Wex Bank	\$ 728.91		

In other business, a zoning permit application from Layne Ebeling was reviewed. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Borntreger, seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede and carried to approve the permit.** New bases and a new drag are needed for the ballfield. **Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger and carried to approve up to \$500 to purchase the equipment.** Grant Carlson has agreed to install the bases. **Motion made by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger, seconded by Council Member Thomas Hage and carried to approve up to \$350 toward flowers in the park if Council Member Hage can find someone to do the work now that the garden club has disbanded.** Further discussion took place regarding the work needed to get the park shelter repaired and ready for upcoming graduation events.

Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Bruce Borntreger and carried to adjourn.

Signed, Troy Schmidtke, Mayor

Attest: Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk