

TRIMONT COUNCIL MINUTES

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Special Emergency Meeting was duly held at the Trimont Community Building, and also remotely via Zoom, on the 25th day of October, 2021 at 7:00 o'clock P.M.

The following members were present: Mayor Pro-Tem Thomas Hage, Council Member Brian Krumwiede, and Council Member JoAnn Russenberger.

The following members were absent: Council Member Bruce Borntreger.

Mayor Pro-Tem Thomas Hage presided over the meeting.

The emergency meeting was called by Council Members Russenberger and Borntreger to consider allegations against a city employee. The meeting remained open at the request of the employee.

Council Member Russenberger began by providing a video recording from one of the cameras at the wastewater treatment plant. The video shows Mike Paulson in the WWP doing regular weekend chores. Also present was Melissa S. the City Clerk.

Paulson had previously informed the City Council that the PLC was failing on a regular basis over the last few months. He had obtained a replacement cost estimate of over \$30,000 which the council had been informed of.

In the video it shows Paulson powering down the PLC for no apparent reason. The PLC visible in the video indicated no problems. Several minutes later he then "finds" the PLC had failed again, because the screen is black, at which time he indicates to Melissa that the PLC had just failed on him again.

Paulson stated after watching the video that while he was on site the PLC failed again. He explained his process of power down and reset the equipment when it fails. When questioned on why he would shut the equipment down he advised us that the screen indicated no nodes were found.

Council Member Russenberger alleges that the PLC was shut down without reason in order to gain additional paid overtime hours.

Motion made by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger, seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede and carried to place Paulson on paid administrative leave, effective immediately while an investigation is done, and to have Police Chief Wiggin draft a no trespassing order to prohibit him from being on city property, other than the brush site and the gazebo, and from using city owned equipment. Council Member Russenberger plans to contact a League of Minnesota Cities employment lawyer to consult on the matter. Another meeting will be scheduled when the investigation is complete, but no timeline was given.

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

Signed, Thomas Hage, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest: Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk