

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 15th day of November, 2021 at 5:30 o'clock P.M.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Thomas Hage presided over the meeting.

No comments were made during the community comment period.

Police Chief Ross Wiggin reviewed the department report.

Public Works business was briefly discussed.

Assistant Fire Chief Kristian Melson reviewed the department report. **Motion made by Council Member Brian Krumwiede, seconded by Council Member Bruce Borntreger and carried to hire Michael Andrews, Dylan Paulson, and Gage Eggestein on the fire department, pending successful background checks.** A grant is available to outfit new department members of up to \$3600 once members qualify as fit for duty. **Motion made by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger, seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede and carried to have physicals done on four department members that qualify for the grant program, and to order gear for them.** Med Compass will perform physicals on the rest of the department members at a cost of \$75 each. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Borntreger, seconded by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger and carried to approve having physicals done.**

Josh Ellanson was unable to be present to discuss grant opportunities he is looking into to assist local businesses. Mayor Pro-Tem Hage provided a brief outline of the program he has been looking into. The city would act as fiscal agent for the funds.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hage reviewed information about the trail project. The city share of the project has gone up due to projected cost increases. It could be as much as \$240,000, although \$70,000 of that has already been paid for engineering expenses. Bolton and Menk is working with DOT to find additional grant funds. A special meeting will be held to discuss the budget and further discussion will take place as to how the city will fund its share.

Council Member Russenberger advised that no new information was available on the community development agenda item.

Motion made by Council Member Bruce Borntreger, seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede and carried to approve a chicken permit for Troy and Lacey Schmidtke.

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

**Resolution 2021-24
Resolution designating precinct polling place**

Renewal of the Blue Cross health insurance policy was discussed. There will be a 10.7% premium increase. It will be discussed further when the 2022 budget is considered.

Motion made by Council Member Brian Krumwiede, seconded by Council Member Bruce Borntreger and carried to approve an increase in sewer rates effective January 1, 2022.

The base rate will increase from \$12.16 to \$12.40 per month and the usage rate from \$11.36 to \$11.59 per 1000 gallons.

Motion made by Council Bruce Borntreger, seconded by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger and carried to approve an increase in water rates effective January 1, 2022.

The base rate will increase from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per month, and the usage rate from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per 1000 gallons.

The 2022 budget and wages were briefly discussed and will be considered at a special meeting to be called for that purpose.

Motion made by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger, seconded by Council Member Bruce Borntreger and carried to add an attendance policy to the personnel policy. The policy details providing notice of illness at least 60 minutes before a shift begins by calling the mayor, or mayor pro-tem if no answer, and the supervisor if applicable. The same notice applies for the use of sick leave for appointments. A draft policy for employment of relatives and domestic partners was also reviewed and will be considered further at the December council meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Hage will work to get Google Calendar working for the council, and he also will place a paper calendar in the office for employees to list days off after they receive approval for them.

Discussion took place regarding the mayor seat vacancy. **Motion made by Council Member Brian Krumwiede, seconded by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger and carried to adopt the following Resolution**

**Resolution 2021-22
Resolution to appoint Thomas Hage as Mayor**

Russenberger, yea; Krumwiede, yea; Borntreger, Nay. Motion carried.

Motion made by Council Member Thomas Hage, seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede and carried to appoint Council Member Bruce Borntreger as Mayor Pro-Tem.

The council vacancy created with the appointment of Council Member Hage as Mayor will be considered at an upcoming special meeting. It was decided to add a notice to Facebook to have those interested in serving on the council contact a council member by November 29th to add their name for consideration.

A draft of the meeting minutes from the October 25, 2021 Special Emergency Council Meeting was considered for approval. Council indicated earlier they would amend the minutes that were written, and Council Member Russenberger provided a different accounting of the discussion from the meeting for the council to consider as a replacement for what was in the draft.

Motion made by Council Member Bruce Borntrager, seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede and carried to replace the main body of the draft minutes with the narrative provided by Council Member Russenberger. Further discussion will take place at the December meeting as to the policy for posting meeting minutes on the city website.

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

Approval of minutes from the October 18, and November 9, 2021 meetings as printed.

Approval to pay the following bills:

American Welding	\$ 37.83	Arnold Motor Supply	\$ 448.21
Bevcomm	\$ 201.79	Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$ 2927.66
Bolton & Menk	\$ 642.50	Cardmember Service	\$ 706.43
Clia Laboratory	\$ 180.00	Delta Dental	\$ 74.70
Expert Billing	\$ 330.00	Farmers State Bank	\$ 513.70
Frontier Communications	\$ 608.90	Gopher State One Call	\$ 35.10
Hawkins	\$ 10.00	H & L Mesabi	\$ 4369.44
Holtz Construction	\$ 418.88	Hometown Sanitation	\$ 4464.91
Indoff Inc.	\$ 227.35	Lacey Schmidtke	\$ 100.00
Martin County Star	\$ 20.00	Midwest IT Systems	\$ 310.00
Minnesota Energy	\$ 375.21	Moore & Ace	\$ 651.37
Postmaster	\$ 136.40	Plunkett's	\$ 192.87
Quill	\$ 76.54	River Bend Business	\$ 46.94
Rusty Spur Saloon	\$ 49.68	SEH	\$ 1410.75
Town Center Super Valu	\$ 2.98	Triumph State Bank	\$ 513.70
UC Labs	\$ 555.15	USABLE Life	\$ 5.60
Verizon	\$ 337.52	Wex Bank	\$ 705.23

Council Member Krumwiede asked the council to consider adding a second council meeting each month. This will be discussed further at the December meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Hage will consult with the city attorney to discuss the legalities of doing so.

Motion made by Council Member Bruce Borntrager, seconded by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger and carried to adjourn.

Signed, Thomas Hage, Mayor

Attest: Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk