

## 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 20th day of December, 2021 at 5:30 o'clock P.M.

The following members were present: Mayor Thomas Hage, Council Member Bruce Bortrager, Council Member Brian Krumwiede, and Council Member JoAnn Russenberger.

Mayor Thomas Hage presided over the meeting.

Mayor Thomas Hage took Oath of Office.

No comments were made during the community comment period.

Bill Helget from Bolton Menk discussed trail project. Provided cost, grant funds breakdown, & update on trail plan. Nu Way Easements completed. Schedule provided of the trail project timeline. City approval to submit plans to State aid.

Bjorn Olson addressed the council on local government committee and the transportation committee.

Police Chief Ross Wiggin reviewed the police department report. Chief Wiggin discussed the cost of the cellphone upgrade \$836.22. **Motion made by Council Member JoAnne Russenberger to split cost of the cell phone upgrade between the city (\$418.11) and Ross Wiggin (\$418.11), Motion seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede. Motion carried 2 to 1 with Council Member Bruce Bortrager voting nay.**

### **Truth and Taxation (TNT) Hearing**

At 6:05pm the TNT meeting was called to order. Reviewed budget & levy. Proposed to remove seal coating and proposed to use \$58,000 for fire department and trail project. reviewed fire department gear costs. DNR grant available \$10,000 DNR and \$5,000 city share. Lengthy discussion regarding last name on coats at \$65 or helmets at \$110. Take out overlay (\$65,000) and add \$26,500 to fire department gear budget and \$41,500 to trail project. New fire department members were presented to hire Dylan Paulson, Michael Andrews, and Gage Eggestein. **Motion made Council Member Brian Krumwiede to officially hire Dylan Paulson, Michael Andrews, and Gage Eggestein to the Fire Department, motion seconded by Council Member Bruce Bortrager. Motion carried.** Review of wages and benefits discussed. 1 ½ Jan 1 and 1 ½% July 1<sup>st</sup> for the wage increases. Discussed current employee contributions to insurance at \$70 monthly and increasing to \$100 monthly starting in 2022. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Bortrager to adopt budget & 5% levy increase, seconded by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger. Motion Carried.**

Public Works discussed the replaced water hydrant that was leaking. There are also 2 obsolete hydrants that need to be replaced. The plow truck needs two new tires. Estimate pending for state bid. Nursing home has a leak in the service line trying to help find the correct parts for them. Christian's wage was discussed currently at \$15/hr. The part time snow help gets \$20/hr. Mayor proposed wage increase retroactive to prior storm since he has helped plow snow and is helping through this transition period in the public works department. **Motion made by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger to increase wage to \$20 per hour retroactive to 12/11/2021, seconded by Council Member Bruce Bortrager. Motion carried.**

Sewer Land purchases discussed. Mayor and Karen from SEH are working on it. They have it down to the last 2 parcel land options for the future ponds. SEH will attend January Meeting to discuss further.

Open Staff full-time City Clerk and Public Works positions advertisements reviewed. Begin ads next week, and this week where possible. Add positions to Facebook. Contact city hall for packets. Part-time office position reviewed. Mayor and Council Member JoAnn Russenberger meet with Brenda Nielsen for the part-time office position with clerk's resignation to keep the city office running. She has agreed to take the position starting January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 with approximately 27 hours and more if needed. The office will be open part-time from 11:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday temporarily until the city hires a permanent City Clerk. **Motion made by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger to hire Brenda Nielsen as the part-time office position to work about 27 hours per week Monday through Friday at \$22.50 per hour with PERA, motion seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede. Motion carried 2 to 1 with Council Member Bruce Bortrager voting Nay.**

Community development meeting postponed until January 2022.

Erika Ask recommends taking the lot behind ball field off the for-sale list due to future access concerns and lot next to clinic. Council agreed to do so for now.

Anderson Park donation from the Pearson family was discussed. Perry Pearson family donated \$8,000 with Town Center acting as the fiscal agent. Concrete slab with picnic tables and grills, Park locations to be determined. Any shortage the Trimont Area Chamber of Commerce will cover.

#### **Resolution 2021-34**

#### **A Resolution to Accept the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Established Under the American Rescue Plan Act**

**Motion made by Council Member Bruce Bortrager to approve resolution 2021-34, seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede. Motion carried.**

Library proposals of flag & tablet project purchases requests reviewed. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Bortrager to approve both project proposal requests, seconded by Council Member JoAnne Russenberger. Motion Carried.**

Expert T Billing new contract reviewed for ambulance billing. **Motion made by Council Member JoAnn Russenberger to approve new contract with Expert T billing, seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede. Motion carried.**

Council vacancy discussed. There was 4 people interested in the positions. **Motion made by Council Member JoAnne Russenberger to appoint Jon Holtz for the council vacancy seat, seconded by Mayor Thomas Hage. Motion was a 2 to 2 tie.** Mayor can nominate if a resulted in tie vote. **Mayor Thomas Hage nominates Jon Holtz to fill the vacancy seat.** Council Member Brian Krumwiede brought concerns about micro managing. All agreed not to be done.

Jon Holtz took Oath of Office.

Old Business: Employee evaluations to take place in January/February. Ross has been offered another position in another entity. Employee reviews now on hold until later date. Council advised they didn't want him to leave. If no wage increases, maybe a higher retirement contribution or more vacation time. Ross Wiggin wanted to know if the council would be open to considering these options or not; to allow him to know if he is willing to stay. Special Meeting set up after holidays. Jan 4, 2022 special meeting will set agenda prior to notice.

Personnel policies are still in the works.

Consent agenda: Council Member JoAnn Russenberger suggested the December 7, 2021 minutes be amended suggested adding a line about Bolter was advised..... Council Agreed. **Motion made by Council Member Bruce Bortrager to approve consent agenda with the amended December 7, 2021 minute changes, motion seconded by Council Member Brian Krumwiede. Motion carried.**

**Approval to pay the following bills:**

Alex Air Apparatus	\$ 237.00	Hometown Sanitation	\$ 4,198.39
American Welding	\$ 37.14	Hometown Sanitation	\$ 120.00
Beemer Companies	\$ 7,850.50	Indoff Inc.	\$ 7.39
Bevcomm	\$ 202.59	Lacey Schmidtke	\$ 159.38
Blue Cross Blue Shield, Blue Plus	\$ 611.27	Lacey Schmidtke	\$ 60.00
Cardmember Service	\$ 5.98	Martin County Attorney	\$ 2,590.00
C & B Operations	\$ 75.67	Max Longley	\$ 2,750.00
Dave Lubben	\$ 300.00	Melissa Sirovy	\$ 10.73
Delta Dental	\$ 74.70	Midwest Garage Doors	\$ 125.00
Edwin Grue	\$ 1,009.50	Midwest IT Systems	\$ 624.24
Expert T Billing	\$ 360.00	Minnesota Dept. of Health	\$ 823.00
Farmers State Bank	\$ 513.70	Minnesota Energy	\$ 969.29
Flaherty& Hood PA	\$ 3,637.50	Moore and Ace	\$ 442.32
Fleet & Farm Supply	\$ 27.98	No BS Performance	\$ 208.00
Frontier Communications	\$ 70.46	Poppe's Store	\$ 10.00
Frontier Communications	\$ 254.56	Postmaster	\$ 136.80
Gopher State One Call	\$ 21.60	SEH	\$ 504.25
Hawkins	\$ 3,018.80	South Central Electric	\$ 9,477.89
Holtz Construction	\$ 425.00	Triumph State Bank	\$ 513.70
Verizon	\$ 1,173.76	Triumph State Bank	\$ 12.00
West Bend	\$ 100.00	UC Labs	\$ 1,721.90
Wex Bank	\$ 665.57	USable Life	\$ 11.20

Mayor Thomas Hage discussed a new way of doing the minutes like other cities have adopted. Only motions no details in minutes as a video is the discussion proof. Mayor is following up with League of Minnesota Cities.

Council Member Brian Krumwiede asked about adding a skating rink. It was discussed it would be best if an organization handling doing it. We would need a warming house, and where to do it are concerns. Will consider further discussion at a later date.

**Motion made by Council Member Brian Krumwiede, seconded by Council Member Bruce Borntreger and carried to adjourn.**

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Signed, Thomas Hage, Mayor

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Attest: Melissa Sirovy, City Clerk

Signed & Typed: Brenda Nielsen Interim City Clerk/Treasurer