

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 27, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Milliren.

Roll Call: Present – Council Members Hayden, Hooker, Menke, Roesler, and Weisenbeck.
Absent: Council Member Weishapple. Also Present: Administrator Rasmussen, Public Works Director Gilles, and Police Chief Ridgeway. Absent: City Clerk Morgan & City Engineer Kiviniemi.
Due and proper notice of meeting was confirmed.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Council Member Hayden and seconded by Council Member Roesler to adopt the agenda.
Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment: None.

Scheduled Appearances: None.

Consent Agenda: The City Council Members reviewed the Regular Council Meeting minutes from September 13, 2023 and bartender licenses for Amanda L Osteen and Corianna J Biederman at Cell Block. Motion by Council Member Hooker, seconded by Council Member Menke to approve Regular Council Meeting minutes from September 13, 2023, and bartender licenses for Amanda L Osteen and Corianna J Biederman at Cell Block as presented under the Consent Agenda. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Business Agenda - Mayor's Report: Mayor Milliren thanked City staff for their efforts on the pool project and all the work done behind the scenes.

Administrator's Report: Administrator Rasmussen provided an update on the 2024 budget process and some positive news regarding increases in shared revenue, transportation aid, new construction and equalized valuation.

Public Safety – Police Department: Police Chief Ridgeway addressed several inaccurate and inappropriate comments made at a recent Pepin County Law Enforcement committee meeting that had been reported in the Courier-Wedge.

Discussion and possible action regarding Special Event Street Closing Request (1st Ave to 4th Ave West) for the Trunk or Treat Event on October 28, 2023 from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Motion by Council Member Weisenbeck, seconded by Council Member Hooker to approve the Special Event Street Closing Request for Trunk or Treat Event on October 28, 2023 from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Fire Department: No updates.

Ambulance Department: No updates.

Public Works/Utilities: Public Works Director Gilles provided an update on the design for the 2024 Madison Street reconstruction project. Due to issues relating to maintaining the proper grade for ADA compliant crossings, staff is recommending bump-outs at several intersections which would also result in turning 1st Avenue, 2nd Avenue West, and 4th Avenue West into one-way streets.

Doing this would also result in an additional fifteen (15) parking spots downtown, an issue most business owners in the area requested. Director Gilles also reminded the council of the Open House for the project being held on Monday evening, October 2. Director Gilles also provided an update on the asphalt paving schedule for various minor projects and patches.

Discussion and possible action regarding bids for the Tarrant Park Swimming Pool. Director Gilles discussed the bids received on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 for the Tarrant Park swimming pool project. The City received three (3) bids for the project with the low base bid of \$3,639,200 (\$3,913,984 with all alternates) from Durand Builders. Adding in remaining engineering costs and estimated contingencies, we remain approximately \$1.2 million short of funding, similar to our situation after last summer's bid process. Mayor Milliren noted that he would like to set a December 1, 2023 deadline for raising the funds/pledges, so the council could potentially act on the bids at its meeting of December 13, 2023. No action taken at this time.

Discussion and possible action final 12th Avenue E Project payment request for Next Level Excavating in the amount of \$944.44. Director Gilles explained that the project was complete and acceptable to City standards. Motion by Council Member Roesler, seconded by Council Member Menke to approve the final 12th Avenue E Project payment request for Next Level Excavating in the amount of \$944.44. Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Vouchers: Motion by Council Member Weisenbeck, seconded by Council Member Hooker to approve the vouchers presented #29065 – 29099 in the amount of \$71,893.71. Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

The next meetings are a Public Works Committee Meeting on Monday, October 9, 2023, Safety Committee Meeting on October 11, 2023 and a Finance Meeting on Monday, October 23, 2023.

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Hayden, seconded by Council Member Weisenbeck at 7:50 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Scott Rasmussen, City Administrator