

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Monday, October 2, 2023

5:30 P.M. – 6:10 P.M.

Council Members Present: Jon Hawkinson, Blanca Ferguson, Matt Baumgartner, George Ebbers and Landon Padrnos.

Others present: Elizabeth Torkelson, City Administrator; Susie Lang, EDA Director; Jason Krumheuer, Police Chief; Tim Seehusen, Fire Chief; Pamela Whitmore, Kennedy & Graven (via zoom); Nanette Serbus, Liquor Store Manager; Ross Okins, Renville County Register; Jasmine Miller, Deputy Clerk.

Whitmore addressed the legislative changes in regards to cannabis as well as licensing through the office of cannabis management, reasonable zoning restrictions, moratoriums and legal use of the products. Hawkinson stated that he understands the potential benefit of having a municipal dispensary, and is open to exploring a moratorium on retail sales. Ebbers shared that he is not in favor of limiting any of it. Padrnos was not in favor of putting a moratorium on retail sales, and suggested restricting it to the business and industrial zoning areas. Whitmore will review the current ordinances and policies and make necessary recommendations at a future meeting.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 2, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

The Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Olivia, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Hawkinson at 6:10 P.M.

Council Members Present: Jon Hawkinson, Blanca Ferguson, Matt Baumgartner, George Ebbers and Landon Padrnos.

Others present: Elizabeth Torkelson, City Administrator; Jason Krumheuer, Police Chief; Tim Seehusen, Fire Chief; Pamela Whitmore, Kennedy & Graven (via zoom); Kendra Lyngaas, S.E.H.; Justin Black, S.E.H.; Ross Okins, Renville County Register; Taxpayer (via zoom), iPhone (via zoom), Jodi (via zoom), Jasmine Miller, Deputy Clerk.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Hawkinson temporarily suspended the regular meeting and opened the public forum at 6:11 P.M.

A video from BOLD students requesting the City to allow the school to have chickens was viewed. There was Council consensus to refer the request to the planning commission.

No other public comments were offered so Mayor Hawkinson reopened the regular meeting at 6:15 P.M.

AGENDA

Motion by Ferguson, second by Baumgartner: to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Hawkinson proclaimed October 2023 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and October 15, 2023 as National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Ebbers, second by Baumgartner: to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

- Regular Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2023
- Resolution 2023-95, Authorization to Increase Voluntary Fire Fighter Wages
- Contractor’s Application for Payment No. 9 – DePue Ave Improvement Project
- Resolution 2023-96, Calling for a Public Hearing for the Final Assessments for Unpaid Refuse Fees
- Resolution 2023-97, Authorization to Execute Minnesota Department of Transportation Grant Agreement for Airport Improvement Excluding Land Acquisition
- State Airports Fund Grant Agreement

DISCUSSION / BUSINESS ITEMS

Public Hearing for Proposed assessments of Delinquent Utility Accounts to Property Taxes

Motion by Baumgartner, second by Ferguson: to set the public hearing. Motion passed unanimously. At 6:19P.M. Mayor Hawkinson temporarily recessed the regular meeting and opened a public hearing for Proposed Assessments of Delinquent Utility Accounts to Property Taxes.

Torkelson shared the procedure to certify delinquent utility accounts to the County Auditor for collection with the upcoming year’s property taxes.

No public comments were offered. Mayor Hawkinson closed the hearing at 6:19 P.M.

First Reading of Ordinance 2023-05, Amending Section 30.07 Related to Writing Requirements and Section 30.10 Related to Ordinances

Hawkinson briefly acknowledged that moving forward the City Clerk will attest on public documents.

Emergency Management Coordinator Agreement

Padrnos shared concerns with the annual stipend being set at \$6,000 for the position. Ebbers suggested staff work with DDA to review and provide an opinion on the position. There was Council consensus to refer this topic back to the personnel committee for further review.

Resolution 2023-98, Declaring Cost to be Assessed, Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessment, and Calling for Hearing on Proposed Assessment

Motion by Ferguson, second by Padrnos: to approve Resolution 2023-98, Declaring Cost to be Assessed, Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessment, and Calling for Hearing on Proposed Assessment. Motion passed unanimously.

Black discussed the purpose of the assessment hearing, update on project status, project cost and funding as well as details on applying the assessments. Black clarified that the last layer of bituminous pavement will be applied Spring 2024, after the roads have settled over the winter months. The projected finished project costs are under budget. Notices regarding the special assessment and the public hearing will be mailed to the property owners. A public hearing is set for October 30th at 5:30pm.

No additional items or new business items were presented.

REPORTS

Other Reports of Council / Staff

Padrnos shared a pool report stating the electrical work is in process and they are hoping to open by early November. Tracey is currently recruiting lifeguards in anticipation of opening.

Baumgartner shared that the PUC established a subcommittee to review the small wireless policy and progress is being made.

Mayor Hawkinson shared an enjoyable experience at the annual chamber event.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Employment Opportunity – Public Works

Mayor Hawkinson shared that a position is currently open in the public works department and invited anyone with interest to apply for the position by October 13th.

No additional reports were presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Baumgartner, second by Padrnos: to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 P.M. Motion passed unanimously.



Jon Hawkinson, Mayor

Attest:



Jaymine Miller, Deputy Clerk