

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 4, 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 5:30 P.M.

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

Others present: Elizabeth Torkelson, City Administrator; Jason Krumheuer, Police Chief; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney (zoom); Ross Okins, Renville County Register; Ady Knake, BOLD Student; Guest (zoom), George Thoma (zoom), Jasmine Miller, Deputy Clerk.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Hawkinson temporarily suspended the regular meeting and opened the public forum at 5:30 P.M.

No public comments were offered so Mayor Hawkinson reopened the regular meeting at 5:30 P.M.

AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Regular Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2023
- 2024 SafeAssure Safety Training Contract Renewal
- Resolution 2023-117, Amending Resolution 2023-113, 2024 Liquor Licenses Set for Approval
- City Hall – West Central Roofing Contractors Quote
- 2024 Airfield Pavement Crack Seal and Micro Milling – Olivia Airport
- November Disbursements
- Contractor's Application for Payment No. 10 – DePue Ave Improvement Project
- Contractor's Application for Payment No. 11 – DePue Ave Improvement Project
- Airport Management Agreement

DISCUSSION / BUSINESS ITEMS

2024 Board and Commission Appointments Review

The Council reviewed the board and commission appointments for 2024 and agreed to add Baumgartner as an alternate for Zoning Board of Appeals.

No additional items or new business items were presented.

REPORTS

Other Reports of Council / Staff

Torkelson announced that a workshop will be held at 5:30pm before the December 18th meeting to review building plans with Marcus Construction. Torkelson also shared that staff is currently working on updating the personnel policy and comprehensive plan.

No additional reports were presented.

Mayor Hawkinson temporarily recessed the regular meeting at 5:41 P.M.

Mayor Hawkinson reopened the regular meeting at 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2024 BUDGET & TRUTH-IN-TAXATION

At 6:00 P.M. Mayor Hawkinson temporarily recessed the regular meeting and opened a public hearing on the 2024 Truth in Taxation.

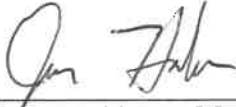
Hanson presented the 2024 truth in taxation. Hanson reviewed the comparison from 2023 and the proposed 2024 tax levy. Hanson pointed out that the increase in the general fund is due to significant inflationary adjustments and adjustment in reliance on the electric fund. As the City cuts back on transfers out of the electric fund the levy needs to be increased. Property tax in the general fund is 45% of the total revenue, LGA is 36%, Contribution from the electric fund is 10% and other is 9%. The library increase is directly related to a requested increase of funds from the third-party operator. The fire department and rescue team will see an increase to help maintain what their current needs are. It was noted that this levy amount hadn't increased in several years. Debt service levy needs have decreased for 2024 due to the 2016 A Bond being paid off. Capital Improvement fund shows an increase because we are reducing the reliance on the electric fund and we need to maintain our savings for future equipment purposes. The EDA also sees an increase due to inflationary costs and the sale of Bayberry. Hanson stated the property tax levy makes up 50% of total revenues in levy supported funds. It was noted that in 2023 the transfer from the electric fund was \$410,000 and in 2024 the transfer will be \$268,000. Hanson reminded the public that the City does not have a say in the value of your house, and that the value is decided at the County level.

Baumgartner asked if the City would continue to decrease the transfer from the electric fund. Hanson said that the goal is to get to an appropriate level and clarified that we don't have a set level. Ferguson asked how much we need to have set aside and asked what the justification for not using the electric funds is. Ferguson requested more information on the electrical fund and the target number we are needing to set aside. Padrnos added that the City has always self-insured but previous councils have spent the money down, and the current council decided that it was unsustainable. The City is trying to reduce spending so that we can sustain what we have and not incur the insurance costs. Torkelson stated that staff would prepare information to present to Council on December 18th.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ebbers, second by Padrnos: to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 P.M. Motion passed unanimously.



Jon Hawkinson, Mayor

Attest: 

Jasmine Miller, City Clerk