

MEMBERS PRESENT – Martin, Halterman, Evenson, McCoy, and Lokken

ABSENT – None

Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, January 11th, 2023.

AGENDA- Council Member Lokken asked to move New Business item M to Old Business C. Council Member Evenson made a motion to not approve the December minutes. Council Member Halterman seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor. Council Member McCoy made a motion to accept Claims and Payroll for December. Council Member Evenson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

NEW OFFICERS- Clerk Kalkbrenner swore in New Mayor David Martin, Council Member Lokken, and Council Member Halterman, for the 2023-2025 term.

VISITOR RECOGNITION AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Hallin-Andrew asked the council about utilizing the South Grove Gym to do an open gym on Mondays from 10 am to 2 pm. Council Member Lokken made a motion to allow Andrew to use the South Grove gym Mondays from 10-2, pending a background check. Council Member McCoy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Kalkbrenner also brought up that when Andrew was in talking with her about if he would possibly be interested in doing summer rec for the city. Andrew expressed after meeting with Kalkbrenner that it would be something he could be interested in and asked the council what the next steps would be. Council asked that Andrew put together a program of activities and expectations and present it at the next meeting.

Jess Hopp- Jess and Brian Hopp came to the council to inquire about snow removal of Hwy 12. Jess expressed how she understood that we got more snow than anyone expected and that a few weeks prior snow had started melting and then the street and sidewalks were not being cleaned up as efficiently as they could be as an ice ridge gets left behind, which can raise safety hazards. Jess expressed that Brian was confronted by the Sheriff when he tried to help plow the street as well. McCoy clarified that the question was to just see that snow be moved quicker in front of businesses. It was stated that Brian is willing to help, and the council stated that he can help if he is willing, but it is too dangerous to do it at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Mayor Martin read a story about the incident that he had witnessed and described that a snowstorm during the day is handled differently than a snowstorm during the night. Martin expressed that he understands and wants everyone to keep an open mind and work together.

Matt Dahl- Mayor Martin went on record thanking Matt for purchasing the Midwest Metals building so it stayed occupied and not an empty building. Matt (Oakridge Construction) presented a building permit to the council for adding apartments in the original office space of the Midwest Metal building. Kalkbrenner asked the council if they felt that a variance is needed. Kalkbrenner expressed that per ordinance she was not able to find where a variance would be needed. Council Member McCoy made a motion to approve the building permit, contingent on county approval of plans. Council Member Evenson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Rescue- Chief Thomas reported that there were 6 calls for the past month and a total of approximately 87 for the 2022 year for rescue. Thomas stated that elections were held, and all officers stayed the same.

Fire- Council reminded fire that the doors to the Fire Hall need to be closed.

Sheriff- Deputy Swisher read the sheriff's report of 32 calls for the month. Swisher went through the ordinance procedure for him and what he can and cannot enforce. Swisher expressed that ordinance violations such as garbage or junk in yards he is not able to enforce until it has gone thru the abatement process. Martin asked if he could enforce snow ordinances. Swisher stated that yes, he can enforce snow ordinances, but as a reminder if he does for one he does for all. Martin did bring up towing cars, Martin went on record stating the city will not have cars towed at this time due to snow, but tickets may be issued. Swisher stated that towing would be up to the city to contract with a towing company if we wanted cars towed.

Clerk- Kalkbrenner presented information on the Meeker County EDA meeting. Kalkbrenner explained to the council that the monies given in Lieu of Insurance have always been subject to PERA being taken out. Kalkbrenner expressed that her recent findings were that the "In Lieu of" and a few other circumstances are exempt from PERA. Kalkbrenner wanted it on record that as of the beginning of 2023, she would make these corrections and do a report on the past three years per PERAs request.

Approved

Kalkbrenner expressed about Aimee Gourlay coming in again from the League of MN Cities. Kalkbrenner gave a brief update on where things were at with that. Mayor Martin had received a phone call from Aimee and wanted some further information. Kalkbrenner will bring this up at the next meeting for council discussions.

Public Works- Roering gave an update that the work on Asta had been completed and the sewer had been videoed again and a copy was given to the clerk's office.

Roering stated he was asked by Jason Johnson of the City of Atwater to bring the tractor over and help blow some big piles of snow that were potentially causing visibility issues. Council discussed that after Grove City snow is moved, they were fine with Grove City helping the City of Atwater.

Halterman- Halterman rescinded his reading of Oath of Office to re-read his with Council Member instead of Mayor.

McCoy- Council Member McCoy gave an update that he is still working on the basketball court and getting bid to fix what is there and/or remove it. McCoy stated that a new pickleball court 30'x60' could run up to \$23,850 plus dirt work approximately \$25,000.

McCoy asked if there was a way to get the snow off the roof of the fire hall as it was falling between the buildings and causing drifts to overhang onto the sidewalk. McCoy stated that he did not want to see all the snow melt between the buildings and get water in the basement of his business.

Lokken- Council Member Lokken had brought up to the council about citizens coming to the council when they cannot pay their bills. Kalkbrenner expressed that this was just changed in the last year per council approval and that residents would have to now come before the council and express concerns. Lokken also stated about better resources for residents on applying for assistance. Kalkbrenner also stated that Ransom is required to follow a great deal of steps and informing the residents of their options for help is one of the biggest things she advocates for. Kalkbrenner expressed as well that changing the policy has helped get residents to pay a little more on time.

Lokken is talking with the CARE Program about the use of the Oak room which may be a privacy rope. Theater type could be purchased and run from the Oak Room door and across the hallway with a sign stating, "Residents only". Lokken stated she would get a quote for ropes for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Care Lease- Linda Mickelson with the CARE Board along with other board members was present. McCoy mentioned that he revised the contract the city wrote to include the use of the Oak Room if a resident of South Grove is always present. Council had received a copy of the lease at the end of the last meeting from Halterman. Halterman expressed that the CARE board had donated thousands of dollars and that the CARE Program is an essential part of what the South Grove residents live for. Kalkbrenner expressed that she had sent it to the League of MN Cities Attorney to look at the lease. Kalkbrenner presented the recommendations to the council. Kalkbrenner stated that she did not send it to the city attorney and that the league's attorney services are free since the council told Kalkbrenner that she was not to talk to the city attorney without prior approval. Linda stated that the lease from the city was not a suitable lease, therefore their attorney wrote up a different lease agreement. Linda went over some of the times and information in the lease. McCoy voiced how he was not in agreement with using the lease that was written by the tenants of the building instead of the one provided by the city. Lokken expressed that she did not agree with some of the wording on the lease provided by the CARE Program.

Council Member Halterman made a motion to charge the CARE Program \$25 rent per month. Council Member Evenson seconded the motion. In further discussion, McCoy stated how Halterman needed to rescind the motion as it is a conflict for him to vote with his wife on the board and that Lokken should also refrain from voting as she is on the CARE Board as the city liaison. Halterman rescinded his motion. Mayor Martin made a motion to charge the CARE program \$25 rent per month for their space at South Grove Square. Council Member Evenson seconded the motion. The motion carries with Martin and Evenson voting in favor. Council Member McCoy opposed. Council Members Halterman and Lokken abstained.

Mayor Martin made a motion to work off the CARE Programs lease that they drafted and have the city attorney make his recommendations and the League of MN Cities attorney recommendations and present it back at the next council meeting. Council Member Evenson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Approved

Kalkbrenner asked for a motion to be able to send the lease to the city attorney as the council had expressed to Kalkbrenner that she was not to speak to our attorney without prior council approval. Mayor Martin made a motion to send the CARE Program lease to the city attorney. Council Member McCoy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

CARES Gambling Fee- Andrea Dallmann came to the council to ask about getting the \$100 Gambling permit fee reimbursed as they did not understand why they had to pay it. Andrea expressed how it was not needed since they were only having one raffle. Kalkbrenner explained that she had a meeting with Andrea, Jesse, and herself before the permit was approved explaining why the additional forms were needed. Council Member McCoy made a motion to refund the \$100 with the reminder that the fee will apply if they need a city gambling permit again. Council Member Evenson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

South Grove Mail Delivery- Council discussed that for now, we will leave the process of delivering mail at South Grove as it has been until further discussion is had.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2023-1: Annual Appointments and Meeting Dates- Council Member Halterman asked for changes to be made. The discussion was had, and it was decided to table Resolution 2023-1: Annual Appointments and Meeting Dates for the upcoming workshop to discuss committees further.

Resolution 2023-2: Access to City Checking and Saving- Council Member McCoy made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-2: Access to City Checking and Saving, adding David Martin as a signer on the accounts. Mayor Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Resolution 2023-3: Mayor Pro Tem- Council Member Lokken made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-3: Mayor Pro Tem. Appointing Michael Halterman as the Mayor Pro Tem. Council Member Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried with mayor Martin and council members Evenson, McCoy, and Lokken voting in favor. Council Member Halterman abstained.

Resolution 2023-4: Designating Official Newspaper- Council Member McCoy made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-4: Designating Hutchinson Leader as the Official Newspaper. Council Member Evenson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Resolution 2023-5: Designating Official Insurance Agent- Council Member Halterman made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-5, designating A+ Insurance as the City's official insurance agent. Council Member Lokken seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Resolution 2023-6: Pre-Authorized Payments- Council Member McCoy made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-6 allowing Kalkbrenner to make pre-authorized payments as necessary. Council Member Lokken seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Resolution 2023-7: Designating Official Depositors- Mayor Martin made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-7 Designating Grove Bank as the City's Official Depositor. Council Member Lokken seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Resolution 2023-8: Designating Building Inspection Program- Council Member Halterman made a to accept Resolution 2023-8, designating Brian Fehrenbach as the City's Official Building Inspector. Council Member Evenson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Fee Schedule- Council Member McCoy made a motion to accept the fee schedule as written with the exemption of Election Judge pay. Council asked Kalkbrenner to research other cities to see what they are paying for the next meeting. Mayor Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Rental Deposits- Mayor Martin made a motion to return the deposit for Rosie Dilley less \$36 for the two hours of cleaning it took the city's cleaning personnel and the salt use after she had rented South Grove gym and rooms. Council Member McCoy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Cybersecurity Assessments – Heartland- Kalkbrenner presented a proposal from Heartland Energy for Cybersecurity for the electric data that the city receives from Heartland for no cost to the city. Council Member Lokken made a motion to join Heartland Energy's Cybersecurity Assessment. Council Member McCoy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Approved

Certificate of County Board Classification of Forfeited Lands- Council Member McCoy made a motion to approve the Certificate of County Board Classifications of Forfeited Lands. Council Member Evenson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

South Grove AEDs and Training- Lokken stated, as the liaison for the city on the CARE Board, that the CARE Board was wondering if the city is keeping track of when the AEDs expire and keeping on top of them. Also, the city could set up training for the CARE Board on how to operate the AEDs. McCoy asked if this was training for rescue to know how to use it. Lokken stated no it was for the CARES Board, so they know how to properly use them. Kalkbrenner expressed that the city is not responsible for training organizations of residents on how to use the city equipment.

Grove Bank ACH Agreement- Council Member McCoy made a motion to accept the Grove Bank ACH Agreement allowing the bank to charge the city a fee for all ACH payments made. Council Member Halterman seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Workshop to come before the next upcoming meeting.

ADJOURNMENT- Council Member McCoy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 pm. Council Member Lokken seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Baily Kalkbrenner
City Clerk-Treasurer

Approved