

**UNAPPROVED
CITY OF MIDDLE RIVER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 9, 2023**

Regular Meeting held August 9, 2023, at the Legacy Center.

Present: Deb Ness, John Scheff, Brian Kleinwachter, Josh Veselka, Dave Casanova

Absent:

Public Present: 5

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Dave Casanova called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Changes or Amendments to Agenda

A motion to accept the amended agenda by adding misc. items at the end was made by Brian Kleinwachter with a second by Deb Ness. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes

- A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from July 12, 2023, was made by Brian Kleinwachter with a second by John Scheff. All in favor, motion carried.
- A motion to accept the closed meeting minutes from August 2, 2023, was made by Josh Veselka with a second by Deb Ness. All in favor, motion carried.
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Claim/Receipts

- Claims/Receipts from July 12th through August 4th
 - A motion to accept claims and receipts presented was made by Josh Veselka with a second by Deb Ness. All in favor, motion carried.

Open Forum

Introduction of Late Items

Misc items

Old Business

- Water meter update – Discussion was had, final installations to be done by next month
- Business Storage rentals - Tabled
- Cow – Janice Larson, daughter of Arne & Ione Larson, has gifted the cow to the city. There will be an article written up by the family explaining the origin and history. The city is happy to keep the cow as part of the history that makes Middle River great!
- Roof estimates – awaiting responses

New Business

- 2024 NWRL Budget Jim Trojanowski, Director – The Barb Geer Library has been open for 5 months, hard to compare as it's new.
 - Looking at a 3% pay increase as librarian subs are short.
 - Circulation as of June, 750 items.

- Highlights this year – Creative Bug = How to craft videos Jobnow = Job search help, help with resume, interview help Helpnow = Homework assistant, all grades, Parkpass = 5 in our region to utilize, get to use it for a week, can reserve, no limits on use.
- Arts and Culture Heritage Fund offers \$60,000 in funds to use in 3 years (thank you and Sannes coffee from the Friends of the Library – coffee donated by Josh Veselka)
- Fire Department – Jeremy Neste informs us of training on cars, this Thursday and they will be moved.
 - 5 runs since last meeting.
 - Space issue is addressed.
 - Secondary engine is down, Great Plains will be out as soon as they can.
 - Gutter cleaning, a price for cleaning and repair \$200.00 - \$250.00 by John Lovely.
- Laurie Stromsodt reads a letter and says a prayer on behalf of Mary Lundquist listing the city as a beneficiary. Letter will go in the newspaper. Such a generous gift by a local citizen.
 - Weight Room Committee Group – O' Brian Stromsodt, Verna Flaten. Eric Mimnaugh, Deb Zak, Laurie Stromsodt
 - Marcos Garcia with Fixed, was able to look at the equipment in the weight room, recommended all the equipment to be removed due to safety, STS could be contacted. Look at small equipment room items, to be moved to the laundry room, to make room for the treadmills.
 - Laurie has received 2 grants to go towards the weight room update- 1 from Tom Dondelinger for \$5000 and one from the Hartz Foundation for \$10,000, waiting on 2 other grants.
 - Look at a certain percentage of gym memberships to go towards the upkeep of the weight room.
 - New treadmills will need wifi and possibly new outlets.
- Sandy Melby – 8/23 4-8 pm Friends of the Library providing the Planetarium, the city will donate the gym time for this event.
- Marshall County Housing Advisory Board – A motion to appoint Teresa Anderson to represent the City of Middle River on the Marshall County Affordable Housing Loan Pool was made by Brian Kleinwachter with a second by Deb Ness. All in favor, motion carried.
- Ottertail Power Company Assessments informational only.
- Website – the city will need a new company as the current one is raising prices. A motion to accept Kaytlynn Kukowski's proposal was made by Josh Veselka with a second by John Scheff. All in favor, motion carried.
- Co-op Oil prepay program - A motion was made to approve the prepay purchase of propane for \$3000 / 2,000 gallons @ \$1.50 by Deb Ness with a second by Brian Kleinwachter. All in favor, motion carried.
- Marco proposal – Discussion was had. Will get another quote.
- Probation period (90days met) – A motion was made to increase the payrate for the city administrator and back pay owed overtime hours by Josh Veselka with a second by Deb Ness. All in favor, motion carried.

Staff Reports

- Administration – Discussion was had, in regard to buying a camera for monitoring the bulk water station
- Maintenance – Mardy working on a tool list, amount of \$750.00 for this year, revisit next year. Gravel needed for the alley between Spruce Ave and Park Ave.

- Public Works – New Hawk meter \$1500.00 PH meter – A motion to purchase the PH meter was made by Deb Ness with a second by John Scheff. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Team Lab was here and ran the boat, to check how deep the sludge was in the old pond. \$1836.00 a year to treat the sludge. Treat for 2-3 years. A motion was made to approve the treatment of the ponds by Brian Kleinwachter with a second by Josh Veselka. All in favor, motion carried.
 - The manhole cover by the co-op keeps opening, castings are broken. What foundry made them and see if we can get new castings – what do we do to get it fixed? Dave Gram will check into it.
 - Locating wires – Teresa checked with Luke at Northwest, they have a device but usually the power company oversees locating those wires. We don't own the light poles along HWY 32.
 - The Old Creamery – Dave Gram will check into the sewer lines, he will talk to Heidi G

Consideration of Late Items

Misc – Deb Ness

Hitching post to be placed in the alley by The Old Creamery, and behind the gazebo. A garbage can and a shovel will be there for trash, persons who utilize the hitching post will be asked to clean up after your horse. A motion to approve the addition of a hitching post was made by John Scheff with a second by Deb Ness. All in favor, motion passed.

A motion was made by John Scheff to adjourn the meeting 8:47 pm with a second by Josh Veselka. All in favor, motion carried.

Next regular council meeting will be held on Wednesday September 13, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Teresa Anderson

City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer