

APPROVED
CITY OF MIDDLE RIVER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 13, 2023

Regular Meeting held December 13, 2023, at the Legacy Center.

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

Absent: John Scheff

Public Present: 10

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Changes or Amendments to Agenda

- Contracts
- Dog at Large
- Annual Liquor License – The Wheel

A motion to accept the proposed changes to the agenda was made by Deb Ness with a second by Brian Kleinwachter. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes

- A motion to accept the Legacy Committee & City Council joint meeting minutes from November 6, 2023, was made by Josh Veselka with a second by Deb Ness. All in favor, motion carried.
- A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from November 8, 2023, was made by Josh Veselka with a second by Brian Kleinwachter. All in favor, motion carried.
- A motion to accept the special meeting minutes from November 30, 2023, was made by Deb Ness with a second by Josh Veselka. All in favor, motion carried.

Claim/Receipts

- Claims/Receipts from November 4th through December 8th
 - A motion to accept claims and receipts presented was made by Brian Kleinwachter with a second by Josh Veselka. All in favor, motion carried.

Open Forum

Brianna Geer, President of Middle River Community Club reads a letter of support in regards to the 2nd Annual Mark Peterson Wojo's Rodeo on behalf of the Middle River Community Club. Possibly to be billed as the Opening Event for the 50th Goose Fest, the week prior to Goose Fest.

The Middle River Community Club has their annual meeting coming up in January 2024.

Dave Thompson – Would like to add Sunday alcohol sales to the 2024 ballot, to have the option to be open for special occasions. Would like the City Council to review and amend the current ordinance regarding Good Friday closures. Will be added to the January agenda.

Introduction of Late Items

Misc items

Old Business

- Water meter update – no update on installations, correspondence will be mailed to residents who are not compliant.

New Business

- Fire Department – Nathan Bukowski reports on the election results: Captain Kenny Beito, Assistant Chief Jeremy Neste, Safety Officer Tony Litzinger, Training Officers Jordan Bjerke and Kyle Rehm, Truck Captains Nathan Bukowski and Edwin Johnson, Secretary Jesse Rodriguez/Rachel Bukowski
 - Nathan informs the council that the Fire Relief Association will not be ended. The association is needed for fundraising efforts.
 - Jeremy Neste will meet to finalize the fire department budget.
 - Year End Runs - 29 total runs, 3 structure fires, 12 grass, 5 vehicle related, 3 other
- Douglas Insurance – Mike Douglas discusses mobile equipment with the fire department, will check on atv coverage.
 - Legacy Center insurance options are reviewed, will discuss and choose the best option.
- Sportsmans Club – Josh Smith, Dave Thompson, Mat Stromsodt present updated info the river beautification project. The December 6th meeting had several entities in attendance, the proposed project is gaining traction. December 20th is the next meeting, the project is on the docket for presentation.
 - Discussion was had regarding proposed plans, pursuing funding sources.
 - The city owns both properties on either side of the river, at the last watershed meeting it was recommended that the city have a representative on the river beautification project
- Senior Gym Memberships - tabled
- Legacy room fans – estimated \$200-300 per room to have the thermostats redone, the idea is so the renter can adjust the temperatures themselves. The decision will be made at the budget meeting. Mardy Anderson will talk to Northwest about the best option smart/regular.
- Hockey Day Minnesota 2024 is being hosted in Warroad this year, the city has reached out to the people hosting the event to offer the air bnb for lodging and the use of the skating rink.
- Existing lot in town, interested buyer. Will send interested buyer the currant ordinance.
- Water Tower Contract - A motion was made to approve the water tower maintenance contract by Josh Veselka with a second by Deb Ness. All in favor, motion carried.
- 1st Quarter newsletter – Rachel Bukowski asks for ideas.
- Rental Contracts – The rental contracts are coming up in January 2024 – currently at .23 a sq ft now. Rentals will have a .05 increase, effective February 1. 30 day notice. Rate will carry across the board, storage rooms also. Existing contracts will be revised. A motion to approve the increase was made by Brian Kleinwachter with a second by Deb Ness. All in favor, motion carried.
- Dog at large- concerned resident called into the city, encourage resident to call police every time, will add the pets ordinance to newsletter.
- Annual Liquor License – The Wheel Bar license was signed by Mayor.

Staff Reports

- Administration – Addresses the issue with missing and/or meeting minutes being withheld from the public. The League of MN states, towns under 1000 people do not need to send meeting minutes to a newspaper. The city administrator asks that the The Honker gets the approved meeting minutes from the website, due to the city council minutes not being published in the newspaper. Discussion was had and it was determined the meeting minutes will continue to be emailed, so the residents of Middle River can read the most updated notes.
- Maintenance – existing snow policy is reviewed, needs updating. Essential routes are priority. The streets committee will identify emergency routes.
 - Sidewalks, walking path are the last priority, the city is responsible for some sidewalks by legacy, fire hall, ambulance garage. Business owners are encouraged to clean their own sidewalks.
 - Weekend snow removal should be minimal, the budget isn't in place to have many overtime hours.
 - Jeremy Neste asked about storage in the city maintenance shop, storage is needed for the trailer with rescue sled. The council asks Jeremy Neste, Dave Gram and Mardy Anderson to make the final decision on space.
- Public Works –
 - Order coil of chain for the lift station

Consideration of Late Items

A motion was made by Brian Kleinwachter to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm with a second by Josh Veselka. All in favor, motion carried.

Next regular council meeting will be held on Wednesday January 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Teresa Anderson

City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer