

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. JAMES,
WATONWAN COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City Council of St. James, Minnesota was duly held at the Community Building meeting room in said City on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Gary Sturm called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Those present: Mayor Gary Sturm, Gene Hildebrandt, Sue Craig, Paul Harris, Kathleen Hanson, Hannah Rushing

Staff present: City Manager, Amanda Glass, City Attorney Steve Sunde

Those absent: City Clerk Kris Hurley

MINUTES

On motion by Councilperson Sue Craig, seconded by Councilperson Paul Harris, the minutes of the regular meeting of September 6, 2022, were found correct as written.

AYES: Councilperson Sue Craig, Paul Harris, Kathleen Hanson, Gene Hildebrandt

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Hannah Rushing

Whereupon Mayor Gary Sturm declared said motion to have passed 4-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

On motion by Councilperson Kathleen Hanson, seconded by Councilperson Gene Hildebrandt, the following consent items were hereby approved:

- A. Payment of Claims totaling \$1,395,515.89 as follows: Checks No. 67977 through 68036, and ACH payments 1005 through 1009, Pioneer Bank as listed in the Check Register.

Whereupon Mayor Gary Sturm declared said motion to have passed 5-0.

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NEW BUSINESS

APPROVING PROCLAMATION OF WOMEN OF TODAY WEEK

The Minnesota Women of Today and the St. James Women of Today have set aside the week of September 18 – 24, 2022, to recognize the many community activities of dedicated Women of Today across the state, throughout the country and in St. James.

On motion by Councilperson Gene Hildebrandt and seconded by Councilperson Paul Harris, to approve the Proclamation of Women of Today Week, for the week of September 18 – 2, 2022.

Upon voice vote it was unanimous

RESOLUTION 09-22-05 SETTING PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2023

Councilperson Gene Hildebrandt introduced **RESOLUTION 09-22-05** and moved its adoption, “**RESOLUTION SETTING PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2023**” and dispensed with the reading. It was duly seconded by Councilperson Paul Harris. Upon hand vote the following voted:

AYES: Councilperson Gene Hildebrandt, Paul Harris, Kathleen Hanson, Sue Craig, Hannah Rushing.

NAYS: None.

Whereupon Mayor Gary Sturm declared **RESOLUTION 09-22-05** to be duly passed 5-0.

RESOLUTION 09-22-06 APPROVING ACCEPTING BID FOR 10TH AVENUE SANITARY SEWER

Adam Jacobs, Engineer with Bolton & Menk, told Council the bids were received, opened and tabulated according to law for the 10th Avenue South Sanitary Sewer Improvements. Adam recommends going with GM Contracting, Inc., as they were the lowest responsible bidder. The following bids were received complying with the advertisement:

Bidder Bid Amount

GM Contracting, Inc. \$119,148.77

M.R. Paving & Excavating, Inc. \$153,462.54

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Councilperson Kathleen Hanson introduced **RESOLUTION 09-22-06** and moved its adoption, **“RESOLUTION 09-22-06 ACCEPTING BID FOR 10TH AVENUE SOUTH SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS”** and dispense with the reading. It was duly seconded by Councilperson Sue Craig. Upon hand vote the following voted:

AYES: Councilperson Kathleen Hanson, Sue Craig, Gene Hildebrandt, Paul Harris, Hanna Rushing

NAYS: None

Whereupon Mayor Gary Sturm declared **RESOLUTION 09-22-06** to be duly passed 5-0.

RESOLUTION 09-22-07 DECLARING ABANDONED AND SURPLUS PROPERTY AND ORDERING SALE

Councilperson Paul Harris introduced **RESOLUTION 09-22-07** and moved its adoption, **“RESOLUTION 09-22-73 DECLARING ABANDONED AND SURPLUS PROPERTY AND ORDERING SALE”** and dispense with the reading. It was duly seconded by Councilperson Hannah Rushing. Upon hand vote the following voted:

AYES: Councilperson Paul Harris, Hannah Rushing, Gene Hildebrandt, Kathleen Hanson, Sue Craig

NAYS: None

Whereupon Mayor Gary Sturm declared **RESOLUTION 09-22-07** to be duly passed 5-0.

RESOLUTION 09-22-08 AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT AGREEMENT #1051548 FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT EXCLUDING LAND ACQUISITION

Councilperson Hannah Rushing introduced **RESOLUTION 09-22-08** and moved its adoption, **“RESOLUTION 09-22-08 AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT AGREEMENT #1051548 FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT EXCLUDING LAND ACQUISITION”** and dispense with the reading. It was duly seconded by Councilperson Gene Hildebrandt. Upon hand vote the following voted:

AYES: Councilperson Hannah Rushing, Gene Hildebrandt, Paul Harris, Sue Craig, Kathleen Hanson

NAYS: None

Whereupon Mayor Gary Sturm declared **RESOLUTION 09-22-08** to be duly passed 5-0.

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CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE HIRING RECEPTIONIST – ALICIA VERA

City Manager, Amanda Glass, shared with council that the Personnel Committee approved hiring Alicia Vera as the Receptionist at Grade 4, Step 1 (\$19.82). Alicia Vera's start date was August 31, 2022.

On motion by Councilperson Paul Harris, seconded by Councilperson Kathleen Hanson, the council approved hiring Alicia Vera as the Receptionist at Grade 4, Step 1.

Upon voice vote it was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE PURCHASE REQUEST – POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department has sold the 2018 Ford Explorer for \$11,275.00 through MinnBid. Once MinnBid is paid their percentage of the sale price (taken directly from the proceeds), Rochelle Hanson, Police Chief, is requesting to use the proceeds to update police equipment that hasn't been updated in the past 10-20 years. The Police Department is also in need of a new radar and camera for the 2022 Tahoe. Any funds left unspent, would go into the General Fund.

On motion by Councilperson Hannah Rushing, seconded by Councilperson Sue Craig, the council approved the police departments request to update equipment and purchase a new radar and camera.

Upon voice vote it was unanimous.

ACCEPT QUOTE FOR BLACKTOPPING PARKING LOT AT THE NEW CITY HALL – K BUILDING

Amanda Glass, City Manager, is requesting approval to accept Nielsen Blacktopping quote, to blacktop the parking lot at the new City Hall building. The blacktopping quotes received as follows:

| COMPANY | QUOTE |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Nielsen Blacktopping | \$27,350.00 \$21.04/sq ft |
| WW Blacktopping | \$29,000.00 \$22.32/sq ft |
| M & R Paving | \$34,402.00 \$27.89/sq ft |

On motion by Councilperson Paul Harris, seconded by Councilperson Sue Craig the council accepted the quote from Nielsen Blacktopping in the amount of \$27,350.00.

Upon voice vote it was unanimous.

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BACKYARD CHICKEN DISCUSSION

City Manager, Amanda Glass, discussed with council that the August 16, 2022 City Council Meeting, Tessa Hall requested the city council reconsider its ordinance related to backyard chickens. Tessa Hall approached the city council and presented numerous benefits to allowing backyard chickens within city limits. The city council directed staff to conduct research on this matter.

Amanda did some research and reported that cities across Minnesota are split on this topic. There are cities that allow backyard chickens and equally cities that do not allow for backyard chickens.

Some concerns to consider are that regulations cannot address all the issues with sanitation, vaccination, or disease control of backyard chickens. There could be an increased exposure to attracting wildlife and/or predators, along with controlling the excessive flies and disposal of fecal matter and odor. There are limited resources to enforce and could have increased public nuisance complaints.

If considered, the city should look at the permitting process to follow our special use permitting process, along with limiting the number of chickens allowed related to their property size, limiting the number of backyard chicken permits allowed within city limits, gaining neighbor consent and having alternative way for permit holders to have backyard chickens if neighbors oppose. The city needs to implement shelter requirements, as well as an inspection process.

Council members each shared their views/position on backyard chickens with Councilpersons Sue Craig & Gene Hildebrandt being in favor of backyard chickens, Councilpersons Paul Harris & Kathleen Hanson not in favor of backyard chickens and Councilperson Hannah Rushing being undecided. Council instructed Amanda Glass to obtain additional information from other cities and to bring back to Council in 60 days.

On motion by Councilperson Hannah Rushing, seconded by Councilperson Gene Hildebrandt, the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Kristin Hurley
City Clerk Treasurer