

HECTOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, December 14, 2020
6:00 pm.
Via Zoom
MINUTES

The meeting called to order at 6:01 pm by Mayor Weikle, followed by a Roll Call to determine a quorum.

Members present: CM Heerdt, CM Hollan, CM Best, and Mayor Weikle

Also present: Administrator Aukrust, Deputy Clerk Beckler, Chief of Police Pierce, Public Utilities/Ambulance Supervisor Rodmyre, PU Worker/Airport Manager Schellenberg, PU Worker Deal, Fire Chief Kramer, Jeremy Boots of Moore Engineering, Brad Falteysek of AEM, Building Inspector Darin Haslip, Mayor-Elect Steven Squibb, CM-Elect Ron Ebbers, and Mol Moronto.

1. Approval of the agenda and any agenda additions

A motion by CM Best, seconded by CM Heerdt and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda.

2. Consent Agenda –

- Approve proposed Minutes from November 12, 2020, Emergency City Council Meeting—Certifying the 2020 General Election results to the Renville County Auditor
- Approve proposed Minutes from November 23, 2020, City Council Meeting
- Approval of Payables and Payroll

A motion by CM Heerdt, seconded by CM Hollan and unanimously carried, to approve the consent agenda.

3. Public Hearings: Truth In Taxation hearing: No residents appeared at the hearing.

4. Petitions, requests, and communications:

1. Brad Falteysek: AEM—

a) 2020 Levy payable in 2021: Increase of \$69,015 from 2020. A \$60,000 transfer for the water and sewer project fund. A bond of \$28,809 is also included. Homestead rate is 1% rate, non-homestead is 1.25%, commercial is 1.5-2%, and agricultural is 1-1.25%. Hector is in the middle for property taxes in the County. Nothing has changed.

b) **RATE STUDY:** AEM is continuing to work on the rate study. We are going to be going to a tier rate/conservation structure. 1st tier is an average amount of gallons used. Most households in Hector will

fit into this tier. This increase will help stabilize the water/sewer fund. AEM will do a presentation on rate study in January.

2. Darin Haslip, Certified Building Inspector: 101 Development Resources
 - a) Presentation: Haslip inspected the pool in September. He stated that the pool house structure is not safe, and the entire pool complex is a complete safety hazard. There are many problems everywhere you look. Nothing is up to code. The building has too many issues to mention, such as electrical, plumbing, and no ADA compliances being met. It's a total liability for the city in this condition.
 - b) Administrator Aukrust stated that there are many moving parts with this, and a city can only take on so much debt per capita. Citizens will need to realize and not be shocked when property taxes go up a substantial amount to keep a pool in the community.

3. Jeremy Boots: Moore Engineering
 - a) Update: Moore went out to measure street patches and are moving ahead for bids.

 - b) Boots asked Kramer if there was anything that Molonau would need to come back to finish at the Fire Hall. Kramer stated, no, there isn't.

4. Resolution 2020-36 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2021 HECTOR MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

A motion by CM Heerdt, seconded by CM Best and unanimously carried, to adopt the 2021 budget.

5. Resolution 2020-37 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FINAL 2020 TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN 2021, FOR THE CITY OF HECTOR, MINNESOTA; AND ORDERING THE LEVY TO BE CERTIFIED:

A motion by CM Best, seconded by CM Hollan and unanimously carried, to adopt the final 2020 tax levy collectible in 2021 and ordering the levy to be certified.

6. Resolution 2020-38 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES INSURANCE TRUST LIABILITY COVERAGE-WAIVER FORM:

A motion by CM Best, seconded by CM Hollan and unanimously carried, to approve the LMC Insurance Trust liability coverage waiver form.

7. Resolution 2020-39 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A DONATION AND DESIGNATING ITS USE-HECTOR FIRE DEPARTMENT:

A motion by CM Best, seconded by CM Heerdt and unanimously carried, to accept a donation and designate its use to the Hector Fire Department fund for Turnout gear.

Mayor Weikle asked Administrator Aukrust why the Fire Department gets to decide what the funds are for when it's a donation? Aukrust stated it's on the donor's check stub that it's a donation to the Hector Fire Department for safety equipment/turnout gear.

5. Reports of officers, boards, and committees:

1. Administration—City Administrator A. Aukrust

- a) COVID-19 Update: County EOC meeting update: The County has started sending out daily numbers, and I have been sharing with Council and Staff, so all are informed. All of Renville County has been hit hard by Covid, and masks have to be worn at all times. We all need to lead by example.
- b) Audit: Our Audit process will start on January 12, 2021. I will meet with Justin McGraw of CDS.
- c) CM Kandt will be resigning effective January 11, 2021. I contacted the LMC to inquire how to handle a vacancy with an election just being held. I was informed that the vacancy should be offered to the next person with the highest vote count in the recent General Election, which would be Douglas Best. They also said that if there is any disagreement on the appointment, the Mayor will fill the vacancy. CM Best was asked if he would be interested in fulfilling CM Kandt's two remaining years on the Council, and he said he would be. The Council will appoint CM Best on January 11, 2021.

2. Public Utilities/Ambulance—Supervisor K. Rodmyre

- a) Public utility update: Beef plant is up and running. MMS is working on getting them where they need to be within our permits. Streets are swept. If the weather gets nicer, I will try to get around and clean the catch basins. Covid did set some things back.
- b) Ambulance update: 134 calls YTD. The ambulance is getting repaired currently.

3. Police Department—Police Chief Z. Pierce

- a) PD update: Ben is working on his own and does check-in with the school since they are doing distance learning. The squad car is getting serviced since it has no heat. Blight issues are still being addressed. The PD is in need of windows and doors; the current ones are rotten. CWL did come to assess them and gave me a quote to replace the doors/windows in the amount of \$6,619. Weikle stated there should be another quote.

4. Fire Department—Fire Chief R. Kramer

- a) FD update: Santa was a hit! We had over 150 kids come out to the FD to see Santa and get a treat bag. No covid in FD! We will do the next round

of measurements tomorrow for turnout gear. The tanker truck is having battery issues. CM Best gave a shout out to Fire Chief Kramer, who has done a great job keeping the FD going.

5. Airport—Airport Manager G. Schellenberg

- a) AP update-Mayor Weikle recommends that the person who is on the Council be the chair for the AAC meetings. Weikle also stated that she doesn't think it is necessary to have an airport advisory committee. Perhaps it would be best if there are two pilots instead of an AAC? Weikle stated that the next Council should discuss and decide.
- b) Schellenberg: Schultz came out on Friday to wire the alarm on the fuel farm. Schellenberg, the gauge is getting installed this week.
- c) UTV-quotes: Polaris Ranger \$25,756.83/JD Gator \$25,250

A motion by CM Best, seconded by CM Hollan and unanimously carried, to use Airport CARES Act Funds to purchase the John Deere Gator for \$25,250.

6. EDA—Working closely with Renville County EDA: Grants available for businesses and non-profits. Another grant is due on New Year's Eve.

7. Unfinished business:

8. Miscellaneous:

a) Residents addressing the Council

1.) Houston Hewitt – Dispute Ticket: No Show

2.) Mol Moronto– Dispute Ticket: Moronto stated they had a few people to maintain the property, and the neighbors called the police department for trespassing. Moronto said two individuals were fined \$4,063.00. CM Best asked if there were blight invoices that were sent. DC Beckler stated the procedure was followed—that the property owner gets a blight notice and they have so many days to maintain the lawn and if not, then the City employees mow/trim and keep track of the hours and equipment used. The property was mowed weekly for the majority of the summer. DC Beckler stated she thought this was about a ticket, not a blight issue. CM Best asked Chief Pierce what he knew about the citation for trespassing. Chief Pierce stated there was NO citation issued this summer and the last time they had any contact with Moronto was back in 2018. DC Beckler noted the amount of \$4,063.00 also includes delinquent utilities for the property, and every month, the utility bill gets returned as undeliverable. Administrator Aukrust interjected that Moronto asked to be on the agenda for a ticket that does not exist and then changed the topic to a Special Assessment charge on his proposed taxes for past due invoices owed by Mr. Moronto to the city. Aukrust said the Public Hearing to discuss Special Assessments was at the October Council meeting. That window has closed as the Resolution had to be certified to the County by the end of November.

3.) CM Heerdt wanted to make a shout out to Community Spirit for decorating the park with lights!

9. Adjournment:

A motion by CM Heerdt, seconded by CM Hollan and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Aukrust
Hector City Administrator