

HECTOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 12, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

MINUTES

The meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Squibb, followed by a Roll Call to determine a quorum.

Member present: CM Best, CM Heerdt, CM Krueger, and Mayor Squibb
CM Ebbers joined at approximately 6:06 p.m.

Also present: City Administrator Aukrust, Deputy Clerk Beckler, Chief Pierce, Airport Manager/PUW Schellenberg, PUW Deal, Fire Chief Kramer, City Attorney Griffin Leitch, Jeremy Boots of Moore Engineering, Karl Larsen of ARI, Michael Morris of MMS Environment, Residents—Amy Hollan, Cindy Christopherson, Joy Skucius, Karyn Lamb, John Zdrazil, and Terry Spinks

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. (CM Ebbers not present at this time)

2. Consent agenda:

1. Approve proposed Minutes from March 8, 2021, City Council Meeting
2. Approval of Payables & Payroll

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

3. Public Hearings: None

4. Petitions, requests, and communications:

1. Karl Larsen: ARI—

- a) On March 24, 2021, ARI conducted a site visit to assess the pool
- b) Preliminary Report: ARI found that both the bathhouse and pump house are not structurally sound and cannot be used
- c) The "pool life cycle is near the end of life."
- d) There is a soil issue around the pool
- e) The pool deck and fence are not up to code
- f) Equipment and pumps are near the end of their life. State Code requires that you have to start from scratch if the facility is near its end of life
- g) The recommendation from ARI is to replace the entire pool complex
- h) ARI will submit the cost estimates in the Final Report as soon as it is completed, which will be in a few weeks

CM Best stated that he thinks it is best to wait until the Council gets the cost estimates to determine where to go from here. Administrator Aukrust inquired about the costs for a shower trailer in early March and recapped with Council the information she sent to them at that time—it runs about \$5,500 per month to rent a trailer plus set up fees, running the water to the trailer, and

the utility costs. CM Ebbers said it is not safe to open with all this information. CM Best, CM Heerdt, CM Krueger & Mayor Squibb all agreed that there is too much liability to open this year. A motion by CM Ebbers, seconded by CM Best, and unanimously carried to close the Hector Municipal Pool for the 2021 swimming season due to the safety and structural deficit findings in ARI's report and the liability that they pose for the city (Fundraising should continue for the pool).

2. Jeremy Boots: Moore Engineering—

- a) Updated Council on 2021 seal-coating and PPL meeting with Mayor, Administrator, staff, and Moore Engineering staff

5. Ordinances and Resolutions:

- RESOLUTION 2021-11 A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE FOLLOWING STREETS FOR THE BLHS AFTER PROM ORGANIZATION:

A motion by CM Best, seconded by CM Krueger, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 2021-11.

- RESOLUTION 2021-12 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE PAYING OF CLAIMS PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF HECTOR:

A motion by CM Heerdt, seconded by CM Ebbers, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 2021-12.

- RESOLUTION 2021-13 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS AND DESIGNATING THEIR USE—Pool Fund:

A motion by CM Best, seconded by CM Ebbers, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 2021-13.

6. Reports of officers, boards, and committees:

1. Administration—City Administrator A. Aukrust

- a) Administrator Aukrust and City Attorney Griffin Leitch: A new pump is needed due to the beef plant coming online and increasing their production; however, they are pushing back on paying for the pump. CA Leitch has a phone conference with the attorney representing US 212 Beef this coming week to discuss the payment of the pump. The pump is only needed when the city is receiving the wastewater from the beef plant. Per our agreement, they are to cover the costs, which is \$17,000. Per Jim Sepp of Moore Engineering, the pump was designed for receiving the beef plant wastewater. If the beef plant can not follow regulations, they will have to do something on their own. MPCA will not allow the city to violate the permits. Administrator Aukrust recommended that Council Table this discussion until after the attorney's meet.
- b) COVID-19 Update: County EOC meeting update: Jill Bruns from Public Health stated that getting everyone vaccinated will help everyone get back to "normal" faster. There are still many individuals/organizations that are not wearing masks when serving food.
- c) Rescue Funds: The city will receive approximately \$120,000 - \$130,000 in Rescue Funds. The city will be able to use the funds until the end of 2024. We're still waiting to learn how the funds can be used, but early reports are that the funds will be used for water and sewer-related costs, Police, Fire,

and Ambulance costs. Per the State, we should know more no later than May 15.

- d) City Wide Cleanup: April 22, 23 & 24—We will need volunteers from the Council to assist staff because there is a charge, and money will need to be collected. A fee schedule is posted. The drop-off location will be held at the wastewater treatment plant because it is a locked gated property.
2. Public Utilities/Ambulance—Mike Morris and Gayle Deal
- a) Public Utility update: Mike Morris—Results from well #3 are operational. Water well #3 will be used as standby but will run now and then—Flushing hydrants early this spring. Our water quality is now one of the best in the State of Minnesota!
 - b) Waste Water: UV lights started in May. Looking to move air compressor due to possible line broken. Will build a cover for air compressor. SCADA system is on Windows 7, and Windows 7 is outdated. The system needs Windows 10. This system will remotely alert staff if there is a problem. The SCADA quote is approximately \$16,000. Administrator Aukrust stated that it might be possible that we can use Rescue Funds on the purchase? We will know more in the middle of May.

A motion by CM Ebbers, seconded by CM Best, and unanimously carried to approve the quote from Automated Systems to purchase the SCADA system. Rescue Funds can be used for the purchase if allowed to do so.

- c) Ambulance update: Gayle Deal: Up another seven calls since last month's council meeting. May 18 for the next upcoming EMT class between surrounding cities.
3. Police Department—Police Chief Z. Pierce
- a) PD update: Hiring process for third Patrol Officer—The position was open for seven weeks. We set up three interviews. One canceled, one no-showed, and we canceled the last one.
 - b) Officer Larsen was activated for riot control in Minneapolis
 - c) The County is short-staffed and will help when they are able
 - d) Chief Pierce talked to Council about a pay scale and raising the part-time pay scale to \$26.00, so the HPD can get some help with coverage

A motion by CM Best to hire Kenneth Peters part-time, pending his background check, seconded by CM Ebbers and unanimously carried to approve the hiring of Kenneth Peters.

CM Krueger motioned to increase the part-time Officer wage to \$26.00 per hour, seconded by CM Heerdt, and unanimously carried to raise the part-time Officer pay rate to \$26.00. CM Best abstained from the vote.

Administrator Aukrust thanked Council for supporting Chief Pierce and thanked Chief Pierce for his hard work and dedication to the Hector Police Department and the community. He has taken on a lot to cover all the shifts needed.

4. Fire Department—Fire Chief R. Kramer
- a) We will apply for two grants
 - b) FD painting contract signed

- c) Should FD start planning Corn Chaff Days? Administrator Aukrust stated that the FD should go ahead and prepare for it and work with Renville Public Health on guidance
- d) Washer/Dryer quotes: The technology board is no longer working on the washer—and they are no longer made. The Council received two quotes for their review. Chief Kramer suggested that the city goes with BDS Laundry for \$6,160 since it is cheaper and the FD has a good working relationship with BDS. We will wait to place the order until the city receives Rescue Funds. Additionally, the Ambulance personnel is washing their own jumpsuits at this time, and it takes two to three cycles before everything is completely dried. We will limp the dryer along until a quote is received and the purchase is approved separately.

A motion by CM Best, seconded by CM Krueger, and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of a washer for the Fire Department and the Hector Ambulance with Rescue Funds when the funds are received.

- 5. Airport—Airport Manager G. Schellenberg
 - a) AP update: Inspection from MnDOT is due in 2021
 - b) Adm. Aukrust—FAA technical meeting will be April 28: The FAA will inform the city and Bollig Engineering what changes are needed in the Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan
 - c) Adm Aukrust: The Hector Municipal Airport received a \$9,000 Rescue Fund, Grant
- 6. EDA—Working closely with Renville County EDA
 - a) SBA loans: Rescue Funds coming for truly small businesses
- 7. Unfinished business—Pool fundraising Jeff Heerd: HCS will hold a silent auction & meat raffle at The Other Place on April 24. 100% of the profits will go to pool fundraisers.
- 8. Miscellaneous: Residents addressing the Council
 - 1. John Zdrazil: Letter was sent to Mayor regarding a portable porta-potty at the cemetery during Memorial Day weekend. The Fredrickson family is doing a family reunion at the cemetery that weekend. They are asking if the City and Cemetery Board is willing to share the cost of the porta-potty. John is offering to pay \$150 for each of the next three years. CM Ebbers asked what happens if someone vandalizes it and what happens if we do for one then need to do for everyone? Dates would be Thursday – Tuesday of Memorial Day weekend.

A Motion by CM Krueger for a porta potty for the 2021 Memorial Day weekend, and to be at the discretion of the city staff, seconded by CM Heerd, Motion carried with CM Ebbers voting No.

- 2. Amy Hollan asked why the pool fundraising money is being used to pay for the \$12,000 ARI report? CM Krueger stated he did not believe there was a Motion at the last meeting about who was paying for the report. Administrator Aukrust said there was no Motion made at the last meeting on who would cover the costs and had there been a Motion, it would have been in the Minutes. Hollan stated that she feels the cost for the ARI report should be split between the pool committee

and the City of Hector. The topic was Tabled, and Council did not decide at this time.

7. Adjournment:

A motion by CM Heerd, seconded by CM Krueger, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.