

Tyler City Council Minutes
6 p.m. Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024
Tyler Fire Hall - 101 E. Lincoln St, Tyler MN

Members present: Joan Jagt, Cricket Raschke, Scott Dressen, Keith Lindeman, Karen Meyers,

Members absent: None

Others present: Terry East - City Administrator, Mark Wilmes –Tyler Tribute, AJ Anderson – Police Chief, Judd Guida – Utilities Supervisor, Glen Petersen – Legal Counsel, Troy Tommeraasen and Al Barber-Fire Department

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Joan Jagt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M Meyers S Raschke Action Pass

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. November 6, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes

- i) Dressen, Raschke and Lindeman did not have copies of Decembers minutes so the December minutes will be approved at the Feb meetings

E. DECLARE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public are allowed 3 minutes each to address the council, no action will be taken by the council at this time.

There were no members of the public on hand for public comment

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. **New City Hall Updates**

East said that Engan and associates was originally hired to design and build City Hall and a new park, after East did some research, he thought it would be beneficial to work with someone who could build the park that had access to grant money such as Bolton and Menk. They have park and rec division that has access to multiple grant funding sites so they will take over facilitating a new park on the old school property.

2. **Approve dates for 2024 Council Meetings**

- a. 1-2-2024
- b. 2-5-2024

- c. 3-4-2024
- d. 4-1-2024 (Local board of appeals hearing @ 4:30 pm, Regular Council Meeting @ 6:00 pm)
- e. 5-6-2024
- f. 6-3-2024
- g. 7-1-2024
- h. 8-5-2024
- i. 9-3-2024
- j. 10-7-2024
- k. 11-4-2024
- l. 12-2-2024 (Truth and Taxation Hearing and regular Council Meeting at 6:00 pm)

Resolution 2024-2 was approved with these dates

M Dressen S Lindeman Action Pass

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Fire Department, and Police Updates

Chief Anderson began the update by telling the council that the fire department and police department received some leftover money from the state to assist in purchasing certain items within a timeframe. The two departments got together and will be purchasing items that will better the two departments when it comes to search and rescue and putting out fires in a safe and efficient manner. Some of the items that will be purchased are: Two new laptops for the police vehicles (current ones are outdated), a used 4-seater ranger that will enable our police and fire department to police large events such as Ableskiver, county Fair, parades etc. without maneuvering a large vehicle through traffic. New body cameras will be purchased for the safety of our officers as well. The Fire department will be purchasing 3-4 new sets of uniforms that can range anywhere from \$3000-\$8000 dollars a pair for new recruits coming on in 2024.

Chief Barber also discussed the fact that Tyler Fire Department is one of the very few Fire Departments that are not paid an hourly rate when they are sent out on Fire Calls. Barber also said that the time and effort that the T.F.D. puts into the department being successful and a well-oiled machine takes hours and hours of volunteer time and the \$10.00 per call/Meeting which totaled about \$7800.00 in 2023 was very little compared to the amount of time and effort that they put into fires and fundraising. Tommeraasen added that anyone who has questions regarding what the TFD does is more than welcome to attend any of their meetings to learn more.

2. City Council Assignments

- i) Every year the Council has assignments that keeps them active in activities to assist the City Administrator with. Below is the list of departments-Personnel, Budget, Investment, Public Safety, Library, Park and Rec, TRED, Airport, Streets/Utility Commission, Fire Department, Fire Relief Board of Trustees, North Housing Project and the City Hall Project. Also note that Fire Chief is appointed by the Fire department and that appointment is approved or denied by the council. Jagt also noted that Meyers and Lindeman are voting members of TRED.

Resolution 2024-4 was approved

M Meyers S Raschke Action Pass

3. Grant through LMC for New City Hall

- i) The League of Minnesota offers Grant writing that assist Cities to maximize their efforts in Grant Writing for Large Projects. Jagt said the cost of LMC writing a Grant for us would be \$5000.00 and the Grant would be to assist in funding the new city hall, however LMC needed a resolution before East could apply.

Resolution 2024-1 was approved

M Dressen S Raschke Action Pass

4. Tiede update on easement and water bill

- a. The previous owner of the Tiede property had an arrangement with the city (due to a street being moved and from that resulting a reduction in his farmland). The agreement was that he pay the water bill but not the monthly service fee for having city water. Tiede believes that this agreement was still in affect when he purchased the property. The council agreed to dismiss the water bill (approx. \$3000), and continue the said above agreement in exchange for an easement in order to complete our sewer project. East will reach out to Tiede and make this offer.
- b. This topic will be tabled until East reaches out to Tiede with a final resolution.

5. COLA increase for 2024 and Merit increase

- a. COLA is Cost of Living Adjustment for employees to adapt to changes in the economy. Social Security COLA is often used as an indicator on how much to give employees. 2024 COLA for social security for 2024 is 3.2%. The city council voted on approving a 3% COLA increase in hourly rates for city employees. Jagt mentioned that 3% COLA was given last year and that the increase set by the Social Security Administration is only a guideline.
- b. Merit increases for employees was discussed as well and the budget committee proposed 2% merit increase for all qualified employees. Guida brought it to the council's attention that for two of his employees they do not qualify for a merit increase because of their longevity. They only receive .10 an hour plus whatever COLA is agreed too. Dressen responded with what is the cap? How much do we pay a city worker before its too much? He also mentioned that a full-time gas worker (in a larger city that only works on gas) vs a gas line employee who drives a garbage truck when there is no gas line work (such as in Tyler) and that it's hard to justify big city gas line worker pay when they do misc. tasks throughout the day. East mentioned that some companies offer Longevity payouts to employees with a certain tenure and will look into it. After much discussion a 2% merit increase was approved, and a .10 increase per hour for 2 city employees was approved as well.

Resolution 2024-5

M Dressen S Raschke Action Pass

6. COUNCIL / STAFF REPORTS

i) Utilities

- i. We had an incident West of town where our city worker was trimming trees and the trees were cut too short. The home owner is very upset and wants reimbursed for over 12 trees and 10 bushes that were cut too short. The council has agreed to pay up to \$5000.00 settlement so we can close this claim out.

M Raschke S Meyers Action Pass

ii) Police

- i. Chief Anderson reported that we have cut back on all but one part time employee and requested that he move forward with an interview for a part time employee. Joan approved moving forward with the interview

iii) City Administrator

- i. Starting Feb East will provide the council with a Monthly update on the projects that he is working on and will also be looking for City Administrator functions across Minnesota where he will those to the council for approval to attend.

J. FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

The council members reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures. There was no discussion.

A motion to approve the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures.

M Dressen S Meyers Action Pass

2. Approve Claims

A motion to approve the Claims was made

M Dressen S Meyers Action Pass

K. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

M Dressen S Lindeman Action Pass

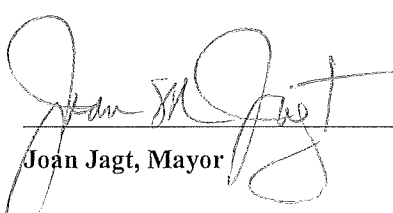
L. Open Closed Meeting

1. 7:50

- i) Discussed Avera land negotiations.

M. Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

M Dressen S Raschke Action Pass



Joan Jagt, Mayor

ATTEST:



Terry East, City Administrator-Clerk