

CITY OF SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 9, 2020**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Saint Peter was conducted in the Governors' Room of the Community Center on March 9, 2020.

A quorum present, Mayor Zieman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmembers Keri Johnson, Ed Johnson, Stephan Grams, Shanon Nowell, Brad DeVos, Emily Bruflat, and Mayor Chuck Zieman. The following officials were present: City Administrator Prafke, City Attorney James Brandt and City Engineer Jeff Domras.

Approval of Agenda – A motion was made by Johnson (E), seconded by Bruflat, to approve the agenda. With all in favor, the motion carried and the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Nowell, seconded by Johnson (K), to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2020 regular City Council meeting. With all in favor, the motion carried and the minutes were approved. A complete copy of the minutes of the February 24, 2020 regular City Council meeting is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Proceedings 19.

Consent Agenda – In motion by Grams, seconded by Johnson (E), Resolution No. 2020-25 entitled "Resolution Approving Consent Agenda" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2020-25 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

2020 Equipment Certificate Purchase: Police Radios – Police Chief Peters requested authorization to purchase replacement portable radios from Alpha Wireless in the amount of \$67,937.45 to be used by the Police Department and funded by the 2020 Equipment Certificate. Peters indicated the current radios were purchased as part of a state-wide switch of emergency departments precipitated by the Allied Radio Matrix For Emergency Response (ARMER) and reported the radios have "aged out" and needing expensive repairs on a more frequent basis. In response to questions by the Council, Peters indicated the warranty on the new radios would provide for total coverage during the warranty period and the radios were guaranteed to be supported by Motorola for at least eight years. In motion by Johnson (E), seconded by Nowell, Resolution No. 2020-26 entitled "Resolution Authorizing 2020 Equipment Certificate Purchase: Trunked Portable Radios For Police Department", was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2020-26 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

Highway 22 Trail Support Request – City Administrator Prafke presented a resolution of support requested by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for planning and scoping of a multi-modal trail system along Highway 22 that would connect St. Peter and Mankato as part of a larger 175 mile long trail system mandated by the State. Prafke indicated letters of support were being requested of all jurisdictions along the trail route and the State departments were considering construction during the 2024 planned work on Highway 22. Prafke cautioned that submission of the resolution of support did not ensure the trail will be constructed. In motion by Bruflat, seconded by Johnson (K), Resolution No. 2020-27 entitled "Resolution Supporting Exploration, Planning, And Scoping By The Minnesota Department Of Transportation And Minnesota Department of Natural Resources For A Segment Of The Legislatively Mandated Minnesota River State Trail Between Saint Peter And Mankato", was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2020-27 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

Public Works Seasonal Laborer Wage Scale Modification – City Administrator Prafke recommended a modification to the wage scale for Public Works Seasonal Laborer that would start the wage at \$10.25 per hour and provide a \$0.25 per hour increase each year up to 10 years. Prafke indicated the change would allow the City to retain the well-seasoned employees who make up most of these Laborers, many of whom have exceptional experience in this kind of work. Councilmember Johnson (K) questioned what comparative wage data was being used to establish the wage. Prafke indicated he uses local seasonal type positions, but while the wage might be lower than what others pay, the ability to have flexibility in when and how many hours these employees work seems to be more important to them. In motion by Grams, seconded by Johnson (E), Resolution No. 2020-28 entitled "Resolution Modifying Wage Scales

For Public Works Seasonal Employees”, was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2020-28 is contained in the City Administrator’s book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

New Business License Applications – City Administrator Prafke recommended approval of applications for Soft Drink and Tobacco licenses for the new Hy-Vee store. Prafke noted nothing had been found in the background investigation to prohibit issuance of the licenses. In motion by Johnson (E), seconded by Nowell, Resolution No. 2020-29 entitled “Resolution Approving New Business Licenses”, was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2020-29 is contained in the City Administrator’s book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

Reports

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Zieman proclaimed March 29, 2020 as “Vietnam Veteran’s Day” and encouraged residents to attend the ceremony that day at the High School auditorium.

APPA Legislative Rally – City Administrator Prafke and Councilmember Bruflat reported on their attendance at the American Public Power Association Legislative Rally held in Washington, D.C.

Superintendent Recruitment – City Administrator Prafke reported the interview process for the new School District #508 Superintendent was underway and they were down to three finalists that would be in St. Peter for tours and further interviews the week of March 16th.

St. Patrick’s Day Parade – City Administrator Prafke reported several Councilmembers would participate in the St. Patrick’s Day parade.

Census 2020 – City Administrator Prafke reported Census 2020 forms would be mailed the week of March 16th and encouraged all residents to participate including “snowbirds” who might go south for the winter who should list St. Peter as their home. Prafke also noted special emphasis is being placed on counting immigrants and young children.

City Administrator Prafke reminded Councilmembers of the welcome reception for new River’s Edge Hospital CEO Joseph Stratton on March 12th from 4-6 p.m. There being no further business, a motion was made by Johnson (E), seconded by Bruflat, to adjourn. With all in favor, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Charles Zieman
Mayor

ATTEST:

Todd Prafke
City Administrator