

**CITY OF RANIER
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15, 2020 @ 6:30 pm**

Mayor Dennis Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Council Present: Councilmembers Bob Dunbar, Todd Coulombe, JoAnn Kellner, Ron Wilcox
Absent: Mayor Dennis Wagner
Others present: Liquor Store Manager Jenn Seegert, Public Works Manager Nick Sears, Paul and Marilyn Jones, Ranier Rec Club Berta Wilcox, Tammy Toratti, Kris and Charles Helleloid, Bud Lessard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- To approve tonight's agenda.

A motion to approve tonight's agenda was made by Councilmember Dunbar; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously.

BUDGET/ADMINISTRATION

- Recommend approval of the minutes of the previous Council Meeting (12/17/2019).

Recommendation by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the previous Regular Council Meeting of 12/17/2019.

- Recommend approval of the minutes of the Special Council Meeting (01/06/2020).

Recommendation by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Special Council Meeting of 01/06/2020.

- Review the Lists of Claims for the month of December, 2019.

Recommendation by Councilmember Dunbar; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to approve the December, 2019 lists of claims in the amounts of:

\$31,601.74 for General
\$20,158.84 for Liquor Store
\$15,978.90 for Water

- Review the Account Balances and Financial Statements as of 12/31/2019.

Recommendation by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to table the reports and discuss the Profit and Loss statements to date for each fund at the next regular council meeting.

- Recommend designation of City Attorney, the firm of Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick.

Recommendation by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to designate the firm of Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick as City Attorney.

- Recommend designation of official city newspaper for publications – The International Falls Journal.

Recommendation by Councilmember Dunbar; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to designate The International Falls Journal as the official city newspaper for publications.

- Recommend designation of Bremer Bank and Border State Bank as city depositories.

Recommendation by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to designate Bremer Bank and Border Bank as the city depositories.

- Recommend selection of Acting Mayor (Pro-Tem).

Recommendation by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to designate Todd Coulombe as Acting Mayor (Pro-Tem).

- Recommend 2020 appointments to committees.

- 1.) **Committee of the Whole** – All Council Members
- 2.) **North Koochiching Sanitary Sewer District** – John Bruggeman, Dennis Wagner-alternate
- 3.) **Koochiching Community Development Association** – Dennis Wagner
- 4.) **Destination Voyageurs National Park** – Sherril Gautreaux
- 5.) **Koochiching Childcare Initiative** – JoAnn Kellner
- 6.) **Convention and Visitors Bureau** – JoAnn Kellner
- 7.) **Voyage Forward** – Sherril Gautreaux
- 8.) **Safe Harbor/Transient Dock Committee** – Todd Coulombe, Ron Wilcox
- 9.) **Koochiching County Hazard Mitigation Committee** – Ron Wilcox, Sherril Gautreaux
- 10.) **Small Cities Assistance Committee** – Todd Coulombe

Recommendation by Councilmember Kellner; seconded by Councilmember Wilcox and carried unanimously to designate members to the above committees.

- LMCIT Liability Waiver

The LMCIT allows cities to choose whether to waive the statutory tort limits allowing an individual claimant to recover no more than \$500,000 on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply.

Recommendation by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to not waive the statutory tort limits.

LIQUOR STORE

- Liquor Manager's Report

Liquor Store Manager Jenn Seegert gave her the monthly liquor store report. The Council reviewed the Operating Statement for the month of December, 2019 with a net profit of \$1,184.01 and a year to date profit of \$50,487.92 compared to 2018 with a net loss of (\$1,778.74) a year to date net profit of \$25,074.41.

Councilmember Dunbar commented that the profits have greatly improved over last year. Councilmember Coulombe commented that the council asked Seegert to grab the bull by the horns last year which she did. The Council congratulated her on her success.

Seegert stated that the snowmobile traffic has picked up which has been good for business. Her immediate focus is on the boot hockey tournament for Ice Box Days this weekend. Seegert currently has 6 teams signed up for the tournament at the rink. Councilmember Coulombe asked if having entertainment at the two parties in December was worth it. Seegert stated that she had a band for the Tom and Jerry party and a DJ for the New Year's Eve party and felt they were both worth it. The New Year's Eve party wasn't super well attended being in the middle of the week, but she felt like some sort of entertainment was needed to draw people out. The 2020 New Year's Eve will be on a Friday which should bring better attendance.

Seegert displayed the Minnesota Lottery proceeds to date which were \$891.89.

Recommendation made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to approve the December 2019 Liquor Store Operating Statement.

BUILDINGS, STREETS AND GROUNDS

- Maintenance Report

Public Works Supervisor Nick Sears reported that snow removal is taking up a lot of time. The rink boards are up along with the glass. A new furnace was purchased by the Ranier Rec Club for

the warming house will be installed after the season. Currently, there are no water or sewer issues. Councilmember Dunbar commented that the junction of Pine and Spruce Streets has snow piles that may need to be moved. Councilmember Wilcox inquired about the Jameson Addition alleys and why the contractor is plowing them rather than the county. Sears stated that the county uses a loader in Ranier which has a blade too large to fit down the alleys. Sears stated that the County actually approached him about the contractor plowing the alleys because the County wants to use the loader in Ranier rather than a truck. Wilcox inquired whether the city should invest in a wing plow for alleys? Councilmember Coulombe stated that if the county isn't charging for plowing the alleys then the fees paid to the contractor should be a wash.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ranier Recreation Club gaming manager, Berta Wilcox, reported on upcoming events. The annual skating party with Mickey and Minnie is scheduled for February 9th from 1-3. She stated that the Rec Club is working on getting a rack for the sleds. She reported that the Club purchased a new furnace for the warming house. The Sports Shop sharpened all of the skates and put new laces on them. Tammy Toratti commented that the rink could use adult sized skates if folks want to donate them. The Rec Club purchased new skating trainers and are getting an adult sized trainer built for older kids learning to skate. Volunteers for always needed for the skating party.

OPEN FORUM

Paul Jones stated that he still hasn't seen a diagram of a parking plan for west Main Street. He stated that he believes that it will ruin property values and ruin the essence of Ranier. He stated that Cantilever Distillery got a generous tax abatement and should not have a voice in the planning. He stated that it is his personal opinion that the mayor has a conflict of interest and shouldn't be involved in the parking plan. Councilmember Coulombe stated that the tax abatement plan sets the city up the for future when the Distillery's full taxes will be paid in 15 years. Coulombe stated that the council hasn't yet seen any diagrams and that the planning does not happen over night. Councilmember Dunbar stated that the council should have an open meeting to review the parking plans when they become available.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

THE COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURNED @ 6:52 p.m.