

**CITY OF RANIER
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING
TUESDAY JUNE 9, 2020 @ 6:30 pm**

Council Present: Mayor Dennis Wagner, Councilmembers Todd Coulombe, Bob Dunbar and Ron Wilcox
Absent: Councilmember JoAnn Kellner
Others present: City Administrator Sherril Gautreaux, Liquor Store Manager Jenn Seegert, Public Works Manager Nick Sears, Berta Wilcox Ranier Rec Club, Tammy Toratti, Sue Swendsen, John Bruggeman, June and Pat Fulton, Kris Helleloid, Jennifer Lahmeyer, Paul Kavan, Paul and Marilyn Jones, Aaron Nordrum

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- To approve tonight's agenda.

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

BUDGET/ADMINISTRATION

- Recommend approval of the minutes of the previous Council Meeting (05/19/2020).

Recommendation by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the previous Regular Council Meeting of 05/19/2020.

- Review the Lists of Claims for the month of May, 2020.

Mayor Wagner advised that the claim for gravel should be coded to the CR 130 fund.

Recommendation by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Wilcox and carried unanimously to approve the May, 2020 lists of claims in the amounts of:

\$25,840.22 for General Fund
\$14,626.82 for Liquor Fund

\$21,534.79 for Water/Sewer Fund

- Review the Account Balances, Disbursement Ledgers and Financial Statements as of 05/30/2020.

Recommendation by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously to table the reports and discuss the account balances, disbursement ledgers and financial statements to date for each fund at the next regular council meeting.

- Conditional Use Permit for 2103 County Road 124

Aaron Nordrum filed a Conditional Use permit application for the property at the above address. The intent is to store and rent out kayaks, paddleboards and canoes from the existing garage on the property. Customers would have the option to pick up rental equipment from the property. Customers would use off street parking only. Mr. Nordrum stated in his application that employees will drop off and pick up equipment. Equipment will also be available for pick up from the property approximately 3-5 days a week.

Mr. Nordrum stated that his property would be used for storing the equipment and that he will drop off the kayaks/paddleboards at the load-in spot for customers. When the customer is finishing using the equipment, he will pick it up and bring it back to his home. Nordrum stated that he wanted to use the Jameson dock, Ranier beach, city beach or Spruce Street Landing for customer load-in. Commission members expressed concerns over using Ranier beach and the Jameson dock and focused on the attributes of Spruce Street Landing, i.e., Spruce Street Landing has a public access for launching and the nearby DNR parking lot specifically for public access. The Commission expressed concerns over using the Ranier beach as a launch site as it is generally crowded with swimmers. In addition, the street parking can get congested and should be used for those swimming at the beach. Concerns over the use of the Jameson dock relate again to lack of ample parking area and that the Jameson dock is a fishing dock. After discussion, the consensus was that using the Spruce Street Landing as a launch area and the DNR lot for parking would be the best fit for operation.

A motion to recommend approval of the Conditional Use Permit with the restriction that equipment drops cannot occur at the Jameson dock or Ranier Beach was carried unanimously by the Planning and Zoning Committee.

A recommendation was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously to approve Conditional Use Permit.

LIQUOR STORE

- **Liquor Manager's Report**

Liquor Store Manager Jenn Seegert gave her monthly liquor store report. The Council reviewed the Liquor Store Operating Statement for the month of May, 2020 with a net loss of (\$3,786.11) (due to closure of the Liquor Store on 03/17/2020 from COVID-19) and a year-to-date net profit of \$5,095.53 compared to May 2019 with a net profit of \$5,126.11 and a 2019 year-to-date net profit of \$14,345.62. The Liquor Store opened up for outside service only on June 1. Seegert reported that pull-tab sales have been doing well and that liquor sales have been great, all things considering. Seegert reported that the Liquor Store will be opening tomorrow, June 10 at 50% capacity in accordance with the Governor's Executive Orders relating to COVID-19. Seegert will also leave the tents up for outdoor seating. She stated that she is thinking about opening up for 4th of July since it is on a Saturday. Councilmember Coulombe thought it's a good idea since people will be looking for something to do now that the 4th of July parade has been cancelled. Seegert is trying to work out ways for events under the current COVID-19 parameters.

Recommendation made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to approve the May 2020 Liquor Store Operating Statement.

BUILDINGS, STREETS AND GROUNDS

- **Maintenance Report**

Public Works Supervisor Nick Sears reported that the guys have been keeping up with lots of spring grass mowing and also working with a lot with Seegert on setting up the liquor store tents, along with regular maintenance. Mayor Wagner stated that some curb stands need to be cut down on CR 130. Sears has ordered the necessary parts to take care of the curb stands. Councilmember Dunbar inquired as to how the new rink boards worked out over the winter? Sears stated for the most part, the boards worked out well but he has a few issues that need to be worked on at the rink yet. Wagner has an idea of some bleachers that could be moved over to the rink. Dunbar noticed that the wooden ramp needs some work. Sears has been working with the Rec Club on fixing the ramp before winter. Berta Wilcox, Ranier Rec Club Representative offered that the Rec Club could help paint the bleachers. Councilmember Coulombe inquired as to whether the park needs more sand? Sears plans on getting a load of sand for the park. Mayor Wagner asked Sears to get a price on repairing sidewalks in front of the Community Building.

OPEN FORUM

Berta Wilcox, Ranier Rec Club representative, stated that she and Seegert will pick a date sometime in July for the raffle to benefit the playground. The club also planned on a day for sprucing up the barrel train. Wilcox inquired as to if the Council has discussed whether Ranier Days will be held this year? Discussion by the Council and audience was had with the consensus to wait and play it by ear and see what the forthcoming Governor's orders relating to COVID-19

will be. Perhaps the date could even be moved further out since the Bass Tourney was cancelled this year due to lack of business sponsorship because of business hardships related to COVID-19.

Pat and June Fulton thanked everyone for putting CR 130 back together. Wagner stated that there are arrangements for getting Klow's driveway put back together. In addition, he will talk with Sjoblom's about reseeding.

Paul Kavan stated that there is a large pothole on CR 20 on the west side of Cantilever. Mayor Wagner stated that the County will work on CR 20 soon. Wagner will ask the County if they can add a couple of bicycle racks to the east Main Street/CR 20 project. He will also ask if it is the intention is to blacktop CR 20 from CR 11. Kavan asked about the status of the parking project for east Main Street/CR 20. Wagner stated that the County should be letting out the project for bid.

Wagner talked to CN about the city ROW on Shelrude Place and asking that their trucks parallel park to keep them off the city ROW. Wagner considered making the traffic one-way in the southerly direction from west Main Street to Shelrude Place to keep the CN truck off of west Main Street.

Paul Jones stated that a one-way on Shelrude Place would turn into a cluster especially if the RR gates are down. In addition, his garage faces the depot. Kris Helleloid offered that if trains are blocking the tracks, cars wouldn't be able to get out of the alley when cars are backed up on CR 20.

John Bruggeman inquired how the city's finances are doing during the COVID-19? Gautreaux stated that the city was on track and the majority of the city's revenue is from property taxes. The County issues the property tax payments to the cities in July. So, it is yet to be determined whether property owners have paid their taxes. Gautreaux stated that in addition, like other cities, Ranier does not depend on sales tax for revenue.

Bruggeman talked about the invasive buckthorn and whether Koochiching County Soil and Water Conservation has grants available to eradicate it. Kavan suggested that a volunteer committee could address it?

Jones asked if it is possible to fix the picnic table at Main Street park? Sears will get a better picnic table to Main Street park.

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

THE COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURNED @7:06 p.m.