

**CITY OF RANIER  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 @ 6:30 pm**

Council Present: Mayor Dennis Wagner, Councilmembers Todd Coulombe and Ron Wilcox, Bob Dunbar, JoAnn Kellner  
Absent: None  
Present on site: City Administrator Sherril Gautreaux, Deputy Clerk Tara Mai, Berta Wilcox, Tammy Toratti, Sue Swendsen, John Bruggeman, Mr. and Ms. Rocky Kucera, Bud Lessard, Deb and Gary Abrams, Jennifer Lahmayer, Charles Helleloid

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- To approve tonight's agenda.

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

**BUDGET/ADMINISTRATION**

- To approve the minutes of the previous Council Meeting (08/18/2020).

**A motion was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the previous Regular Council Meeting of 08/18/2020.**

- To approve payment of the Claims for the month of August, 2020.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to approve the August, 2020 claims in the amounts of:**

\$21,235.30 for General Fund  
\$16,147.68 for Liquor Fund  
\$24,236.83 for Water/Sewer Fund  
\$5,062.50 for CR 130 Fund

- To accept the financial statements, disbursement ledgers and fund balances for General, Liquor and Water/Sewer Funds as of 07/31/2020.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to accept the financial statements and fund balances for General, Liquor and Water/Sewer Funds as of 08/31/2020.**

- To approve Resolution 2020-10 CARES Act Expenditures.

Resolution 2020-10 asks the Council to approve \$2,154.81 in CARES Act expenditures.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 2020-10 CARES Act Expenditures.**

- To approve Resolution 2020-09 Proposed Tax Levy.

Resolution 2020-09 sets the proposed tax levy collectible in 2021 at \$253,000.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 2020-09 Proposed Tax Levy.**

- To set date for Special Meeting for Budget Discussions.

The Special Meeting will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to set the Special Meeting date for Budget discussions for October 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00.**

- To approve additional distribution for CARES Act funds to Koochiching County Small Business Grant Program.

To date, \$286,223.31 has been distributed to small businesses from the CARES Act funds. The city of Ranier contributed \$4,425. The Koochiching County Small Business Grant Program is asking for additional funds from each entity. They are asking each entity to contribute for 9% of their remaining funds of which Ranier has \$18,571. 51 applications have been so far and \$373,870 in grant funds has been distributed to businesses in Koochiching County.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Dunbar; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to approve distribution of 9% of the remaining funds.**

## **LIQUOR STORE**

- To accept the August, 2020 Liquor Store operating statement.

The Council reviewed the Liquor Store Operating Statement for the month of August, 2020 with a net profit of \$1,541.64 while operating at 50% capacity as required at this time due to COVID-19 safety requirements. The year-to-date net profit is \$16,902.13 compared to August 2019 with a net profit of \$9,489.89 and a 2019 year-to-date net profit of \$38,341.95.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Wilcox and carried unanimously to accept the August 2020 Liquor Store Operating Statement.**

## **STREETS, BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

- To approve Scheduling a Meeting with International Falls City Council Regarding Water Rates.

Ranier water customers are being charged at the highest rate from International Falls which created a tier structure as a “demand reduction measure”. In addition, International Falls also charges an “out-of-town” rate at 20% higher to Ranier customers.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Wilcox and carried unanimously to schedule a meeting with International Falls City Council.**

- To post Public Works Supervisor position.

The position will be posted in The Journal on 09/24/2020 with applications due on October 2nd. A Special Meeting could be called to interview applicants as Nick Sears will continue his employment until the end of October or first week of November.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously to post the Public Works Supervisor position.**

## **OPEN FORUM**

Ranier Rec Club representative Berta Wilcox stated that the Ranier Rec Club recommended putting in a sand box at the playground. Wilcox asked for council approval to put the sand box in last week.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Dunbar; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously to allow the Ranier Recreation Club in install a sand box at the Ranier Park playground.**

Mayor Wagner reported that the steering committee met last week to discuss citizen comments. Councilmember Wilcox was in attendance and read through some of the issues including DNR regulations which do not require a DNR permit for the boat launch or dock because of the size. He read excerpts from the zoning ordinance which governs permitted and conditional uses in each zoning district. The boat launch, dock and parking lot would appear to be public services which are conditional uses and would have to go to the land use planning commission. The matter has been referred to the city's attorneys for guidance. The committee looked at places for handicapped parking. Mayor Wagner affirmed that there will be no trees cut down and that the size of the parking lot would likely be reduced.

John Bruggeman asked when was this decision made? And stated that you can't hide activity from the public. He wondered who is parking in the DNR parking lot.

Gary Abrams wondered where they can park for the current boat launch. Is new lot quid pro quo for DNR lot?

Mayor Wagner stated that making improvements is called progress.

Sue Swendsen stated that the City of Ranier would be liable if someone drowns in the river.

Tony Brenning inquired whether the Woods or Sharon Ball were offered a fair amount for their lots. Mayor Wagner affirmed that the city didn't offer any money for their properties.

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED @ 7:00 pm.**

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**Mayor Dennis Wagner**  
**ATTEST:**

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**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Sherril Gautreaux, City Administrator**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**