

**CITY OF RANIER  
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MEETING MINUTES  
RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 13, 2020 @ 6:30 pm**

Council Present: Mayor Dennis Wagner, Councilmembers Todd Coulombe, Bob Dunbar, and JoAnn Kellner  
Absent: Councilmember Ron Wilcox  
Others present: City Administrator Sherril Gautreaux, Deputy Clerk Tara Mai, Liquor Store Manager Jenn Seegert, Public Works Manager Nick Sears, Tammy Toratti, Berta Wilcox, Sue Swendsen, John Bruggeman, Charles Helleloid, June Fulton, Jennifer Lahmayer, Sharon Ball and Kevin, Bud Lessard, Nick Hagan, Jeff McHarg

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

- To approve tonight's agenda.

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

**BUDGET/ADMINISTRATION**

- Recommend approval of the minutes of the previous Council Meeting (09/15/2020).

**Recommendation by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the previous Regular Council Meeting of 09/15/2020.**

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

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

\$18,256.36 for General Fund  
\$18,089.19 for Liquor Fund  
\$24,823.40 for Water/Sewer Fund

- Review the Account Balances, Disbursement Ledgers and Financial Statements as of 09/30/2020.

**A recommendation was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Kellner 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.**

- COVID-19 and CARES Act update.

Noted that cumulative cases of COVID-19 in Koochiching County are 135 compared to last month's committee of the whole meeting of 93 cumulative positive tests. Minnesota as a whole stands at around 97,000 cumulative positive cases. Approximately 2 million tests have been administered to date in Minnesota. As of 10/03/2020, testing rates are at a 3.5% cumulative positive rate for Koochiching County and the Statewide positive rate is 5.2%. Compared to last month's rates for Koochiching County of 4.0% and 5.5% statewide.

The Koochiching County Small Business Relief Fund Program is underway. As of last week, the program granted around \$400,000 to 78 businesses in 4 rounds of funding. The committee is requesting an additional \$80,000 to do a Round 5 of funding. An additional amount will be requested from Ranier.

**A recommendation was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously distribute up to 5% of the remaining CARES Act funds to the Small Business Relief Grant Fund Program.**

- To recommend approval of Resolution 2020-11 CARES Act expenditures

Resolution 2020-11 asks the Council to approve \$5,362.40 of expenditures from the CARES Act funds. \$13,324.87 remain in the CARES Act funds with \$8,171 obligated but not yet used for Emergency Sick Leave in the event that an employee must be out of work for COVID-19 related reasons.

**A recommendation was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 2020-11 CARES Act expenditures.**

- To recommend approval of Resolution 2020-12 Assessing Delinquent Accounts to Property Taxes

**A recommendation was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 2020-12 Assessing Delinquent Accounts to Property Taxes.**

## LIQUOR STORE

- Liquor Manager's Report

The Council reviewed the Liquor Store Operating Statement for the month of September, 2020 with a net profit of \$3,239.34. The year-to-date net profit is \$20,141.47 compared to September 2019 with a net profit of \$4,019.26 and a 2019 year-to-date net profit of \$42,361.21. The Liquor Store is only allowed to have customers at 50% capacity of the building at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions. Seegert stated that the inventory is higher than normal because it is hard to get certain products at this time, therefore she is stocking up on product when it is available. There are no events scheduled because of COVID-19 limits.

**Recommendation made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to approve the September 2020 Liquor Store Operating Statement.**

## BUILDINGS, STREETS AND GROUNDS

- Maintenance Report

Public Works Supervisor Nick Sears reported that a new water service line was dug in today on CR 46. Another one is set to be completed on CR 20 this week. Sears has list of things to complete before he terminates at the end of the month. He acknowledged that there is work to be completed on the ramp at the warming house. Mayor Wagner thanked Sears for his service with the community and wished him luck with his new job.

- To review bids for Snowplowing Services

Two bids for city snowplowing services were received; one from Travis Thompson at \$85 an hour and one from Tru North Properties, LLC at \$75 an hour. Sears shared his thoughts stating that with the new public work supervisor coming on, hiring a firm that doesn't know the route would be challenging for both parties. He stated that Thompson has been plowing the route for years and does it right away in the morning. The other bidder came in at \$10 an hour less but may not be able to do it as fast or as well. The other bidder is also inexperienced. Mayor Wagner stated that the council should take the lower bid and if the firm does not perform, then the council could cancel the contract. There were several comments from the audience in favor of Thompson.

**Recommendation made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to table the motion for selecting a snowplowing contractor.**

- To recommend hiring new Public Works Supervisor

There were 14 applicants for the position, 5 were selected for interviews and 4 were interviewed after a selectee dropped out. Nick Hagen was selected for the position.

**Recommendation made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to hire Nick Hagan as the Public Works Supervisor.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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

**THE COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURNED @6:55 p.m.**