

**CITY OF RANIER
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2020 @ 6:30 pm**

Council Present: Mayor Dennis Wagner, Councilmembers Todd Coulombe, Bob Dunbar, JoAnn Kellner and Ron Wilcox
Absent: None
Others present: City Administrator Sherril Gautreaux, Public Works Manager Nick Hagen, Ranier Recreation Club Berta Wilcox, Sue Swendsen, John Bruggeman, June Fulton, Jennifer Lahmayer, Charles Helleloid

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- To approve tonight's agenda.

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

2020 ELECTION CANVASSING BOARD

- To publicly canvass the 2020 Ranier City Council election results.

Ranier Council publicly canvassed the 2020 Ranier City Council election results as follows for the Mayor and 2 councilmember positions:

Ranier Precinct East:

For Mayor:

Dennis Wagner received 95 votes
Write-in's – 16
Under votes - 12

For 2 Councilmember positions:

June Fulton received 30 votes
Jennifer Lahmayer received 65 votes
Todd T. Coulombe received 73 votes
Jeff McHarg received 53 votes.
Write-in's - 4
Under votes - 22.

Ranier Precinct West:

For Mayor:

Dennis Wagner received 194 votes

Write-in's – 9

Under votes – 19

For 2 Councilmember positions:

June Fulton received 61 votes

Jennifer Lahmayer received 107 votes

Jeff McHarg received 59 votes

Todd T. Coulombe received 136 votes

Write-in's - 2

Under votes - 69.

Total number of registered voters on the voting roster at 7:00 am was: 378.

Total number of voters registered at the polling precincts on Election Day was 32.

Total number of voters at the Polling Precincts was 215.

Total number of absentee voters was 152.

Total number of voters was 367.

Percentage of registered voters who voted = 90%.

BUDGET/ADMINISTRATION

- Recommend approval of the minutes of the previous Council Meeting (10/20/2020).

Recommendation by Councilmember Dunbar; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the previous Regular Council Meeting of 10/20/2020.

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

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

\$19,461.21 for General Fund
\$14,290.84 for Liquor Fund
\$22,209.83 for Water/Sewer Fund

- Review the Account Balances, Disbursement Ledgers and Financial Statements as of 10/31/2020.

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 197 compared to last month's committee of the whole meeting of 135 cumulative positive tests. Minnesota as a whole has recorded around 165,000 cumulative positive cases. Approximately 3 million tests have been administered to date in Minnesota. As of 11/05/2020, testing rates are at a 3.6% cumulative positive rate for Koochiching County and the Statewide positive rate is 5.7%. Compared to last month's rates for Koochiching County of 3.5% and 5.2% statewide.

In efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19, today Governor Walz announced a curfew on bars and restaurants. Starting on Friday, 11/13/2020, bars and restaurants will have to close at 10:00 pm until further notice. There are some interpretative differences regarding whether counter service can be available which will be sorted out before Friday. In addition, beginning on 12/11/2020, no events can be held with more than 25 attendees. This information will be disseminated to those renting the Hall.

The Koochiching County Small Business Relief Fund Program is winding up. Koochiching County chose not to distribute any more funds to the program. A final grant application was received from Decker's Family Care (Ranier Roost). The committee is requesting Ranier commit \$7,658 of its CARES Act funds to fulfill the \$10,000 grant to Decker's Family Care. This would leave \$3,307.11 remaining in the CARES Act Funds.

A recommendation was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously distribute \$7,658 of the remaining CARES Act funds to the Small Business Relief Grant Fund Program.

- To recommend approval of Resolution 2020-13 CARES Act expenditures

Resolution 2020-12 asks the Council to approve \$2,359.76 of expenditures from the CARES Act funds for the period ending October 31, 2020. \$10,965.11 remain in the CARES Act funds prior to the disbursement to the Koochiching Small Business Relief Fund Program. The remaining funds must be expensed by November 15 and any remaining funds must be transferred to Koochiching County by November 20.

The three criteria that must be met in order to use CARES Act funds for projects are:

- 1) Necessary and due to COVID-19
- 2) Not accounted for in the most recent budget; and
- 3) Incurred with the covered period which is March 1 to November 15, 2020.

A recommendation was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Wilcox and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 2020-13 CARES Act expenditures.

- Information regarding process for increase in Council salaries

City Administrator Gautreaux presented information regarding the legal process for increasing Council salaries. Ranier City Ordinance #133 Relating to the Salaries of Mayor and Councilmembers would have to be amended. The Amended Ordinance could not go into effect until after the next municipal election which would be 2022.

LIQUOR STORE

- Liquor Manager's Report

The Council reviewed the Liquor Store Operating Statement for the month of October, 2020 with a net profit of \$1,709.93. The year-to-date net profit is \$21,851.10 compared to October 2019 with a net profit of \$4,103.92 and a 2019 year-to-date net profit of \$46,465.13. The Liquor Store is only allowed to have customers at 50% capacity of the building at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions. There are no special events scheduled because of COVID-19 limits.

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

BUILDINGS, STREETS AND GROUNDS

- Maintenance Report

Public Works Supervisor Nick Hagen reported that during his first two weeks of work he has worked on the rink boards and ramp railings, two new water service hook-ups, coordinating installation of a new heater at the rink and installed the bleachers at the rink. Mayor Wagner asked if the catch basins have been cleaned out. Hagen reported that Ranier will host a MRWA class in the Spring which will include fire hydrant repair. Wagner inquired about hanging Christmas lights at the Hall and Ranier Park. Coulombe asked that the fire hydrant at Ranier Park be well marked for snow mobilers. Mayor Wagner stated that plenty of wood is available at the Ready Mix plant for the rink fire pit. Councilmember Wilcox asked if the City could buy some appropriate tools for around \$500 for the shop as Hagen had to bring his from home to work on the rink.

Recommendation made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Wilcox and carried unanimously to approve an expenditure of up to \$500 for new shop tools.

- To review Engineering Proposal from WSN for Boat Ramp/Parking Lot Project

Joe Sutherland, WSN, submitted an engineering proposal for the boat ramp/parking lot project in the amount of \$29,100. A previous quote of \$62,000 from AMI Engineering was received. 2021 budget can cover the amount of the engineering costs. Mayor Wagner would like to table the motion in order to review the proposal.

Recommendation made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Wilcox and carried unanimously to table the motion the WSN engineering proposal until 11/17/2020.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Ranier Recreation Club

Berta Wilcox reported that during the Rec Club's monthly meeting, the Club made a recommendation to not open the warming house this winter due to COVID-19 restrictions and concerns. The Club made a recommendation to rent a heated port-a-pottie which will cost \$110 a month for 4 months. The Club made a recommendation to build wind blocks around the fire pit for folks to warm up since the warming house will be closed. Public Works Supervisor Nick Hagen offered that he could build the structure at around \$330. Mayor Wagner would like for Hagen to also look on line for a windbreak. CARES Act funds could be used to purchase the materials for the windbreak. The Club will announce the warm house closure on the Facebook and on the radio. Signage will be made for the doors. Wilcox reported that the Muni had a great month with pull-tab sales at over \$6,000. The Club will also cancel the annual Christmas Party because of COVID-19 restrictions, but will help decorate the Hall.

OPEN FORUM

John Bruggeman inquired whether the engineer would be made available for questions and commented that Engineer Joe Sutherland would be good for the project since he is familiar with the area and could come up with a good landscaping plan. Councilmember Coulombe stated that we would want Sutherland to come and explain the proposal.

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

THE COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURNED @ 7:05 p.m.