

**CITY OF RANIER  
CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
TRUTH IN TAXATION MEETING MINUTES  
RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING  
TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2020 @ 6:30 pm**

Council Present: Mayor Dennis Wagner, Councilmembers Todd Coulombe, Bob Dunbar and JoAnn Kellner

Absent: Councilmember Ron Wilcox

Present on site: City Administrator Sherril Gautreaux, Deputy Clerk Tara Mai, Tammy Toratti, Jennifer Lahmayer, Karina Joyce-Ham, Dan Joyce

- To approve Resolution #2020-14 Adopting 2021 General Fund Budget

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

- To approve Resolution #2020-15 Adopting General Tax Levy

The General Tax Levy collectible in 2021 is set at \$253,000. The tax rate decreased by .06%.

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

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

Council Present: Mayor Dennis Wagner, Councilmembers Todd Coulombe, Bob Dunbar and JoAnn Kellner

Absent: Councilmember Ron Wilcox

Present on site: City Administrator Sherril Gautreaux, Deputy Clerk Tara Mai, Tammy Toratti, Jennifer Lahmayer, Charles Helleloid, Bud Lessard

**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 (11/17/2020).

**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 11/17/2020.**

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

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

\$18,859.24 for General Fund  
\$ 8,368.29 for Liquor Fund  
\$23,451.19 for Water/Sewer Fund

- To accept the financial statements, disbursement ledgers and fund balances for General, Liquor and Water/Sewer Funds as of 11/30/2020.

**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 11/30/2020.**

- To amend 2020 budget to delete the Transfer Out of Liquor Fund to General Fund.

The Council determined that revenue losses at the Ranier Municipal Liquor Store due to various constraints and closures in compliance with Executive Orders meant to curb the spread of COVID-19 preclude the transfer out of \$20,000 from the Liquor Fund to the General Fund. A transfer out of the Liquor Fund would leave the fund with inadequate reserves for 2021, especially with the uncertainty due to the pandemic.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to amend the 2020 Budget to delete the Transfer out of the Liquor Fund to the General Fund.**

- To approve 2021 Liquor Licenses for Loony's Brew (Intoxicating Liquor, Sunday Sales, Growler Off-sale), Rainy Lake Grill (Intoxicating Liquor and Sunday Sales), Cantilever Distillery (Cocktail Room and Limited Off-sale) and 2021 Tobacco License for Loony's Brew.

Loony's Brew and Rainy Lake Grill are applying to renew their Intoxicating Liquor and Sunday Sales licenses for 2020. Cantilever Distillery + Hotel is applying to renew its cocktail room and Sunday sales licenses. In addition, Loony's Brew is applying to renew its Brew Pub Off-Sale (Growler) and tobacco retail license.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Dunbar; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to approve the Intoxicating Liquor and Sunday Sales licenses for Loony's Brew and Rainy Lake Grill; Tobacco Sales license and Brew Pub Off-Sale for Loony's Brew; and Cocktail Room and Sunday Sales for Cantilever Distillery + Hotel.**

- To approve Resolution #2020-16 CARES Act Expenditures.

Resolution #2020-16 asks the Council to approve \$8,237.97 of expenditures from the CARES Act funds for the period ending November 15, 2020. The funds had to be expensed by November 15 and any remaining funds had to be transferred to Koochiching County by November 20.

The three criteria that had to 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.

The final CARES Act expense report to Minnesota Office of Management and Budget was submitted. Ranier spent \$15,425 on Small Business Grants including rebate of liquor licenses; \$85 on administrative expenses for CARES Act accounting advice; \$10,008.33 on "Budgeted Personnel and Services Diverted to a Substantially Different Use" for a portion of city administrator wages and councilmember wages for attending COVID Emergency Management Meetings; \$160.31 on "Public Health Expenses" to sanitize the Ranier Municipal Liquor Store following an employee's positive COVID-19 case; \$12,010.18 on unemployment benefits for employees laid off in the spring due to COVID-19 closures; and \$3,919.04 on purchase of PPE, sanitizing supplies, air ionizer equipment for Ranier Community Hall and Ranier Municipal Liquor Store; tent for outdoor seating and rental port-a-potties for outdoor seating at Ranier Municipal Liquor Store; Webex subscription; and wind barriers to go around the fire pit at the Ranier Rink since the warming house will be closed. The unspent funds of \$2,617.14 were distributed to Koochiching County prior to November 20 as required by the CARES Act.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #2020-16 CARES Act Expenditures.**

- To approve The Costin Group consultant contract.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to The Costin Group consultant contract.**

- To set date in January for employee performance appraisals.

The Special Meeting will be held on January, 13, 2021 @ 5:30 pm.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to set the Special Meeting date for Employee Performance Appraisals.**

### **LIQUOR STORE**

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

The Council reviewed the Liquor Store Operating Statement for the month of November, 2020 with a net loss of (\$3,868.01). The year-to-date net profit is \$18,604.29 compared to November 2019 with a net profit of \$2,838.78 and a 2019 year-to-date net profit of \$49,030.91. The losses are substantially due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic which required the bar to close at 10:00 pm and have no counter service beginning on 11/13/2020. Starting on 11/21/2020, the bar was prohibited from serving for on-premises consumption – meaning that only off-sale was allowed.

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

### **STREETS, BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

- To approve Ordinance #157 Point of Sale Certification for Sewer Line Laterals

Under the MPCA violation order for illegal inflow and infiltration, the city of Ranier agreed to implement a point of sale certification for sewer line laterals ordinance. The ordinance requires an inspection of property owner's lateral sewer line prior to sale. The effective date could give time to alert local real estate agencies and plumbers of the ordinance.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Dunbar and carried unanimously to approve Ordinance #157 Point of Sale Certification for Sewer Line Laterals.**

### **OPEN FORUM**

Mayor Wagner thanked Councilmember Bob Dunbar for his service and time on the Council. Councilmember Dunbar stated that a lot was accomplished and hopes that the council keeps working on projects that have begun. Councilmember Dunbar stated that he is willing to help out with things in the future.

Councilmember Coulombe suggested donating \$1000 to The Koochiching Historical Museum.

**A motion to donate \$1,000 to the Koochiching Historical Museum was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Wagner suggested that a replica of a British phone booth be placed in the area as a tourist attraction.

**A motion to purchase a replica of a British phone booth was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously.**

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED @ 6:46 pm**

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

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

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

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