

**CITY OF RANIER
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING
TUESDAY APRIL 13, 2021 @ 6:30 pm**

Mayor Dennis Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Council Present: Mayor Dennis Wagner Councilmembers Todd Coulombe, JoAnn Kellner, Jennifer Lahmayer, Ron Wilcox
Absent: None
Others present: Deputy Clerk Tara Mai, City Administrator Sherril Gautreaux, Liquor Store Manager Jenn Seegert, Public Works Manager Nick Hagen, Tammy Toratti, Jeff McHarg, Charles Helleloid, Terry and Bill Lahmayer, Darcy Sullivan of KCC-TV

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- To approve tonight's agenda.

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

BUDGET/ADMINISTRATION

- Recommend approval of the minutes of the previous Council Meeting (03/16/2021).

Recommendation by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the previous Regular Council Meeting of 03/16/2021.

- Review the Lists of Claims for the month of March, 2021.

Recommendation by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously to approve the March, 2021 lists of claims in the amounts of:

\$18,406.07 for General Fund
\$21,131.64 for Liquor Fund
\$19,029.85 for Water/Sewer Fund
\$93.00 for 2012A GO Improvement Bond Fund

- Review the Account Balances and Financial Statements as of 03/31/021.

Recommendation by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously to table the reports and discuss the Profit and Loss statements to date for each fund at the next regular council meeting.

- American Rescue Plan

Information on the Federal American Rescue Plan in response to Covid-19 was distributed to the Council. Particulars in the amount of funds and specific ways to spend the funds are awaiting guidance from the Department of Treasury.

LIQUOR STORE

- Liquor Manager's Report

Liquor Store Manager Jenn Seegert gave her monthly liquor store report stating that it almost feels like we are getting back to normal. There were some minor maintenance issues that had to be taken care as evidenced in the claims list. Seegert will start trying to do events outside when the weather permits.

The bar is allowed to operate at 75% capacity and must close at 11:00 pm under current Covid-19 restrictions.

The Council reviewed the Operating Statement for the month of March, 2021 with a net profit of \$3,306.14 compared to March 2020 with a net loss of (\$1,545.23) and March 2019 with a net profit of \$5,180.13. The year to date net profit is \$10,487.95 compared to 2020's year to date net profit of \$10,742.92 and 2019's year to date net profit of \$10,419.52.

Recommendation made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to approve the March 2021 Liquor Store Operating Statement.

BUILDINGS, STREETS AND GROUNDS

- Maintenance Report

Public Works Supervisor Nick Hagen reported that they have worked on steaming ditches, removing rotten pilings at Duluth Street dock, cutting cat tails and fire hydrant repair among other items. A comment was made that the ditches in the park are full; Hagen explained that there is no place for the water to escape due to lack of culverting in the area.

WATER AND SEWER

- **Property Owner Water Maintenance Fee Dispute**

The property owner at 3333 County Road 20 is disputing the monthly water maintenance fee which every property owner with access to the water line must pay. The property owner states that he never intends to have any utilities on the property and does not believe that he should have to pay the fee. Council agreed that everyone with access to the water line should have to pay the monthly water maintenance fee.

A recommendation to approve that the monthly maintenance fee be paid by the property owner whether he intends to use the water line or not was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Lahmayer and unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Wagner spoke about International Falls exploring the idea of an ambulance service special taxing district. I 'Falls is running a deficit of over \$300,000 per year; creating a special taxing district would tax all property owners in the service area to supplement the ambulance fund. Wagner suggested that the Local Government Aid paid to International Falls as a regional hub is intended to supplement services such as the ambulance service which is offered outside their city limits. Wagner suggested passing a resolution opposing a special taxing district and would rather see that International Falls try to curb costs.

A recommendation to oppose a special ambulance taxing district was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and unanimously approved.

Mayor Wagner spoke about the wetland credit process in the event that the city wants to fill in the city property on East Main that is designated as a wetland.

Councilmember Wilcox received quotes for floating docks on north side and south side of Duluth Street dock in order to utilize the dock to its potential. No overnight boat parking would be allowed.

Recommendation to move forward with floating docks for the Duluth Street dock was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Lahmayer and carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Terry Lahmayer read a statement thanking each councilmember for representing the city and the city employees for their hard work. She gave a history of their time in Ranier at their lake property on Finstad Lane. She voiced her concerns about the Spruce Street Landing pier project regarding the potential size of the pier, ongoing maintenance and noise. She stated that an EAW

should be completed. She respectfully requested that Council be conscious of these concerns. Mayor Wagner thanked her for her concerns.

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 @ 7:09 p.m.