

**CITY OF RANIER
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TRUTH IN TAXATION SPECIAL MEETING
RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING
TUESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2021 @ 6:30 pm**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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: City Administrator Sherril Gautreaux, Public Works Supervisor Nick Hagen, Liquor Store Manager Jenn Seegert, Berta Wilcox, Mike Heibel, John Bruggeman, Sue Swendsen

- To approve Resolution #2021-12 Adopting Tax Levy for Taxes Collectible in 2022.

The tax levy for taxes collectible in 2022 was set at \$227,900 at a rate of 36.653% compared to taxes collectible in 2021 of \$253,000 at a rate of 36.659%.

A motion to approve Resolution #2021-12 Adopting Tax Levy for Taxes Collectible in 2022 was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously.

**CITY OF RANIER
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING
TUESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2021**

Mayor Dennis Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. A quorum was present.

Council Present: Mayor Dennis Wagner, Councilmembers Todd Coulombe, JoAnn Kellner, Jennifer Lahmayer, Ron Wilcox
Absent: None
Others present: City Administrator Sherril Gautreaux, Public Works Supervisor Nick Hagen, Liquor Store Manager Jenn Seegert, Berta Wilcox, Mike Heibel, John Bruggeman, Sue Swendsen, Paul Jones, Paul Kavan

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- To approve tonight's agenda.

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

BUDGET/ADMINISTRATION

- Recommend approval of the minutes of the previous Council Meeting (11/16/2021).

Recommendation by Councilmember Kellner; seconded by Councilmember Lahmayer and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the previous Regular Council Meeting of 11/16/2021.

- To recommend approval of the lists of claims for the month of November, 2021.

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

\$37,080.21 for General Fund
\$16,839.54 for Liquor Fund
\$22,083.75 for Water/Sewer Fund

- Review the Account Balances and Financial Statements as of 11/30/2021.

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

- To recommend approval of Resolution #2021-11 Adopting 2022 General Fund Budget.

A recommendation to approve Resolution #2021-11 Adopting 2022 General Fund Budget was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Wilcox and carried unanimously.

- To recommend setting up a separate fund for General Road Maintenance and depositing funds from 2021 State Small Cities Assistance Account for Roads.

A recommendation to approve setting up a separate fund for General Road Maintenance and depositing funds of \$10,799 from 2021 State Small Cities Assistance for Roads was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously.

- To recommend approving 2022 Liquor Licenses for Loony's Brew (Intoxicating Liquor, Sunday Sales, Growler Off-Sale), Cantilever Distillery (Cocktail Room and Limited Off-Sale), Rainy Lake Grill (Intoxicating Liquor and Sunday Sales and 2022 Tobacco License of Loony's Brew.

A recommendation to approve 2022 Liquor and Tobacco License for Loony's Brew, Cantilever Distillery and Rainy Lake Grill was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Wilcox and carried unanimously.

- To recommend amending Ordinance #133 Salaries of the Mayor and Councilmembers.

The recommendation is to increase the Mayor's annual salary by \$750 and the councilmembers' annual salaries by \$500.

A recommendation to amend Ordinance #133 Salaries of the Mayor and Councilmembers was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously.

- Review of American Rescue Plan Fund Status.

With guidance from the City's accounting firm, it has been determined that since Ranier has a revenue loss from the base year of 2019, the city can retain the funds and use them for any governmental purpose.

LIQUOR STORE

- **Liquor Manager's Report**

The Council reviewed the Operating Statement for the month of November 2021 with a net profit of \$532.34 compared to November 2020 with a net loss of (\$3,868.01) and November 2020 with a net profit of \$2,838.78. The year to date net profit is \$66,417.76 compared to 2020's year to date net profit of \$17,929.88 and 2019's year to date net profit of \$49,303.91.

Liquor Store Manager Jenn Seegert reported that she started the big buck and big doe contest this year which had a decent turnout. Friday 12/17 is the annual Tom and Jerry and ugly sweater Christmas Party. The Ranier Rec Club is doing a silent auction at the Liquor Store during the event. Seegert has been getting orders for Christmas baskets.

A recommendation was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Lahmayer and carried unanimously to accept the November 2021 Liquor Store Operating Statement.

BUILDINGS, STREETS AND GROUNDS

- **Public Works Report**

Public Works Supervisor Nick Hagen reported that there have been 2 minor water breaks in the last month. The rink is open and in good shape. Councilmember Coulombe advised the caution tape should be put around the fire hydrant in the park so that snowmobilers can avoid it. Hagen reported that opening the warming house is on hold with abundant COVID cases in the area. He will watch the positive case numbers and consider opening it later in the season. Mayor Wagner asked Hagen to begin clearing brush toward the southeast end of the rink to prepare it for additional parking. Hagen is waiting for a lift to become available in order to put Christmas lights on the trees in front of the Community Hall. Hagen is going to prepare the area around Main Street park for better parking and then will reinstall the Main Street park sign.

- **To recommend volunteer for Planning and Zoning Committee.**

The Land Use Planning and Zoning Committee position held by Jeff McHarg is expiring. The notice was published and posted asking for a volunteer to fill the position. Jeff McHarg was the only person who applied for the two-year term.

A recommendation was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to approve Jeff McHarg as a member of the Planning and Zoning Committee for another two-year term.

- To review the increase in East Koochiching Sewer usage rates of 3%. Amending Ordinance.

The 3% increase is applied to the usage rate. This rate increase will be passed onto the sewer customers. The rate increase will be from \$25 to \$25.75 for the first 2000 gallons and from \$2.45 to \$2.53 for each additional 1000 gallons.

A recommendation was made by Councilmember Wilcox; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously to increase the sewer usage rate by 3%.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Wagner spoke about the upcoming CN Bridge replacement project stating that the City has been contacted by CN RR for temporary use of 7 Oaks Park for construction laydown. Mayor Wagner will continue to discuss the issue with CN as the 7 Oaks Park has the boat ramp project funded through the LCCMR grant to be completed in 2022. Mayor Wagner stated that CN also wants to acquire a 20-foot alley northwest of the CN Depot which is currently undeveloped. He stated that other property owners have also been contacted for temporary easements or acquisition. He recommended that the private property owners contact an appraiser and an attorney. He stated that the CBP Rapiscan project will begin physical construction in 2022. Any compensation for damage to streets with heavy equipment?

Berta Wilcox from the Ranier Recreation Club reported that the annual Christmas party with Santa Claus has been cancelled due to the ongoing rise in area COVID cases.

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 @ 7:10 p.m.