

**March 7, 2022**  
**Regular Meeting**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Halstad was duly called and held at the Halstad Telephone Company community room in said city on March 7, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.

Mayor Darin Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

The following council members were present: Mayor Darin Johnson, Brandon Mickelson, Shirley Weeding Donna Scholl, and Mike Trygg. The following council members were absent: None

Others in attendance: Rich Whitcomb, Red River Valley Co-op Power, CEO; Heather Kirby, Norman County Crime Victim Advocate; Wayne Tenneson, Trish Schilling, Jay Delong, Lori Delong, Bruce Lee, Gaylon Larson, Bruce Purrington, Ginny Way and Kelly Gragg-Johnson (via Zoom), State Historic Preservation Office; Terri Trygg, City Clerk; Lucas Spaeth Utilities Superintendent; and HMU Office Coordinator/City Treasurer Alli Tice.

**Additions to Agenda** - Late items received include John and Andrea Nelson-Interest in city owned land, Inquiry from Kristi Melting about the city marketing lots in Halstad, and an update to the title of the organization in item 7.C.3 to State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The agenda will be amended to allow the SHPO attendees to present information to the council after the Public Forum. Mike Trygg moved to approve the agenda with changes, Shirley Weeding seconded, unanimous vote, motion carried.

**Approval of February 7, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.** Motion to approve by Brandon Mickelson, Shirley Weeding seconded, unanimous vote, motion carried.

**Public Forum-**

**Wayne Tenneson** - Mr Tenneson addressed the council as a concerned west side resident who has lived in the community for 35 years. Mr Tenneson reported that the apartment building at 228 2nd Ave W has mold in the basement, feces and urine throughout the building and broken doors and door locks. Mr.Tenneson has called the State of Minnesota Department of Health, and Norman County Public Health, and they said this concern is up to the city council. Mr Tenneson asked the council to begin a condemnation process, and to also address parking issues in that area.

**Rich Whitcomb, CEO of Red River Valley Co-op Power** brought plans and explained the changes that are going to be made to the offices built in 1947 in Halstad. The office area will be remodeled, and the current shop structure and out building will be demolished and rebuilt. They will be moving to the Hendrum School building during this renovation/rebuild. Mayor Johnson suggested the council review the zoning permit that had been submitted, and after review, Mike Trygg moved to approve the zoning permit for Red River Co-op Power Donna Scholl seconded the motion, no discussion. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

**Heather Kirby, Norman County Crime Victim Advocate** addressed the council to explain who she is and the services she provides for the community as an advocate for victims. Ms Kirby provided some 2021 victim numbers for Norman County and the city of Halstad. Of the 73 Halstad cases, cases include each individual family member affected by a crime, as well as domestic violence, sexual assaults, under-age drinking, and drug and alcohol incidents. Kirby helps victims with referrals, with restitution paperwork, victim impact statements, cease and desist letters, orders for protection and other law enforcement actions. She can also help victims with resources such as medical care, food stamps, and make referrals. There are 16 cases already in 2022 in Halstad. Heather Kirby was then going to the Halstad Community Center to have a meeting with the public to introduce herself and explain the services she could provide in our community.

**Lori Delong**-Lori spoke to the council about noise and other bad behavior in the area around 228 2nd Ave W. She feels that the property is hazardous, and she was concerned about law enforcement in that area.

**Bruce Lee**-Mr Lee expressed concerns about crime and drug activity in his neighborhood as well. He has called law enforcement regarding issues he has witnessed, and has noted an increase in traffic in the streets and alley in his neighborhood.

**Bruce Purrington**-Mr Purrington asked if there had been discussions with law enforcement about their contracted time in Halstad. Mike Trygg indicated that a letter had been sent to the Sheriff and the council had not yet received a response.

**Jay Delong**-Mr Delong was concerned about the time it takes for law enforcement to respond to calls. He said he had called because of a death threat, and it took 2 hours for someone to respond. Also, the County Attorney has never gotten back to him about that case.

The council agreed to consider all of the citizen comments and concerns, and to follow up on what actions they may take to remedy these issues.

**State Historic Preservation Office Presentation-**Ginny Way and Kelly Gragg-Johnson presented a powerpoint presentation via Zoom. They explained the process, benefits and other information regarding a designation. They informed the council that there are Legacy Grants that would pay the costs of the Property Evaluation, which is the first step in the evaluation process. They also offered some other projects related to schools for the council to look into. Terri Trygg will contact them to get copies of the presentation and other information to share with the council.

**Consent Agenda**

Motion by Donna Scholl, second by Shirley Weeding to approve the consent agenda as presented. Unanimous vote, motion carried. The following items were on the consent agenda:

- A. Monthly claims for February 2022
- B. General checking bank reconciliation for February 2022

**Utilities Report-** Utility Superintendent Spaeth submitted Superintendent notes that were included in meeting materials.

**Sunrise Apartments-** Expecting that all apartments will be full.

**Wimmer Homes-** Expecting all units to be occupied in March.

**Other-** Flood Projections-we will potentially need to close flood gates, 25% chance of flooding according to recent projections. The pre-flood committee will start meeting if necessary.

Lucas Spaeth will be getting re-bids for seal coating of streets. MNDOT was billed \$5,400.00 for snow removal for January and February.

**Rural Water** - meetings continue, still looking for help in the bonding bill.

Covid monies will be available later this year for laborers. It will be a one-time \$600 payment through NWRDC.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Comprehensive Plan** - Sean Ranum from Northwest Minnesota Regional Development spoke with Terri Trygg and he had no update. He is still expecting a handoff from Cam Fanfulik in March.

**City Sales Tax-** Capital Project Plan- a number of cities have submitted City Sales Tax plans/requests and the council will wait to see if any of those are approved before any other action is taken

**Halstad School and Property -**

**Heating-**The gym and hallways are staying at the set temperatures. Alternate sources will be needed for future heating seasons. Floor tile are cracking in the 1953 addition due to cold. Utilities staff used infrared camera to identify and fix cold spots.

**Gym Access-**All of the accounts with fobs have paid for 2022. No advertising is being done currently since there is no fitness equipment purchased and set up. Painting and flooring in the weight room will get scheduled.

**Other** - The Path Forward Group provided an update that they are working on budgets, grants, and researching options. The council discussed moving forward on attaining a Legacy Grant for a property evaluation for historic preservation/designation. Donna Scholl moved to apply for a Legacy Grant, Darin Johnson seconded, unanimous vote, motion carried.

**New Business:**

**Airborne Custom Spraying-**The council reviewed and approved an engagement letter for Airborne Custom Spraying for 2022

**Back Forty Bar Ownership-**The City has been informed that the bar is being sold to Brock Robertson and Josh Nelson. They have not yet taken ownership, but they are starting the process of applying for liquor licenses and Terri Trygg will work with them to get all of the required documents and to explain the process for granting approval, which according to ordinance, includes a public hearing.

Donna Scholl moved and second by Shirley Weeding to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm, vote unanimous, motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 5:15 pm.

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Terri Trygg /City Clerk