

December 9, 2024

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 December 9, 2024, at 5:15 p.m.

Mayor Darin Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

The following council members were present: Mayor Darin Johnson, Brandon Mickelson, Gaylord Christianson, Peter Jacobson, and Donna Scholl. Absent: None. Others in attendance: Mark Klevgaard, Jeremy Melting, Kristi Melting, Wayne Tenneson, Jay DeLong, Bruce Purrington, Joe Lancello, Lucas Spaeth, Superintendent, and City Clerk/Treasurer Alli Tice.

Additions to Agenda – Snowblower quotes was added to the agenda. Motion to approve agenda by Gaylord Christianson, seconded by Donna Scholl, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Approval of November 18, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve minutes as presented by Brandon Mickelson, seconded by Peter Jacobson, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Public Forum and Correspondence- No comments or correspondence.

Consent Agenda

Peter Jacobson moved to approve the consent agenda, Gaylord Christianson seconded, unanimous vote, motion carried. The following items were on the consent agenda:

- A. Monthly claims for November 2024
- B. General checking bank reconciliation for November 2024
- C. Temporary Liquor Permit for 02/08/2025 – LRC
- D. Temporary Liquor Permit for 04/11/2025 – LRC

Wimmer and Sunrise Report- The boiler is on at the Sunrise Apartments. Darin Johnson completed and passed his boiler license exam. There are currently two vacancies at the Sunrise Apartments.

Utilities Report – We received two snowblower quotes. Josh Poehls started at the utilities on December 2nd. We should be hearing if we received the grid resiliency grant in December. Maintenance work was completed on the generators by Ziegler and the monthly test run will be completed soon. We received the \$30,000 SEARCH grant for wastewater. We received the Small Cities Development Program grant for \$600,000 for water meters and the regional water connection. The utility commission discussed upgrading the electric meters at the same time for an AMR/AMI system.

Unfinished Business:

Blighted and Dangerous Properties- No update at this time.

Landmark- (Halstad School and Property) – Small Business Saturday went well. The FEMA Saferoom grant is a 75%/25% share if approved. We would look into applying for a grant for the 25% share from the Dekko Foundation or Northwest Minnesota Foundation. The electric work will be completed for the heat pump this week.

RFP for Redevelopment – The deadline was extended.

Public Nuisance Ordinance changes – The council discussed the updates that were made. Motion was made by Peter Jacobson, seconded by Donna Scholl, to approve the new public nuisance ordinance, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Public Safety Aid – Halstad Telephone Company is working on a quote for public cameras throughout the city in highly traveled areas.

Cannabis Ordinance – The committee will meet in December to review the restrictions and ordinance language.

Valley United Coop Property – We heard back from a few surveyors, and we are waiting for one more quote for the survey for the old railroad property on the south end of Halstad owned by Valley United Coop.

Sunrise Apartments – Mark Klevgaard was at the meeting to discuss with the council his interest in purchasing the Sunrise Apartments. He had questions about the boiler and when other building updates were completed. He has reviewed the financials provided to him. He would like to build garages on the west side of the building.

Klevgaard offered \$100,000 to purchase the building. The council will review the financials in more detail and discuss the offer. The council tabled this until further review. Clerk Tice will ask Stephen Larson if the property has to be advertised.

Land Purchase Proposal – Lucas Spaeth talked with Furuseth’s about purchasing their property on the northeast side of Halstad for potential use for the regional water project. The Furuseth’s would sell the property for \$8,000 per acre. There is a total of 12 acres the city is interested in purchasing. The city currently pays \$1,900 per year to rent this land from Furuseth’s. The council tabled this until the next meeting so this can be presented to the utilities commission at their next meeting.

New Business:

Liquor License Renewal – The Zone on 75 – The required documents were received from The Zone on 75 for the renewal of their liquor license. Motion was made by Gaylord Christianson to approve the 2025 Liquor License Renewal for The Zone on 75, Donna Scholl seconded, unanimous vote, motion carried.

2025 Cigarette License – Motion was made by Brandon Mickelson to approve the 2025 Cigarette License application for Valley United Coop, seconded by Peter Jacobson, unanimous vote, motion carried.

SCDP Contract Approval – The City of Halstad received the SCDP grant contract agreement from the State of Minnesota DEED. Brandon Mickelson moved to approve the contract agreement, Gaylord Christianson seconded, unanimous vote, motion carried.

At 6:01, motion was made by Donna Scholl, seconded by Peter Jacobson, to suspend the regular meeting and open the Truth in Taxation Hearing, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Truth in Taxation Hearing – At 6:01 pm Mayor Johnson opened the Truth in Taxation Hearing for public comment. Mayor Johnson reviewed the budget as presented. No one from the public had comments or questions.

2025 Budget – The final budget for 2025 was reviewed by the council. Donna Scholl moved to accept the 2025 budget as presented, including the levy amount for 2025 of \$266,204, Gaylord Christianson seconded the motion, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Brandon Mickelson moved to adjourn the Truth in Taxation Hearing at 6:09 pm, seconded by Peter Jacobson, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Mayor Johnson called the regular meeting back to order at 6:09 pm.

Condition of 2nd Street West – Jay DeLong – Jay DeLong spoke to the council about 2nd Street West. DeLong explained that the street has expanded and risen making it difficult for him to use his garage off of 2nd Street West especially when backing in a trailer. The council will look at the street repairs in 2025. No action was taken at this time.

Snowblower Quotes – We received two bids for a snowblower to be used on the new John Deere tractor. The council reviewed the bids. Bruce Purrington questioned the horsepower of the tractor and what horsepower is needed for the snowblower. The council tabled this until further review of the horsepower needed for the snowblower.

Other –

Upcoming events- Halstad Fire Department Mixed Stag 03.01.2025

Gaylord Christianson moved and seconded by Peter Jacobson to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 pm, vote unanimous, motion carried.

The next Regular meeting of the City Council will be on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 5:15 pm.