

## **CITY OF ONAMIA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Regular Meeting Minutes – April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Council members present:** Bill Hill, Randy Anderson, Joe Boeringa, Sandy Nelson. Marge Agnew/Mayor.

**Other staff present:** City Clerk-Treasurer/Michelle Peterson. Public Works/Josh True. Public Works Supervisor/Gene Falconer. Police Chief/ Amy Mattison. Fire Chief/Bruce Peterson

At 6:01pm the regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. A **motion** was made by Joe Boeringa to **approve** the March 13, 2024, regular meeting minutes with a few corrections. Motion was seconded by Bill Hill. AIF, motion carried. A **motion** was made by Joe Boeringa to **approve** the fire township meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Bill Hill. AIF, motion carried.

**Public Hearing:** None.

### **Presentation of Claims:**

- A. Joe Boeringa made a **motion** to approve all the financials presented. Motion was seconded by Marge Agnew. AIF, motion carried.

### **Open Forum – (5-minute limit) \*Requests to be on the agenda.**

- A. Joyce Synko's family was not present at the meeting. The family requested the city to purchase a bench in their mother's honor. The family would then purchase a name plate for the bench with their mother's name, date of birth, and date of death. The family would like the bench to be placed in front of *A Cut Above* on the main street, and for the city to store the bench during the fall and winter season.
  - a. The City Council discussed the request and proposed that the family could fix a bench in Klondike Park and place a name plate on that bench.
- B. Joel Peterson requested that the city draft a letter opposing the roundabout project schedule for 2026 in the intersection of Hwy27 and Hwy169. Joel requested that if the council agreed, he would like a letter to send to Representative Ron Kresha, Senator Nathan Wesenberg, as well as DOT Engineer Luke Wehseler. Joel is the commander at the VETs club located at the corner of Hwy 27 & Hwy 169 and stated the following.
  - a. Joel Peterson stated that the DOT didn't inform the public or ask for any public input about the project in 2020.
  - b. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, the DOT held an open house at the South Harbor Township Hall and most of the public at the meeting were against the project.
  - c. 17 of the 37 crashes were from the gas station driveway, not the VETs club.
  - d. That project would not only negatively affect the VETs Club but also Anderson Garage which is located across the road. Joel Peterson stated that Anderson's Garage is not in favor of the project either.

- e. The roundabout will make the traffic back up even further on the busy weekends, and that the roundabout will increase traffic backup by 3000 hours. The max speed for the roundabout will be 15 miles per hour.
- f. The roundabout will have a tilt that is a hazard.
  - i. Mayor Marge Agnew suggested that the council should sign the petition as individuals and that the city not send a letter.
  - ii. The council discussed the request. Bill Hill made a **motion to approve** sending a carefully worded letter to Ron Kresha, Nathan Wesenberg, and Luke Wehseler. Joe Boeringa seconded. Randy Anderson and Sandy Nelson were in favor. Marge Agnew abstained from the vote.

**Presentation of Audits, Petitions, Bonds, Insurance, Legislative Announcements, Complaints, and Requests.**

- A. The Onamia High School Prom sent the council a letter requesting that they donate for their after-prom party. The council discussed the request, due to there not being enough funds budgeted for donations, the council decided not to donate.

**Reports of Officers, Council Committees, Departments, Commissions. Engineer Water Treatment Plant –**

- a. Joe Boeringa made a **motion to approve** the Contractor’s Application for Payment in the amount of \$553,471.90, Sandy Nelson seconded. AIF, motion carried.
- b. Marge Agnew spoke with Phil Gravel before the meeting who stated that Dave Blommel would like only two council members to attend the construction meetings.

**Police Department:** Police Chief Mattison presented.

- A. There were 48 ICRS recorded in March.
- B. Attended the BCA Missing Persons and Death Investigations conference.
- C. People’s Security got the cameras, panic buttons and door security in place for the Police Department.
- D. NCIC (FBI) audit is underway.
- E. National Prescription Drug take back day is scheduled for April 27, 2024.
- F. Marge Agnew made a **motion to approve** the *Wellness Program Policy*, Sandy Nelson seconded. AIF, motion carried.
- G. A conditional offer was sent to a potential new officer.

**Fire Department:** Fire Chief Bruce Peterson presented.

- A. The department received a grant from Mille Lacs Electric for an EMR suction unit.
- B. Will be doing a mock crash at the high school on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Participated in a mock disaster meeting at the Mille Lacs Health Systems.
- D. Attorney Bob Ruppe found a statute that requires the fire department to have an architect review the fire department building plans before going out to bid. Sandy Nelson made a **motion to approve** Bruce Peterson hiring an architect with a max spending limit of \$20,000, Randy Anderson seconded. AIF, motion carried.

**Maintenance:** Public Works Supervisor Gene Falconer presented.

- A. The section of road in front of city hall needs to be redone. A few different quotes were presented for the work on Birch Street. Sandy Nelson made a **motion to approve** the work to be done using the quote from *Dave's Excavating, Minnesota Paving, and NRC Construction*. Joe Boeringa seconded, AIF, motion carried.
- B. A small portion of the sidewalk was dug up in front of city hall due to a water leak. Marge Agnew made a **motion to approve** using *Willis Concrete* for the sidewalk project, Randy Anderson seconded. AIF, motion carried.
- C. The maintenance department sent an invoice to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the removal of snow piles on Hwy 27. Due to the maintenance department not communicating with the MN DOT before the removal of snow on Hwy 27, the DOT will only be paying a portion of the invoice.

**Water/Sewer:** Public Works Supervisor Gene Falconer presented.

- A. The water treatment plant is moving along nicely.
- B. Applied for a well head grant to seal a well and hoop up in the DWSMA as part of the well head protection grant.
- C. Marge Agnew received a letter from Sara Triber stating that Red Willow Estates would like to start the transfer of the ownership of the water and sewer lines to the city.
  - a. The transfer of the lift station was not included in the letter.

**Planning & Zoning:** Public Works Supervisor Gene Falconer presented.

- A. Terry Devries submitted a building application for Mille Lacs Corp Ventures. For a remodel of the old bank. The project has been approved.
- B. A second building permit was received for a roofing project which was approved.
- C. The Planning Committee is still looking for new members. Marge Agnew will put the request for new members in the quarterly newsletter.

**Parks:**

- A. Joe Boeringa stated that the fence needs to be fixed at the ball field.
- B. Joe Boeringa asked if the public works department plans on having someone take care of the flowers at the park again this year. Josh True had already spoken with Marilyn Blair and she would like to take care of the flowers again this year. Joe Boeringa would like Marilyn Blair to be paid the same as last year, \$375.00 at the beginning of summer and \$375.00 in the fall.

**Unfinished Business:**

- A. The council reviewed an updated clothing and safety shoe policy. The policy states that each employee in public works shall be reimbursed up to \$500.00 for replacement of safety shoes and/or clothing. Bill Hill made a **motion to approve** the *Clothing & Safety Shoe Policy*, Randy Anderson seconded. AIF, motion carried.
- B. The council reviewed the Lactation Break Policy. Marge Agnew made a **motion to approve** the *Lactation Break Policy*, Sandy Nelson seconded. AIF, motion carried.

**New Business:**

- A. Mary Reedy from CLA suggested during the March audit presentation that the city close out TIF Fund 1-5 and TIF Fund 1-6 and transfer those funds to the general fund. Bill Hill made a **motion** to **approve Resolution 04-10-24A, Resolution Regarding Tax Incremental Funds 1-5 & 1-6**. Marge Agnew seconded, AIF, motion carried.
- B. Council reviewed a proposed change to the personnel policy which states that the Police Departments Pay be based off a 14 (fourteen) day pay period. Sandy Nelson made a **motion** to **approve** the changes, Marge Agnew seconded, AIF, motion carried.

**Clerk’s Report: None.**

**Other:**

- A. Crosier Invite was included in the packet. The meeting is focused on the repurposing of some of The Crosier Onamia Commons assets for the benefit of the local community. The date of the meeting is Monday, April 22, from 1:30-3:00.

**Adjourn:** At 7:57PM a **motion** to adjourn was made by Joe Boeringa, seconded by Sandy Nelson. AIF, motion carried.

Dated on this 16, day of April 2024  
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APPROVED on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024.

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Marge Agnew – Mayor

ATTEST:

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Michelle Peterson, MCMC Clerk-Treasurer

CERTIFIED BY VOTE:

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Second:** \_\_\_\_\_

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|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | MARGE AGNEW    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | BILL HILL      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | RANDY ANDERSON | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SANDY NELSON   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | JOE BOERINGA   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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