



**Regular City Council Minutes
Tuesday, August 13th, 2024**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Lead by the Wadena Boy Scouts of America

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the City Council, the meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm with the following members present: Mayor George Deiss, Council Members Mark Lunde, Wade Miller, Mac Nelson, and Dan Sartell.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Action Motion: Approved the consent calendar items.

- A. Claims Register Summary
- B. Monthly Financial Reports
- C. City Council Meeting Minutes:
 - a. July 9, 2024, Regular Meeting

Moved by:	Lunde	Seconded by:	Miller
Roll call vote:	Deiss, Lunde, Miller, Nelson, Sartell		

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2024-25: Approve WDA Mandatory tax levy.

WDA Director Dean Uselman states this has been levied for ten years for economic purposes. Dollars are used for property acquisition, usually offsetting the cost of land purchases, most recently used for costs associated with Pinewood Estates Development.

Moved by:	Miller	Seconded by:	Sartell
Vote in Favor:	Deiss, Lunde, Miller, Nelson, Sartell		

Resolution 2024-26: Approve WDA Discretionary tax levy .

Dean Uselman proposed a 2024 discretionary tax levy rate of .00282% of the estimated market value. This helps WDA increase revenue to purchase and improve properties for economic development.

Moved by:	Lunde	Seconded by:	Nelson
Vote in Favor:	Deiss, Lunde, Miller, Nelson, Sartell		

Resolution 2024-27: Approve HRA tax levy.

Moved by:	Lunde	Seconded by:	Sartell
Vote in favor:	Deiss, Lunde, Miller, Nelson, Sartell		

Action Motion 24-60: Approve request to close Aldrich Ave, September 28 for Oktoberfest.

Moved by:	Nelson	Seconded by:	Miller
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Vote in favor: | Deiss, Lunde, Miller, Nelson, Sartell

Action Motion 24-61: Approve request to close Aldrich Ave, August 24 for Pig & Wing Challenge.

Moved by:	Sartell	Seconded by:	Lunde
Vote in favor:	Deiss, Lunde, Miller, Nelson, Sartell		

Action Motion 24-62: Approve Sunnybrook Park buck antlers to be donated to the MN Deer Hunters Association.

The MN Deer Hunters Association is interested in receiving deer antlers from the deer at Sunnybrook Park, along with the saved antlers Kovar reports are at the public works department saved over the years.

Moved by:	Sartell	Seconded by:	Nelson
Vote in favor:	Deiss, Lunde, Miller, Nelson, Sartell		

Action Motion 24-63: Approve moving forward with an EV DC fast charging corridor project.

Utility Superintendent Evans states this has been discussed for a few years. With the Inflation Reduction Act, a 30% reimbursement of the overall project cost is available that was not available in the past. This is not a grant, but rather a reimbursement. There will be two high speed level 3 DC fast chargers and two AC level 2 chargers. The level 2 chargers are similar to the one at the Depot right now. The Reduction Act provide and install the units with the city crews installing the transformers and conductors.

Councilmember Lunde asks why the charger at the depot would be removed. Dave states that contractually, the city will be responsible for ongoing maintenance costs after 5 years. Councilmember Sartell relayed there are residents concerned with the limited parking at the depot and thinks it's a good idea to remove it.

Evans continues that the overall cost of the project is \$167,000. Financing will consist of Zeff Energy providing a grant for \$69,500 and the Reduction Act reimbursement for \$50,28. Leaving a shortfall of \$47,820. The electric utility will cover the shortfall. However, Missouri River Energy has reimbursement dollars Evans is getting committed towards the shortfall as well.

The project price includes the full cost of installation, labor, truck time, and equipment. The revenue generated would be charging sales, minus 10%. The city receives payout the end of each month.

Moved by:	Lunde	Seconded by:	Miller
Vote in favor:	Deiss, Lunde, Miller, Nelson, Sartell		

Action Motion 24-64: Approve staff to continue looking into future industrial park land along Highway 10 East.

WDA Director Uselman states that the city needs more lots for industrial development. The WDA board has been evaluating various properties. One is a larger parcel north of Leaf River Ag bulk fuel plant on Hwy 10. An offer was made to Irwin Ward but outbid by another buyer. Uselman spoke with the new owner who is willing to sell some of the property to the city once they remove topsoil. This makes the land more beneficial for future development. Dean wanted to bring it to the council to discuss. Councilmember Lunde asks Dean if the entrance would be off 125th, Dean states that the entrance would be off Hwy 10 by the body shop and Leaf River Ag. The timeline for the city to potentially purchase depends on the Hwy 10 project progress. Dean estimates 2-3 years.

Administrator Schroeder added that water and sewer infrastructure would be needed with costs to be considered in future budgeting.

Support from the council is being asked at this time so staff knows whether or not to continue looking into this parcel or if the council wants to consider the old airport land that's also been an idea.

Action Motion 24-64: Approve staff to continue looking at Highway 10 East land north of Leaf River Ag for a future industrial park development.

Moved by:	Miller	Seconded by:	Nelson
Vote in favor:	Deiss, Lunde, Miller, Nelson, Sartell		

Action Motion 24-65: Approve City of Wadena Employee Community Ambassador program.

Volunteers are always needed at various events. More recently, the Chamber of Commerce has become more active with several events. The program allows an employee up to eight (8) hours per calendar year to be used as regular pay, approved by the appropriate department supervisor.

Moved by:	Lunde	Seconded by:	Miller
Vote in favor:	Deiss, Lunde, Miller, Nelson, Sartell		

Action Motion 24-66: Approve to Not Waive Monetary Limits for Property/Casualty Liability Coverage.

City Administrator Schroeder states that LMC requires cities to complete this every year. Wadena historically approves to not waive.

Moved by:	Lunde	Seconded by:	Nelson
Vote in favor:	Deiss, Lunde, Miller, Nelson, Sartell		

Action Motion 24-67: Approve hiring Justin Haak as a full-time police officer, contingent on successful background check and psychological review. Start step, \$30.60 per hour, increased to Step 2 following 12-month probation period and progressive employment.

Chief Plautz received three applications, with all interviewed. The recommended hire is Justin Haak, who has accepted the position contingent on council approval, successful background check, and psychological review.

Moved by:	Sartell	Seconded by:	Miller
Vote in favor:	Deiss, Lunde, Miller, Nelson, Sartell		

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 5:43 PM

Jim Stoneman addressed the council regarding the shrubs and dead grass he spoke to the council about at last month's meeting. He spoke to County Engineer Darin Fellbaum, who told him that land is the cities. He told the council he would take care of the issue himself, now accepting it must belong to him. Councilmember Miller said he would talk to Darin to see if he could get a better explanation.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Department – Dan Kovar

- Not Present

Utilities Department - Superintendent David Evans

- Rate study is ready to go, just need to set up a time when Missouri River can present to the council.
- Updated that he was contacted by Missouri River Energy Service (MRES) regarding an outage agreement MRES has with the City of Henning's electrical department. The agreement has proven not to be sustainable for timely responses to outages. MRES has provided Henning

with options; hire a new crew, purchase their own trucks, etc., or have conversations with local utilities to respond to outages. Wadena is the closest. Evans has no interest in subsidizing or operating Henning's system, this would only be for outage responses such as storm damage, pole repairs, infrastructure issues caused by rodents or animals, etc, and the city would bill Henning for the cost, plus margin for the work. It's estimated to be around 2-3 outages per year. Will require the union contract to be reopened to include language per the agreement.

Wadena Development Authority and Planning & Zoning – Dean Uselman

- Updated that the larger business that was interested in coming to Wadena opted to go to South Dakota instead.
- Is aware of another prospective company that he's working with interested in Wadena.

Police Department – Naomi Plautz

- Walmart has changed their funding process for the annual shop with a hero program, making it harder to receive funds and not worth the hassle. Going forward requests will be made to local organizations and committees for funding to subsidize the program.
- SWAT callout has been updated, utilizing local team members working that day. This has been successful in the past.

Fire Department – Cody Yglesias

- Not Present

Wadena Liquor Store – Tim Booth

- August 1st they started selling legalized THC products. Sales are slow but hoping to pick up.

Maslowski Wellness and Research Center – Lisa Anderson

- Nothing to add

Whitetail Run Golf Course – Kevin Ross

- Not present.

City Administrator – Kim Schroeder

- Nothing to add

COUNCIL REPORTS

Dan Sartell: Asked if no smoking/vaping signs can be put in parks. Will work with Dan Kovar.

Mark Lunde: Nothing to add.

Mac Nelson: Nothing to add.

Wade Miller: Nothing to add.

Mayor George Deiss: Nothing to add.

ADJOURNMENT

Action Motion: Unanimously Adjourned at 5:59pm.

Moved by:	Lunde	Seconded by:	Nelson
Vote in favor:	Deiss, Lunde, Miller, Nelson, Sartell		


George Deiss, Mayor

Attest: 
Kim Schroeder, City Administrator