



**Regular City Council Minutes
Tuesday, September 10th, 2024**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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, and Dan Sartell. Mac Nelson was Absent

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
 - b. August 13, 2024, Regular Meeting
 - c. August 29, 2024, Special Meeting
- D. Resolution 2024-29: Appoint Kim Imdieke to Library Board
- E. Action 24-72: Fire Relief Assn Gambling Application, November 22, 2024

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

NEW BUSINESS

A – Dean Birkeland, City of Wadena 2023 Audit Report

Dean Birkeland from CarlsonSV presented the 2023 City of Wadena Audit Report. He reports that everything went well and working with the new finance director was smooth. He gave the city an unmodified report, which is the best a city can get. Also stating the city completed a GFOA report, resulting in receiving a certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Birkeland summarized the audit with the council and reports the city's general fund is in good standing. There were no difficulties in reporting the audit. The audit adjustments were provided to the finance dept. and the city has in turn posted those in the software. There were no disagreements from management.

B – Eric Simonson, Coalition of Greater MN Cities Visit and Legislative Update

Eric Simonson from the CGMNC came and presented information on the 2024 legislative session and what is to come for future sessions. Eric states the session began with low expectations coming off 2023 when larger bills were passed. Some of the items that rose to the surface early on were, issues with the 2023 tax bill, SRO policy bill, continued work on the cannabis law, and Uber/Lyft drivers. It was a traditional year to look into a capital improvements/bonding bill. The state had a record surplus in 2023, much of which was spent. For 2025, the state is looking at a 3.7-billion-dollar surplus.

Looking ahead on the 2025 legislative session, there could be change in the legislature which would impact the 2025 session.

Ordinance 248: Approve the Mobile Food Units Ordinance.

This was the second reading of Ordinance 248. Councilmember Sartell asked if this would impact some of the local organizations such as rotary and lions. It was confirmed this only applies to vehicle mounted, motorized, or trailer units. Mayor Deiss asked if Schwan's Truck apply. Because Schwan's does not sell ready to eat items, and is requested to stop by residents' homes, they would not need this permit.

The ordinance includes the ability for the city administrator to approve permits on short notice for special circumstances. The ordinance will be published and effective Thursday, September 19th. There have already been inquiries and interest in utilizing this permit, which is good to hear.

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

Action 24-68: Approve the Mobile Food Unit fee, \$200 Annual and \$50 1-Day to 4-Day Temporary license.

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

Action 24-69: Approve request from VFW to close 1 block on 1st Street between Bryant and Colfax & a portion of the municipal parking lot across from VFW for bean bag tournament September 21, 2024.

Councilmember Miller states that this is a county road. Once the city approves it will have to go to the County for additional approval.

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

Action 24-70: Approve hiring Brian Guck as full-time Water Operator/Maintenance worker, contingent on successful background check, Grade 5, Step 1.

Utilities Superintendent Dave Evans reports several applications were received, mostly via indeed. He and the water foreman reviewed and scored the applications with five candidates interviewed. Dave recommends hiring Brian Guck with an effective date of Monday, September 30th.

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

Action 24-71: Approve painting angled parking on Bryant Ave one block East on north side and West of Highway 71.

This will add 17 spaces on each side. There was discussion regarding the bump outs and whether those are beneficial. City Administrator Schroeder explained that MnDOT is requiring bump outs during reconstructs as an ADA accessibility and compliance regulation.

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

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 5:45PM

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Department – Dan Kovar

- Crews started construction on the shelter in Tapley Park. Should be done in the coming days.

Utilities Department - Superintendent David Evans

- He and Administrator Schroeder went to the county commissioners meeting to ask for some utility easements across the fairground's property, he thinks they are willing to do that but looking for a payment.
- On Friday, He and Reed will be going to Henning to meet with MRES and Henning staff to see about providing their on-call outage response services.
- Is hoping to sit down with MnDOT regarding lighting permits on 71. Mayor Deiss stated that he has had discussions with the partners regarding reaching out to local donors to help with those costs.

Authority and Planning & Zoning – Dean Uselman

- Received a commitment of \$150,000 for the childcare center, which brings the project to \$280,000 of \$300,000 needed to get completed.
- Has had two parties reach out about being a provider in the childcare center.
- Received a new inquiry for the old library building.
- Has an interested party in the bakery on main street. Believe the party will move forward with a purchase.
- The new owner of the distillery is planning to open a Vietnamese restaurant by the end of the year. He's planning to remove the large mural inside, looking for a place to put it.
- States there's been no interested candidates to fill three open planning commission vacancies. Wondering if it makes sense to appoint a second council member.

Police Department – Naomi Plautz

- Not Present

Fire Department – Cody Yglesias

- Not Present

Wadena Liquor Store – Tim Booth

- Not Present

Maslowski Wellness and Research Center – Lisa Anderson

- Will be attending the National Independent Health Club Association (NICCA) conference next month.

Whitetail Run Golf Course – Kevin Ross

- Not present.

City Administrator – Kim Schroeder

- Discussions have been held with Golf Course Director Kevin Ross regarding the open green's superintendent position. The position has been open the entire year with no viable candidates or hire. With such a specialized position, there's concern a hire won't be achieved. An idea is to consider contracting out portions of the position to a third party. Ross will question current part-time employee Joe Peluso (former FT greens superintendent) if he would continue as the pesticide license holder.
- Thanked Wade Miller for taking care of the security cameras/systems in the city office building.
- Reported that the City of Wadena is fortunate to have great department heads and employees, making the city a great place to work.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Dan Sartell: Wanted to make some adjustments to the nuisance ordinance for the council to look at. Will be reviewed by Jeff and brought back to council.

Mark Lunde: Would like to see more consistent attendance from department heads at Council Meetings.

Mac Nelson: Not Present

Wade Miller: Had conversations with Police Chief Plautz regarding the side-by-side ordinance. When it was created it limits the use on city streets. Now that they're more equipped as motorized vehicles they wonder if the city is missing out on traffic to businesses by not allowing them to drive in town. Will be looking into this further in coming weeks.

Mayor George Deiss: Asked Dave Evans to update the council on new info regarding funding the EV chargers. Dave went on to report it sounds like the cost of the chargers will be fully offset with grants and programs with a zero net cost to the city.

Additionally, the city will receive funding from Region 5 to complete a comprehensive plan at zero net cost to the city.

The City office will be closed Thursday, September 12th for all [admin] staff training.

ADJOURNMENT

Action Motion: Unanimously Adjourned at 6:19pm.

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



George Deiss, Mayor

Attest: Kim Schroeder
Kim Schroeder, City Administrator