

Pipestone, Minnesota
March 21, 2022

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Pipestone City Council was duly held in the Municipal Building at 6:30 p.m. on the 21st day of March 2022. Mayor Myron Koets called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared. Members present: Myron Koets, Jim Stout, Rodger Smidt, Dan Delaney, and Justin Schroyer. Absent: None. Others present: Kyle Kuphal, Debra Briggs, Dan Thomas, Beck Amen, Cable Access Coordinator Steve Moffitt, City Administrator/City Attorney Jeff Jones and City Clerk Deb Nelson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVE AGENDA – ADDITIONS, CHANGES OR DELETIONS

City Administrator/City Attorney Jones asked to amend the agenda to include under New Business - Item C “National Monument Request”, Item D “Sanitary Sewer Loan Request” and Item E – “Liquor Store Sign Update.”

Motion was made by Stout, seconded by Smidt and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as amended by including under New Business - Item C “National Monument Request”, Item D “Sanitary Sewer Loan Request” and Item E – “Liquor Store Sign Update.”

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Koets stated the Consent Agenda contains the March 7, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes; March 7, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes; Payment of Claims-Listing of Bills; February 2022 Financial Reports; and Informational Reports and asked if there was any discussion regarding these items.

Motion was made by Schroyer, seconded by Smidt and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the March 7, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes; March 7, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes; Payment of Claims-Listing of Bills in the amount of \$271,100.90 for warrants #066260 to #066348 to be issued in payment thereof; February 2022 Financial Reports; and Informational Reports.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

None.

PRESENTATION

Debra Briggs – Smile Warriors 2022

Debra Briggs, Founder of Smile Warriors 2022, distributed her brochure and gave a short presentation regarding her organization. She shared the goal of Smile Warriors 2022 is to help those in the community who face mental health challenges. The program offers a drawing from a list of individuals nominated by community members who need a smile and rewards that are

offered through the program. She is currently acquiring her 501(c)3 status to help with their fundraising efforts. Once the 501(c)3 status is received, Smile Warriors wish to offer the following:

- Mental Health Counseling – Receive a referral to one of Pipestone’s counseling agencies that the organization works with and Smile Warriors will cover the cost of the session.
- Financial Budgeting Classes – Host a free financial budgeting class to help community members with bettering their monthly budgets.
- Fundraisers/Events – Host one fundraiser a year to raise money to keep their doors open and help with counseling sessions. Events will be held periodically.

OLD BUSINESS

2022 Street Project Financing

City Administrator/City Attorney Jones stated he had visited with Rebecca Kurtz of Ehlers & Associates to discuss the proposed bond for financing the 2022 street projects. Jones then shared a summary of the proposed bond as follows:

- Amount of the bond would be \$2,970,000 to do 10th St SW, 4th St SE, Industrial Road and Nichols Addition.
- Estimated interest rate – 2.53%.
- Term – 15 years.
- First payment would be due February 2023 in the amount of \$44,000.00 (partial payment).
- First full payment would be due February 2024 in the amount of \$236,315.00.

Jones stated the city will have a \$46,000.00 annual debt payment come off after 2022 and \$121,000.00 annual debt payment to come off after 2023. He stated no commitment has been made to proceed with the project but if the city council chooses to move forward with the projects, the debt would need to be figured into the Fall levy determination.

NEW BUSINESS

Administration/Approval of Sanitary Sewer Loan Application

City Administrator/City Attorney Jones stated the city has already received two applications for the Sanitary Sewer Loan Repair program and it will continue to pick up. Jones asked if the council wished to still approve each application or authorize staff to process the applications.

Councilmember Delaney stated he felt administrative staff could just take care of approval and encouraged individuals to utilize the program as it will help with the inflow and infiltration issues the city continues to experience.

Motion was made by Smidt, seconded by Stout and unanimously carried to approve staff to administer the Sanitary Sewer Loan program applications.

Comprehensive Plan Update

City Administrator/City Attorney Jones stated as part of the Comprehensive Plan update, the community survey was completed and SRDC and staff have identified goals and actions and groups to address the goals. He shared part of the update also includes a review by the Planning

Commission. Jones is recommending council table this matter until the April 18th council meeting to allow the Planning Commission time to review the update at their April 13th meeting.

Motion was made by Stout, seconded by Smidt and unanimously carried to table this matter until the April 18th council meeting.

National Monument Request

City Administrator/City Attorney Jones informed the council that he had received a letter from Lauren Blacik, Superintendent at the National Monument, requesting council forgive the \$693.20 charge for sewer since the water from the leak did not run through the sewer system.

Discussion then followed regarding if the water could have gone down the drain in the garage and if approving the request would be setting a precedent.

Motion was made by Schroyer and seconded by Stout to approve the request to forgive the \$693.20 sewer charge for the water bill for the National Monument. Upon vote taken; Ayes: Koets, Stout, Smidt, Schroyer; Nays: Delaney, motion carried 4-1.

Sanitary Sewer Loan Request

Reed Heard has submitted his Sanitary Sewer Loan application in the amount of \$4,900.00 to replace the sewer pipe from the house to the main sewer due to roots causing sewer backup in the basement at 102 8th Ave NW.

Motion was made by Smidt, seconded by Delaney and unanimously carried to approve the Sanitary Sewer Loan Request from Reed Heard.

Liquor Store Sign Update

City Administrator/City Attorney Jones stated that during the Work Session on March 7th, he was directed to get a quote to remove the peacepipe from the Liquor Store sign. He received a quote from AP Signs in Marshall in the amount of \$3,225.00. The quote includes removing the panel with the peacepipe on it and replacing with new signage.

Jones then shared that he had talked with Liquor Store Manager Michael Wilson and since the city would be replacing the panel on the sign, maybe the council could consider having a contest to rename the liquor store.

Councilmember Delaney expressed his displeasure with the request stating he felt removing the peacepipe would be creating an issue to solve an issue.

Motion was made by Delaney and seconded by Schroyer to remove the peacepipe signage and do nothing further.

Discussion again followed regarding how the sign is made and why it would be necessary to replace the peacepipe with a different sign.

Motion was made by Delaney and seconded by Smidt to amend the motion to say remove the peacepipe signage and replace it with the word Pipestone.

Councilmember Delaney then requested that staff get other options regarding removal and replacement of the peacepipe sign.

Mayor Koets stated the council needed to either approve or deny the two existing motions on the floor.

Motion was made by Delaney and seconded by Smidt to approve the original motion. Upon vote taken; Ayes: None; Nays: Koets, Stout, Smidt, Delaney, Schroyer, motion denied 0-5.

Motion was made by Delaney and seconded by Schroyer to approve the amended motion. Upon vote taken; Ayes: None; Nays: Koets, Stout, Smidt, Delaney, Schroyer, motion denied 0-5.

Motion was made by Smidt, seconded by Delaney and unanimously carried to table this matter to give staff time to get more options regarding replacement of the sign.

CLOSING COMMENTS

City Administrator/City Attorney Jones shared a Certificate of Commendation from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency recognizing the Pipestone WWTP and its staff for exceptional compliance with its Minnesota Pollution Control Agency NPDES/SDS wastewater permit during the 2021 review period.

Mayor Koets shared that he will be testifying on behalf of SF4153 from the Southwest Minnesota Council of Mayors requesting the establishment of and appropriation for the Southwest Minnesota workforce development scholarship pilot program.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Stout, seconded by Smidt and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Myron D. Koets
Mayor

ATTEST:

Deb Nelson
City Clerk