

LILYDALE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 8, 2024

Present: Mayor John Diehl and Councilmembers Deborah Cornell, Lyle Hanzal, Bill Kleinman and Mary Kleinberg; Mary Tollefson, City Administrator and Kathy Mutch, administrative assistant

Also Present: Attorney Kori Land, LeVander, Gillen & Miller; Captain Wayne Wegener; Jennifer Koehler, Barr Engineering; Ann Bailey, DARTS president; and Julie Seykora

Mayor Diehl called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Mayor Diehl proposed two add-ons: 9c, Resolution and order declaring a local flood emergency and 9d, Salaries of council members. **Moved by Councilmember Hanzal and seconded by Councilmember Kleinman to approve the agenda, as revised. Motion carried 5-0.**

Resolution 2024-10, DARTS 50th Anniversary Proclamation – Ann Bailey, DARTS president, expressed her gratitude for being invited to the meeting and thanked the council for its partnership. DARTS has been in operation since 1974; providing services to older adults, ages 50+. Services include cleaning and yard work, and bus transportation. Bailey noted in Lilydale the use is primarily bus transportation from the senior living building. In recognition of the important work DARTS provides, Mayor Diehl presented the DARTS 50th anniversary proclamation.

Moved by Mayor Diehl and seconded by Councilmember Kleinman to approve Resolution 2024-10, DARTS 50th Anniversary Proclamation. Motion carried 5-0.

June 10, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes – Mayor Diehl offered suggestions and changes to the minutes as noted below:

Public Comments revised to read: Brian Bebel detailed his desire to improve the portion of land before Stonebridge’s call box to better serve as a wildlife habitat and be responsible for the labor and funding.

Open Items revised to read: Mayor Diehl reported that in the legislative session that just ended no capital improvement legislation was approved; accordingly state financial assistance for the grinder project was not funded.

Police Report, first paragraph revised to read: The closure is between Wachtler and Sylvandale Road and was caused by a slope failure.

Police Report, second paragraph revised to read: In response to a citizen’s concern about traffic speed on Lexington Ave., police monitored traffic speed.

Engineer’s Report, fourth paragraph revised to read: Councilmember Hanzal noted a fence along the Big Rivers Regional Trail (BRRT) is missing.

Moved by Councilmember Hanzal and seconded by Councilmember Cornell to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2024 City Council Meeting, as revised. Motion carried 5-0

Public Comments: New Lilydale resident Mark VandenHeuvel, commented he and his wife have served as election judges and expressed interest in working as election judges in Lilydale, if needed.

Building Official Report – Four permits were issued and one closed in the month of June.

Police Report – Captain Wegener reported he has been monitoring the Mississippi River water level and stated the water is receding. The damage estimates at this time will not meet the threshold for FEMA reimbursement.

He stated Emma Thompson is a newly hired officer and she will be in training over the next 14-16 weeks. The Department is also looking to hire two officers within the next six months due to a retirement and a resignation.

Engineer's Report – Jennifer Koehler reported the grinder is up and running. Minger was working on some grading and restoration around the structure at the time her memo was prepared. Recently, Bryan Oakley spoke with Minger and the restoration work has been completed. Koehler requested authorization of the pay application once it is received, reviewed and within the bid amount or less. **Moved by Councilmember Kleinman and seconded by Councilmember Cornell to authorize payment to Minger Construction once the pay application is reviewed and approved by the engineer. Motion carried 5-0.**

The initial quote from Pipe Services to televise the sanitary sewer and storm drop shaft system was \$31,000 more than the previous one. Koehler explained that Pipe Services had changed ownership since the last time this work was done for the city. Previously, Pipe Services cleaned the pipes by flushing the system to clear particles, which had limited impact on removing roots or build-up within the pipe. The new quote is for cleaning the sanitary sewer to meet NASSCO utility standards, which do not typically include flushing. The higher cost was also driven by limited access to water and the need to mobilize pumps to provide pressured jetting for the system along the base of the bluff. Barr reviewed the televising information from the last time the sanitary sewer system was inspected in 2019. At that time, no areas identified by Pipe Services required maintenance, and there was no evidence of significant build-up. Koehler recommends focusing on televising the sanitary sewer at the base of the bluff and the storm drop shaft system to document the pipe condition and identify any potential maintenance needs. **Moved by Councilmember Hanzal and seconded by Councilmember Kleinberg to approve execution of the agreement with Pipe Services to complete the televising of the City of Lilydale Sanitary Sewer System at the Base of the Bluff and for the Storm Drop Shaft System. Motion carried 5-0.**

June Financial Report – City Administrator Tollefson reported the deposits include payment for a false fire alarm and reimbursement of election costs for the Presidential Nomination Primary election. Disbursements were routine and included the second half payment for the 2023 audit. **Moved by Councilmember Hanzal and seconded by Councilmember Kleinberg to approve the June 2024 financial reports as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

City administrator Tollefson stated she is working on the mid-year budget report.

The city has open positions of mayor and two council members. Candidate filing dates are July 30 through August 13.

History Committee – Councilmember Kleinman reported the Finance Committee met before the EDA meeting. The committee agreed a responsible use of the Playwrights Center bond issuance fee would be to fund the work of Vicki Albu, historian, and continue moving Lilydale's history project forward. The committee proposed setting aside \$7,200 of the \$20,250 Playwrights' bond issuance fee to cover Ms. Albu's work through the end of the year. **Moved by Councilmember Kleinman and seconded by Councilmember Hanzal to approve amending the budget to allocate \$7,200 to the History Committee. Motion carried 5-0.**

Resolution 2024-11, Appointing Election Judges – Moved by Mayor Diehl and seconded by Councilmember Kleinman to approve Resolution 2024-11, Appointing Election Judges for the 2024 Primary and General Elections. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2024-12, Counting Write-In Votes – City administrator Tollefson explained Minnesota Statutes allows for a city to adopt a resolution governing the counting of write-in votes. The current write-in vote counting process is time consuming and unnecessary. The proposed resolution requires counting of the write-in votes only if the total number of write-in votes for an office is equal or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes. Tollefson explained that the number of write-ins are shown on the election results tape. Moved by Mayor Diehl and seconded by Councilmember Kleinman to approve Resolution 2024-12, Counting Write-In Votes for Local Elective Office. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2024-13, Declaring a Local Flood Emergency – Dakota County Commissioner Laurie Halverson explained Dakota County staff are working with city staff to have a process in place to respond to any disaster. Her staff are watching the peak and crest of the flood waters in Dakota County. If there is something the county and state can do Commissioner Halverson invited the council to let her know. Moved by Councilmember Hanzal and seconded by Councilmember Kleinman to approve Resolution 2024-13, a Resolution and Order Declaring a Local Flood Emergency. Motion carried 5-0.

City Council Salaries – Councilmember Hanzal pointed out city ordinance 201.06 mandates the city council review salaries no later than the July meeting each year. Mayor Diehl duly noted further investigation is needed and inquiries will be made to similar-sized cities. The issue was tabled to the next meeting.

Council Comments – Councilmember Cornell stated she was troubled by some of the comments made by the public during the EDA hearing.

Mayor’s Report – None.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Tollefson, City Clerk