

MINUTES OF MEETING - DELLWOOD CITY COUNCIL
August 6, 2024

The Meeting was held on August 6, 2024 due to the regular meeting date being in conflict with the Primary General Election Date.

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the City of Dellwood was held at City Hall, 111 Wildwood Road, Willernie, MN on August 6, 2024.

Present: Mayor Mike McGill called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. This meeting was held in-person with non-council members allowed to attend by remote means.

Councilpersons attending in-person were Scott St. Martin, Brady Ramsay and Deb Christopherson. Council member Greg Boosalis was absent.

City Staff members attending in person were City Clerk Joel Holstad, City Planner Nate Sparks, City Treasurer Brian Beich, City Engineer Cara Geheren, City Attorney Richard W. Copeland. City Road Maintenance Contractor Ken Johnson also attended in person.

Mayor McGill asked if anyone was present for public comment: No one was present for public comments.

Agenda: Upon motion by Christopherson, second by St. Martin, the Agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

July Council Minutes. McGill moved, seconded by Ramsay, to approve the Minutes of the July 9, 2024, City Council meeting which were approved unanimously.

ITEM 1: Turnback of Highway 244 Right of Way.

There was a brief discussion regarding the proposed turnback of Highway 244 lying between the intersections of Tamarack Street and Dwinnell Avenue.

Council Members expressed the need to have more information from the Mahtomedi City Engineer, John Sacchi. There are significant questions which remain to be open. This item was tabled to the September Council meeting. Attorney Copeland will contact Mr. Sacchi in that regard.

ITEM 2: Washout of Lateral Support at Shady wood Road and Many Levels Road.

City Engineer Geheren and Road Maintenance Contractor Johnson discussed the erosion issues occurring on and adjacent to these roads, and their proposed resolution, involving construction of curbing, a berm, filling operations and catch basins. Also discussed was the paving proposal submitted by FPI Paving Co.

Cara is recommending that the City accept the FPI proposal, based upon the lack of contractors available for this type of work, and that corrective work needs to begin at once.

Upon motion by McGill, seconded by Ramsay, the Council voted unanimously to accept the FPI proposal at a cost of \$36,950.

Ken Johnson also discussed plans to remedy the surface water diversion problems at 9 Gardner Lane.

ITEM 3: Park Company Invoice for Street Work.

Cara Geheren is recommending payment of this invoice, specifically Change Orders number 2 and 3, and pay request number 7. Payment will start the warranty period.

On motion by McGill, seconded by Ramsay, the Council resolved to pay the invoice in the amount of \$32,020.

ITEM 8: Mayor McGill took this matter out of order to accommodate Cara Gerehen.

It concerns the work proposed to be done in 2024 by way of crack sealing of certain roads. She is recommending that the City approve the proposal submitted by Gopher State, which was the lowest bid of three solicited. Cara is recommending crack sealing and not seal coating. The bid from Gopher State is in the amount of \$17,237.

Ramsay moved to accept the bid of Gopher State Seal Coating. St. Martin seconded, and the Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Ken Johnson said he was available to monitor the work.

Cara gave a further update on the engineering/design report provided to the City by WSB in 2018, Based on current conditions, the estimated cost is now about 4.7 million dollars, including cost of right of way acquisition if needed. Alternative routing was also considered. She will be meeting with Joel Holstad and Greg Boosalis about this matter.

McGill stated that an alternative route on Meadow Lane is possible to avoid the problems associated with a trail on the west side of 244 northerly of Meadow Lane. He stated that in his estimation Echo Street is not feasible due to its steep slope.

McGill stated to stay tuned, more to come.

ITEM 4: Board of Appeals and Equalization.

Mr. Copeland had prepared a Resolution to be submitted to the County Assessor and to the Minnesota Department of Revenue, seeking to allow the City to reinstate its authority to participate in the Appeal and Equalization process for property taxes. That authority had been taken away and transferred to the County Assessor's Office. The reasons given for such action were based upon the alleged failure of the City to have a quorum present at the start of the Local Board meeting on April 9, 2024. The information provided by the Dellwood Council Members present at that meeting, Mr. Copeland feels that the Department of Revenue was not justified to take such action based upon the language in the applicable statute. He will report further on this matter at the September Council meeting. It appears that the failure to have a quorum at the outset was due to an internet issue. Further, that no persons were present who wished to discuss their property tax or property valuations. The person(s) present on behalf of the County also stated that it would not be a problem to begin the meeting without a full quorum as the person absent was attempting to attend remotely and, in fact, joined the meeting within a few minutes from the onset. This matter was unanimously tabled to the September Council meeting, upon motion by McGill, seconded by Ramsay.

ITEM 5: REKOR Discussion.

The correct total of the amount owed to REKOR is \$105,290.52, according to the invoice of August 5, 2024. Council Member Boosalis had earlier confirmed this and was in favor of approving payment.

Upon motion by McGill, seconded by St. Martin, the Council voted unanimously to approve payment of the REKOR invoice dated August 5, 2024.

Item 6: CDBG Agreement. (Home Investment Program)

Nate Sparks stated that this Agreement is basically of benefit to any resident of Dellwood who may qualify. It is a program designed to assist low income individuals in securing funds for housing needs. Dellwood as a City does not qualify for this program, but its residents may be able to qualify, and some have done so in the past. Washington County administers this program on behalf of the City. Copeland and Mayor McGill agree that the City is not required to perform duties under this Agreement. McGill moved to approve the City's continued participation in this program for the next three years. Christopherson seconded the motion. The Council unanimously voted to approve the motion, and to ratify Mayor McGill's authority to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City.

Claims and Receipts List: July 2024.

Upon motion by Ramsay, seconded by St. Martin, the Claims and Receipts List for July 2024 was reviewed and discussed. The Council approved the Claims and Receipts List unanimously as submitted.

Reports of Commissioners.

St. Martin noted that the monthly Sheriff's ICR Reports are showing increasing activity in the City.

McGill noted that there have been increasing issues regarding diseased and downed trees in the City. He stated that a professional arborist, Mike Ryan, has performed treatment which has proved to save or improve the health of a tree, at a price of \$250. The City should perhaps look into hiring him to assess the tree issues in Dellwood. There is one tree which appears to be in danger of falling near 86 Many Levels Road. Ken Johson should look into this.

McGill reported 4 Remodel Permits, one re-roof and one pool permit.

There being no further business, and on motion by Ramsay, seconded by Christopherson the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Holstad, City Clerk/Administrator