



Goodhue City Council Work Meeting Minutes
City Hall ~ September 11, 2024 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Ellen Anderson Buck, Joe Benda, Jason Thuman, Chris Schmit, Patrice O'Reilly

Absent: Todd Keiffer

Guests: Lisa Redepenning, Lori Luhman, Jason Mandelkow, McCrae Olson

Call to Order

Mayor Buck called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approve or amend Agenda

Council Member Schmit motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by O'Reilly, motion carried 5-0-0.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the August 28, 2024, meeting minutes was made by O'Reilly, seconded by Thuman, motion carried 5-0-0.

The City needs to determine what level of involvement they want in the Cannabis Regulation process. Mayor Anderson Buck suggested reading the information so as a council we can make an informed decision when needed. There are a lot of regulations. Cannabis Ordinances are in the process of being created. The Cannabis regulations will be discussed again at the next work meeting on October 9, 2024.

The proposed Goodhue County Sheriff's "Office Space" Lease Agreement was created for leasing space of 192 sq. ft. at \$15 per sq. ft. and use of the garage and conference room in the City of Goodhue. The lease is stated to commence on January 1, 2025, and will renew after 3 years with an increase of \$500 yearly from thereon. No security deposit required. The late payment fee is \$30. Council agreed to these terms on the agreement and the new agreement we be added to the consent agenda to approve to move forward at next meeting.

Discussion of the 2025 Preliminary Levy followed as council reviewed the proposed and actual income and expenses for 2024 and proposed for 2025. Council was reminded that once the Levy is set, you can always choose to go lower but not higher. The rent income and rate increase will help offset some of the deficit. The County Board approved the Sheriff Department administrative costs being passed on to the cities. Building permit fees are split 20/80 with Goodhue County. Council suggested we consider sending residents a notice of increase over several years as we implement the budget for the Sanitary Sewer district. Public Works also has equipment like a dump truck that needs to be replaced. Council is suggesting starting the levy increase at 5%. Public Works Director also reminded staff that the salt shed building lease will be expiring soon. Council agreed unanimously to start levy increase at 5% and will be added to the consent agenda for next meeting since it needs to be approved before the end of September.

Council discussed special assessment warning letters that need to go out for past due accounts. The process is to send the warning of assessment and that it needs to be paid before getting assessed the county administrative fee and getting assessed to their taxes. Council discussed ways to avoid so many accounts going to assessments and letting them get to this level with changing to a monthly late fee being added for past due accounts. Council also suggested adding an additional payment method such as in person/over the phone credit card payment method. A suggestion was also made to sending a late notice when bill has a past due balance. Payments not made on or by November 30th must make payment arrangements at City Hall or past due balance will be assessed to property owner's taxes.

Council talked about the Lobbying Agreement for the Sanitary District/Retention of Winthrop & Weinstine, P.A. and agreed to move forward with the lobbyist contract. The resolution authorizing and approving a 2024-2025 lobbyist contract for the proposed North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District State Capital Request will be added to consent agenda for the next meeting.

Council reviewed the revised Goodhue County Sheriff Office Law Enforcement Services Contract. The small cities held firm about waiting out the contract and the County Commissioners came back with a different amount that was more workable for the cities. Although, the 10% administrative costs were passed on to all the cities involved. The contract will be added to the consent agenda for the next meeting.

The City of Goodhue does pay for EDA services. We need to look at giving them more direction. At the next work meeting council will give Todd Keiffer some time for discussion about how to best manage his efforts.

The Goodhue Education Foundation asked the Council for approval for their Homecoming Raffle. A motion was made by Schmit to approve the Homecoming Raffle, seconded by Benda, Motion carried, 5-0-0.

Staff addressed the Fire Department Bills to the council. Currently, the Fire line item is a huge unknown. A lot of the bills the city was going to pay, were already paid by fire department. The bills that remained unpaid for gear at this time were paid by the City and ensured that both entities are in good standing with the vendors. Bylaws shows the City pays 22% of the operating expense and Workers Compensation.

The Goodhue School ball field fence blew down in the storm. They received bids and are fixing 108 feet of fence that is covered under city's insurance. They would like another service gate in left field, so they bid for both. The school will pay for the gate. The school is hoping to get it all replaced and they will pay for the rest. The City of Goodhue owns the property, but the school runs and maintains it. The dugouts need new roofs. They are replacing all this equipment on the property, yet they don't own it. After some discussion, Council proposed selling the property to the school. They will need a meter put in for water. The school also added the far fence and scoreboards. The City of Goodhue would only need to keep a sliver of land for snow removal and storm drainage in that area. If the City decides to sell the land, a survey will need to be done, and those costs would be on the buyer along with sale of property for \$2. Also discussed the pickle ball courts being sold back to School. Survey may need to be done there also. Staff will move forward with a contract to propose to sell each facility for \$2 to the Goodhue School District.

Public Works Director stated that the Boss 9' snowplow will not work for us for plowing anymore. With having the new loader, we will not use it anymore. Requesting permission to auction off the old Boss 9' snow V-plow truck that is taking up room in storage. There are tools that are needed for the shop and the sale of the truck will offset the cost of those tools. A motion to take the plow to auction with a minimum bid was made by O'Reilly, seconded by Schmit, motion carried 5-0-0.

A resident asked about adding a 10 x10 garden shed to their property. It is stick built on a concrete slab. He lives in 3rd avenue area where the Covenants state in Home Division that they can't have any accessory buildings, but a lot of other residents do. He wants to move it closer to house with proper setback. Mayor Anderson Buck explained that Covenants expire after 10 years and the Zoning would supersede the covenants. Public Works Director will follow up with the resident.

Public Works Director noted the sidewalk in front of Holy Trinity Church and many other areas in town are in poor condition. Public Works Director reports that a company called Safety Step has done sidewalk work in surrounding communities and they do good work. Staff is looking into the marking of sidewalks and if the City is protected from liability when marked. The sewer cleaning was done. The crew did great job. The new lawn mower is coming this week. Pickle ball courts should be done.

City Administrator reported that the commercial garbage overflow billing was not being passed on to the customer and from now on it will be so a letter will be going out to all commercial accounts making them aware that any extra billing will be added to their city bill.

Council asked about the water problem at the school. The City Engineer is working on the report. It looks like it may be a slope issue under the sidewalk. The Engineer will get them a report with a solution to minimize the problem.

Public Works Director also asked for better signage for City Hall and Public Works so delivery drivers can get packages to the correct building.

Approval of Bills

A motion was made to approve the bills by Schmit, seconded by Thuman, motion carried 5-0-0.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:24 p.m. by Council Member Schmit, seconded by Thuman, motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk