



Goodhue, Minnesota 55027

Goodhue City Council Meeting Minutes

6:15 pm, January 24, 2024

In-Person Meeting, First Floor Conference Room, City Hall

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

Council Members Absent: None

Guests: Cailin Richard, McCrae Olson, Derek Weckerling, Martin Dicke, Corey Roper

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### **Call to Order**

6:13 pm

### **Adoption of Agenda**

Unanimous adoption of agenda with a motion from Schmit and a second from O'Reilly (5-0-0) with two amendments to the agenda, creating Other items 7(a) Fire Department Presentation and 7(b) Goodhue All Night Grad Party Donation.

### **Old Business**

There were no Old Business items presented for discussion.

### **Public Comment**

The Public Forum was opened and Martin Dicke presented to Council, sharing his disappointment with the property tax rate. Dicke shared that he recently relocated to Goodhue, stated how much he paid in taxes in 2023 and requested Council speak to representatives in the legislature and advocate for lower property taxes for the community.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

With a motion from Schmit and a second from Benda (5-0-0), Council unanimously approved the Goodhue City Council Meeting Minutes from December 27, 2023.

### **New Business**

Mayor Anderson-Buck provided an update on the **bond payments** to Northland Securities and First Farmers & Merchants Bank, sharing that Northland Securities had been paid \$206,000 and First Farmers would be paid \$99,000 and \$38,000 by February 1, 2024. Mayor Anderson-Buck is working with both entities to determine the remaining balance on each bond.

Mayor Anderson-Buck presented **Resolution 24-1**, requesting Council authorize the sale of the cameras at the car wash to the car wash owners. Mayor Anderson-Buck shared that Goodhue County Sheriff's Department don't utilize them, Red Wing Tech Solutions will work to provide the new owners with password information and the City is not asking for significant payment for the cameras, as they have little value. With a motion from O'Reilly and a second from Schmit (5-0-0), Council unanimously adopted Resolution 24-1 authorizing the sale of surplus property.

There was no **update from City engineer** Reese Sudtelgte. Mayor Anderson-Buck shared that Engineer Suftelgte was working on items for the sanitary district, and will be providing a sanitary district update to Council in the near future.

Mayor Anderson-Buck presented a letter she sent to the **Lion's Club** asking for a donation to pay for a new pump and its installation at the pool. The Lion's Club donated \$7,000 toward the purchase and installation, and Council shared their appreciation for the organization's generosity.

Mayor Anderson-Buck provided an update on the **City Administrator position**, sharing that the City had received three applications, and would hold off on conducting interviews until there was a larger application pool to consider.

Mayor Anderson-Buck provided an update on the **Administrative Assistant position**, sharing the City had received between six and seven applications. Council unanimously agreed to grant Mayor Anderson-Buck and Council member Benda the permission to begin interviewing candidates as the Personnel Committee. Mayor Anderson-Buck informed Council that EDA Coordinator Richard would sit on the interview panel along with one other individual.

Mayor Anderson-Buck provided an update on clerk help, sharing that **Lisa Redepenning**, the Bellechester Clerk, was willing to help the City with year-end reporting. Mayor Anderson-Buck shared there is a significant amount of filing to be done, and corporate firms would be more costly. Mayor Anderson-Buck shared that Redepenning was seeking contractual work, and requested feedback from Council on pay negotiations. There was discussion amongst Council on what hourly pay would be reasonable. Council unanimously agreed for Mayor Anderson-Buck to offer an hourly rate matching what the former City Clerk made and negotiate up to the rate they are paying additional temporary, part-time staff.

Mayor Anderson-Buck and Council member O'Reilly provided an update on **election judges**, sharing they had eleven judges in place for 2024 elections. Mayor Anderson-Buck shared that the Presidential National Primary training had been scheduled, Pat Bein would be the head

election judge and Goodhue Township would assist with filing papers and share the cost with the City.

Mayor Anderson-Buck provided an update on the **tobacco license fee**, sharing the fee has been \$30 in previous years, and was raised to \$50 by Council for 2024. Mayor Anderson-Buck shared that the Country Store had dropped off their payment and picked up their license, and the City is awaiting payment from other local vendors before issuing licenses.

Council member Schmit had no update to provide on the **Gas Commission meeting**. Mayor Anderson-Buck shared that the City had refunded the \$8,000 overcharge to the Gas Commission.

Mayor Anderson-Buck provided a verbal **Public Works report**, sharing that staff has been working on the sanitary district and the sewer pipes were rooted out with the help of Zumbrota. Public Works Director Mandelkow will send a written report to Council with additional updates.

Mayor Anderson-Buck provided a **Mayor update**, sharing that she was working on canceling the contract with Axon, who provided software for police body cameras. City Attorney Vose provided an update on the Albers split, sharing the paperwork was sent to the County for final approval. Mayor Anderson-Buck provided information on a lot sale on Joyce Avenue, showcasing how the purchase price was distributed amongst parties. Council member Benda asked how we ensure the lot sale funds go towards bond payments; Mayor Anderson-Buck answered that going forward, the funds would be earmarked for bonds in an account. Mayor Anderson-Buck shared that the new vacation and sick leave accrual process had been implemented, and staff could now track their time off on their timecards. Mayor Anderson-Buck shared that Pine Island sent staff to Goodhue to assist in sending W2 forms to all employees and a total of 58 forms were sent out. Mayor Anderson-Buck shared that she was having trouble canceling disability insurance for the former City Clerk, but the medical insurance was canceled on the first of the year. Mayor Anderson-Buck shared that their next work meeting was scheduled on the first day of lent, and requested the meeting be moved to February 7, 2024. Mayor Anderson-Buck also requested that during lent, meetings begin at 5:00 pm to allow Council members and the public to attend church services. With a motion from Schmit and a second from O'Reilly (5-0-0), Council approved meeting calendar changes during lent.

### **Other Items**

Fire Chief Weckerling presented to Council, expressing the Fire Department's desire to receive a portion of the \$55,000 public safety aid the City received from the state. Chier Weckerling shared some of the Department's current expenses, including \$22,000 worth of new tools,

onboarding five new fire fighters and extraction equipment. Chief Weckerling shared that turn-out gear for one firefighter costs \$5,000, and all new firefighters need their own set. Chief Weckerling shared that the Department currently fundraises for equipment and applies for grants to help subsidize their costs. There were questions from Council on plans for old gear and equipment; Chief Weckerling shared there is no old gear or equipment that has value and they are seeking new equipment to be in compliance with state and federal equipment requirements. There were questions from Council on revenues from a recent truck sale and the status of newly onboarded firefighters. Chief Weckerling shared that they only received a few thousand dollars for the truck and provided an update on the new firefighters training. There was discussion amongst Council on what fire department activities are currently reimbursed or funded. Chief Weckerling requested Council consider the money the Department gets reimbursed for and funds they have raised when allocating the state aid. Council member O'Reilly requested additional information on what the state aid dollar could be used to fund.

Council member Schmit provided information on the **Goodhue All Night Graduation Party**, sharing they conduct a raffle to raise money and the City has historically donated one family pool pass. The group has approached the City, requesting the same donation for 2024. With a motion from O'Reilly and a second from Benda (5-0-0), Council unanimously agreed to contribute one 2024 family pool pass to the Goodhue All Night Graduation Party raffle.

### **Approval of Bills**

Mayor Anderson-Buck provided an update on the current billing cycle, sharing that many of the bills had been paid due to the schedule of the temporary, part-time staff. There was discussion amongst Council on larger bills such as LMC insurance, bonding and the tractor the City had ordered. There were questions and discussion on the ambulance service bill, the gas commission cell phone and access to systems. With a motion from Schmit and a second from O'Reilly (5-0-0), Council unanimously voted to pay the bills as stated.

Mayor Anderson-Buck shared that the **Public Works written report** was in the back of Council member packets. Mayor Anderson-Buck highlighted that once the City received their new loader, Goodhue County will retrieve the older one.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:09 pm by Schmit and seconded by Benda (5-0-0).

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Respectfully submitted,  
Cailin Richard, EDA Coordinator