

**City of Mountain Lake
Regular City Council Meeting
Mountain Lake City Hall – 930 Third Ave
Monday, March 15, 2021
6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Dean Janzen, Dana Kass, Darla Kruser, Mike Nelson, Andrew Ysker

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: Michael Schulte, City Administrator/Clerk

Others Present: Doug Regehr

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nelson at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Agenda & Consent Agenda

Motion by Kass, seconded by Kruser, to add 2.H Hire Jill Falk as Assistant Utilities Office Manager at Step 1 effective April 5, 2021 to the consent agenda. Motion carried 5 – 0. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Ysker, to approve the consent agenda and agenda as amended. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Bills: Checks #24720 – 24754, 716E – 717E

Payroll: Checks #65896 – 65922

Approve January 11 Tree Commission Minutes

Approve February 8 Lake Commission Minutes

Approved February 9 Library Board Minutes, February Report, & February Expenditures

Approve February 25 Utilities Commission Minutes

Approve March 1 City Council Minutes

Hire Jill Falk as Assistant Utilities Office Manager at Step 1 effective April 5, 2021

Public

No one spoke during this portion of the meeting.

City-Wide Clean-Up Contract with Hometown Sanitation

The current contract with Hometown Sanitation expires this year so Mike Johnson from Hometown Sanitation presented a new contract for 2022-2024. The first Saturday in May has been the preferred date for clean-up and will continue through 2024. The proposal includes

\$150/ton for 2022, \$155/ton for 2023, and \$160/ton for 2024. Cottonwood County Landfill is raising their rates on May 3rd which will affect next year's clean-up costs. The city-wide clean-up, residential and commercial services, and history of the company were discussed. The council expressed Hometown's exceptional service and that there have not been any complaints that the council has heard. Johnson stated that garbage rates for residents in Mountain Lake did not go up in 2020 due to the pandemic. Johnson expressed he is thankful for Mountain Lake taking a chance on him and being one of the first cities to accept their services around 10 years ago. Waste Management's recycling services were discussed. Waste Management was selected by the county to provide recycling services to county residents. The council has received multiple complaints over the years of bins not being picked up, that they are hard to contact over the phone, and that the recycling shed and bins are always full. Hometown Sanitation has provided a quote to the county to perform these services but did not have an overall lower price than Waste Management. Direction was given to the administrator to contact Tom Appel to inform him of the complaints received about Waste Management's services. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Janzen, to approve the contract with Hometown Sanitation to provide city-wide clean-ups for 2022 – 2024. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Fire/Ambulance Hall

The EDA Board meeting was postponed due to the weather today to March 18. Discussion on the lot at Jenny's subdivision is on the agenda and more discussion will be held then. Upon discussing soil borings with the city's engineer, he anticipates the soil on this lot should not have any issues as other buildings have been built around it. However, if USDA financing is pursued, soil borings with certain requirements is a requirement to receive financing through USDA. Soil borings are needed where the building and potential parking will be built. Direction was given to wait to do soil borings until plans are more definitive and if USDA financing will be pursued. The administrator stated next steps would be to meet with the building committee to discuss more specifics of the building and discuss how the committee would like to choose an architect whether it is through a formal process or meeting with a handful of architects who have experience in the area. Councilmember Kruser will provide the administrator emails of the building committee members and a meeting will be scheduled in the future.

Part-Time / Seasonal Employees

The Library Board approved a motion to advertise and fill for a part-time library aide position. Rosalie Dick resigned from the position last year but the position was not filled because of decreased library hours and programming due to the pandemic. Hours have been extended again and hopes of more programs being scheduled this summer will need more assistance. There is a step pay scale for the position. There will be an opening for a full-time/seasonal street worker. Starting rate is \$12.00/hour and if the employee returns the following summer they receive an extra \$0.50/hour. The Lake Commission is requesting to hire multiple operators for the weed harvester to utilize as many hours as they can cleaning the lake. The hourly wage is \$15.00/hour.

Motion by Kruser, seconded by Janzen, to advertise and fill a Part-Time Library Aide position, a full-time seasonal street worker position, and to have the goal of hiring two weed harvester operators but no more than three. Motion carried 5 – 0.

City Attorney

The city attorney was not able to attend in person due to the weather but provided an email update on various public nuisances. Discussion on various nuisances ensued. Nelson stated there was a lot of garbage on the ground around Casey's and A&W in the commercial park and he went around and picked some up. Nelson asked if a temporary garbage can near the street could be placed for truckers to see if it would improve the issue. It was mentioned that the Casey's garbage cans are always full and the wind easily blows garbage around the area. The administrator will discuss more with the street superintendent.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Approved April 5, 2021

ATTEST:

Michael Schulte, Administrator/Clerk