

MORRISTOWN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Regular Mid-Month Meeting Monday, December 18, 2017 7:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Kurt Wolf, Council - Lisa Karsten, Kathy Wolf, Seth Prescher and Tim Flaten

Others Present: Don Olson, Lyn Olson, Cindy Stopski and City Clerk/Treasurer Sheri Gregor

1. The regular mid-month meeting of the Morristown City Council was called to order on Monday, December 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at 402 S. Division Street, by Mayor Kurt Wolf.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda:
Additions to the Agenda are under 6. New Business - H. City Equipment Driver Policy. Motion by Lisa Karsten, second by Seth Prescher, and carried unanimously to approve the Agenda, with the addition.
4. Comments and Suggestions from Citizens Present:
Don Olson asks if the Council is dead set on not allowing solar farms conversions within the city limits. Seth Prescher explained a lot of conversation went into the decision resulting in the resolution to deny amending the city ordinance code to allow solar farm conversion. The decision was based on land use, future city development and the 30 year window of stipulations put on that land. Don Olson is thinking to put the land into a Federal program, whereas the City won't be able to have access, of that land, to build a road or any other development. Don did ask if the City would be interested in purchasing the land. The Council didn't believe so.
5. Unfinished Business:
 - A. Motion by Lisa Karsten, second by Tim Flaten, and carried unanimously that Council members will be paid the set rate of \$925.00 and \$1,000.00 for the Mayor, for 12 meetings a year; regardless whether in attendance or not. Special/work sessions/emergency meetings will be held as directed by the Council at a fee of \$25.00 per meeting; only if in attendance. Lisa Karsten amends her motion, seconded by Seth Prescher, and carried unanimously to include second regular to special/ work sessions/emergency meetings will be held as directed by the Council at a fee of \$25.00 per meeting; only if in attendance.

5. Unfinished Business: (cont.)

- B. Motion by Seth Prescher, second by Tim Flaten, and the majority carried to increase the current part-time custodial wage to \$15.00 an hour, pending the employee review on Monday, January 22, 2018, retroactive to December 18, 2017; and pay the second part-time new hire custodian a starting wage of \$13.50. Lisa Karsten abstains from the vote.
- C. Motion by Lisa Karsten, second by Tim Flaten, and carried unanimously to follow the Zoning Board's recommendation and offer the Zoning Administrator position to Jesse Sanders; if he turns it down make a second offer to Deb Sanborn. Mayor Kurt Wolf will contact Jesse Sanders.
- D. A discussion took place on the procedure of social media postings on the City's official Facebook and Instagram websites. Citizens, businesses, organizations and the likes, can request, to a council member a posting promoting community events which are open to the public. Motion by Seth Prescher, second by Tim Flaten, and carried unanimously to set the guidelines as follows: Any Morristown Council member, and Mayor, can send the City Clerk, via email, a post to be placed on our social media websites by Two Lakes Design, our web communications specialists. If for any reason a Council member has a concern about an item they have been asked to post, he/she will contact the Mayor to discuss any concerns before sending the email to the City Clerk. If the Mayor and Council member can't come to a resolution, the City attorney will be brought in to make sure of no legal ramifications of such post.
- E. Motion by Lisa Karsten, second by Seth Prescher, and carried unanimously to advertise for a part-time City Administrator, wage based on education and experience, to be posted in all the free locations. Lisa Karsten amends her motion, second by Seth Prescher, and carried unanimously to include the application deadline of January 12, 2018 at 4 p.m.
- F. Motion by Lisa Karsten, second by Seth Prescher, and carried unanimously to approve Joe and Rachelle Caldwell's letter requesting to combine their property parcels 20.23.3.51.70 and 20.23.3.51.071.
- G. The Community Center great hall floor tiles, by the east and west doors, cannot be repaired until the outdoor temperature is at least 60 degrees. We do have extra matching floor tiles and Floor to Ceiling can sub-contract the repair and give us a bid. This item will tabled and revisited in March and two bids obtained.

6. New Business:

- A. Letters were sent to a number of delinquent utility customers. They had the opportunity to dispute their water, sewer, and garbage bill at the Council meeting or sign a Utility Payment Contract. Customers who received this notice have until December 25, 2017 in which their utility bill needs to be paid in full. Otherwise, their City utilities will be disconnected. Motion by Lisa Karsten, second by Seth Prescher, and carried unanimously to give these residents until noon on Tuesday, December 26, 2017 to complete a payment contract, then their utilities won't be disconnected; unless the Council decide not to accept the terms of their contract, at the Wednesday, January 3, 2018 meeting.
- B. Motion by Seth Prescher, second by Tim Flaten, and carried unanimously that unless requested by the City Council, legal and engineering representation at the second monthly meeting is not required.
- C. The sanitary sewer grease and prohibited materials issue and ordinance review is tabled until the Monday, January 22, 2018 meeting. The Council request Tim Minske and/or Pat Kaderlik be present and give written findings, based on what they see, and their recommendations on what they need.
- D. Motion by Lisa Karsten, second by Kathy Wolf, and carried unanimously to allow practice and waive rental fees for the Cannon Valley Players for their performances to be February 23, 24 and 25, 2018.
- E. Motion by Lisa Karsten, second by Seth Prescher, and carried unanimously to approve the 33rd Annual Morristown Dam Days Celebration to be held June 1-3, 2018.
- F. Motion by Lisa Karsten, second by Kathy Wolf, and carried unanimously to approve Kurt Wolf, Lisa Karsten, Seth Prescher and Tim Flaten to attend the League of Minnesota Cities Leadership Conference in Brooklyn Park on January 26-27, 2018; including meals, mileage and hotel expenses, if requested by individual Council members.
- G. We received information from Annette Peters, Rice County Elections Director, on a grant Rice County has applied for on behalf of all county jurisdictions. Electronic voting equipment, featuring progressive technology, will be purchased for future elections. The cost per precinct, dependent on available grant money, is yet to be determined.
- H. The question came about, specific to snow plowing; could we have a qualified person plow snow for the city, using our equipment. The answer is only city employees are allowed to run city equipment.

7. Correspondence and Announcements:

None

8. Claims and Accounts:

Motion by Lisa Karsten, second by Kathy Wolf, and carried unanimously to approve to pay the December 18, 2017 Mid-Month Claims and Accounts totaling \$16,516.81 from the General Fund, \$490.90 from the Fire Department Fund, \$4,720.53 from the Water Operations Fund and \$3,120.50 from the Wastewater Operations Fund; and the End-Of-The-Year Claims totaling \$9,080.80 for the Elected and Appointed City Official's Salaries and \$3,510.00 for the Morristown Fire Department Official's Salaries.

9. Council Discussion and Concerns:

Tim Flaten asks when the Council wants to discuss the animal control and contract agreement options. This item will be on the Monday, January 22, 2018 agenda.

10. Adjournment:

Motion by Seth Prescher, second by Lisa Karsten, and carried unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m....

11. Next Meetings: – Wednesday, January 3, 2018 and Monday, January 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

/s/ Kurt Wolf
Kurt Wolf, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Sheri Gregor
Sheri Gregor, City Clerk/Treasurer