

**CITY OF COKATO
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 9, 2022**

- 1) Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers**
 - Mayor Erickson called the Cokato City Council to order Monday, May 9th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers. Members present were Mayor Erickson, Council Members Harju, Martinson, Sebring, and Wilson. Also present were members of the Public and Staff.

- 2) Approval of Agenda**
 - **Motion** by Harju to approve the agenda, seconded by Sebring; all voted aye.

- 3) Public Forum**
 - Mike Kazcmarek County Commissioner for District 5 informed the council and public that they have moved into the new government center building. Board meetings are held every Tuesday morning for those who would like to attend. He encouraged the citizens to visit the new government center building.

- 4) Consent Agenda Items**
 - a) Approval of Minutes from April 11, 2022 City Council Meeting**
 - b) Sheriff's Report**
 - c) Resolution 2022-20 Approving Changes of Signatories**
 - d) Resolution 2022-21 Waiver of Statutory Limits**
 - e) Resolution 2022-22 Approving Ackerlund Studio Grant**
 - f) Resolution 2022-23 Hiring of Part Time Summer Workers Alic Baldwin and Isaiah Kalis**
 - g) Proposed Parking in Veterans Memorial Legion Park**
 - Items 4a. Approval of Minutes from April 11, 2022 City Council Meeting, 4e. Resolution 2022-22 Approving Ackerlund Studio Grant, and 4g. Proposed Parking in Veterans Memorial Legion Park were pulled for discussion.
 - **Motion** by Sebring to approve the consent agenda b, c, d, and f, seconded by Wilson; all voted aye.
 - Meeting minutes from April were not included in the council packet. The council members were informed they would receive them later.
 - Johanna Ellison, Museum Director, presented additional information about the Ackerlund Studio Grant. Council agreed to committing 15% local match of the proposed project costs and ensure adequate construction, operation, maintenance and replacement of the proposed project for its design life.
 - Wilson questioned how much communication was involved in the proposal of the parking in Veterans Memorial Park. City Administrator Brad Potter had a prior meeting with Jeff DeGrote and Cokato Kernels Bill Aho to discuss options. It was decided adding parking behind the grandstand was the most reasonable option.
 - h) Motion** by Martinson to accept consent agenda items a. Approval of Minutes from April 11, 2022 City Council Meeting, e. Resolution 2022-22 Approving Ackerlund Studio Grant,

and g. Proposed Parking in Veterans Memorial Legion Park seconded by Wilson; all voted aye.

5) Mayors Report

a) Kyle Ashwill Development

- Cokato Township Representative Dan Bravinder, Harju, Potter, Kyle Ashwill, John from Ahwill and Mayor Erickson met a couple of weeks ago and the city would like to annex the property while the township would like it to remain part of the township.
- Concern being the cost of extending city sewer and water 600,000 to 700,000 dollars.
- Could be 10-15 years before sewer and water are installed out to the proposed commercial development
- Brad Potter, City Administrator discussed the possibility of keeping the taxes the same for the first 5-7 years after the portion of the township is annexed. The current tax rate difference between city and township is about 45% (city is 45% more).
- Dean Malstead, Cokato Township stated that they have concerns about Quimby Ave. road restrictions and the large amount of Ag Traffic. Encouraged having a “better plan for the growth of the city”.
- Barb Bolander expressed concern about the speed that vehicles will travel down Quimby Avenue. Suggested that the speed be lowered. Bravinder informed that all township roads are governed by the State of MN for the speed limit.
- It was decided that the numbers need to be looked into again to get a better idea of cost.
- A special meeting for the Council, Josh Halvorsen and Kyle Ashwill has been scheduled for May 23, 2022, at 10 am.

b) 2021 City Audit

- Discussed by auditor Justin McGraw
- **Motion** to approve the audit by Sebring, seconded by Harju; all voted aye.

c) 2021 Ambulance Report


- Phone call to discuss ambulance billing with Brian Brosdahl, Expert Billing.
- **Motion** to send unpaid bills to collections after 3rd statement has been sent by Harju, seconded by Martinson; all voted aye.


d) Possible Increase in Ambulance Wages

- Potter suggested amount of \$4/hr on call and \$20/hr for run time.
- Suggestion by Sebring to increase the rate to \$4-4.50 for on call and \$13.30 in conjunction with the \$4-4.50 for run time Monday-Friday and \$7-7.50/hr on call and \$20/hr for run time.
- Current rate is \$2.50/hr on call and \$13.30/hr in conjunction with the \$2.50 on call time for run time.
- Council would like additional information to know that we will remain in budget with a wage increase.

e) Development Agreement – Kenny Raisanen – This Development Agreement was approved with the City Council

- f) **Planning and Zoning – Preliminary Plat Industrial Park and Rezoning**
 - Waiting for traffic study to be completed, will discuss at next council meeting.
 - g) **Resolution 2022-24 BDPI Resolution**
 - **Motion** by Wilson, seconded by Harju; all voted aye.
 - h) **City Social Media Policy**
 - **Motion** by Wilson to accept Social Media Policy, seconded by Martinson; all voted aye.
 - i) **Kwik Trip - Signage – Council Review Required**
 - **Motion** by Harju to allow a second ground sign at Kwik Trip, seconded by Wilson; all voted aye.
 - j) **Utility Bill Adjustment – Todd Smith and Trudy Smith**
 - Todd Smith was opposed to having an updated water meter placed in his home. Issue has been ongoing for 11 months. Fine has accrued to \$642.32.
 - Meeting scheduled with Todd Smith, Potter, and Sebring for May 11, 2022 10am to discuss an agreement.
 - k) **680 Johnson Avenue SW – Property Concerns**
 - Jeremiah Verhey and Mike Brown neighbors to property spoke on their concern about dirt bikes driving recklessly throughout the backyard and down Johnson Ave SW.
 - Mud is being tracked onto the road and dirt bikes are revving their engines at late hours.
 - Deputy Miller stated that Dirt Bikes can be cited for exhibition driving within the city limits. Deputies would need video and to know who was driving to cite.
- 6) **Public Works/Parks**
- a) **Sealcoating Report (Further Update Provided at Meeting)**
 - Price has increased 21% since the quote was provided
 - **Motion** to approve the \$38,460 bid made by Wilson, seconded by Sebring; all voted aye.
- 7) **Financial Reports**
- a) **Approval of Claims - \$206,256.69**
 - **Motion** by Harju to approve claims in the amount of \$206,256.69, seconded by Sebring; all voted aye.
 - b) **Cash and Budget Reports**
 - None included.
- 8) **Reports and Information**
- 9) **Adjournment**
- **Motion** by Sebring to adjourn, seconded by Martinson, all voted aye.
 - Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm


Megan Gustafson, City Clerk


Gordon W. Erickson, Mayor