

**AGENDA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 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, August 15th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers. Members present were Mayor Erickson, Council Members Harju, Martinson, and Wilson. Also present were members of the Public and Staff.

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Public Forum

4. Consent Agenda Items

- a. **Approval of Minutes from August 5 and August 22, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Approval of Kwik Trip 3.2 Liquor License**
- c. **Sheriff's Report**
- d. **Resolution 2022-38 Donation to the Fire Department**
- e. **Resolution 2022-39 Donation to the City of Cokato**
- f. **Resolution 2022-40 Authorizing New Ambulance Hires**
- g. **Resolution 2022-42 Fire Department Resignations**
 - Items 4b and c were pulled for further discussion
 - **Motion** by Wilson to approve consent agenda items a, d, e, f, and g, seconded by Martinson; all voted aye.
 - Martinson questioned the Kwik Trip Liquor License and if it is necessary with the liquor stores already in town. Mayor Erickson said that we can't really tell Kwik Trip that they can't have the license when all Kwik Trips have them.
 - Deputy Farniok spoke about juveniles loitering in businesses after close. The city currently doesn't have an ordinance that can be used to enforce that loiterers leave the businesses. He proposed that there be an ordinance against loitering at businesses after certain hours so that loiterers can be told that they need to leave or they could be charged. The juveniles have been responsible for a few traffic complaints throughout town and this may help eliminate the problem. Curfew only applies to anybody under the age of 17. Deputy Farniok stated that some cities have a secondary curfew that applies to anybody between the ages of 17 and 18. Mayor Erickson stated that administrator Potter should look into creating an ordinance.
 - **Motion** by Martinson to approve consent agenda items b and c, seconded by Wilson; all voted aye.

5. Mayors Report

- a. **Ordinance 2022-4 Adjustment of Ambulance Fees**
 - BLS: \$900.00 ALS: \$1,300.00 Mileage: \$21 per loaded mile
 - **Motion** by Harju to approve the ambulance fees, seconded by Wilson; all voted aye
- b. **Ordinance 2022-5 Request of the City of Cokato to amend the City Code as it pertains to diseased and dead trees and creating regulations requiring them to be removed.**
 - Administrator Potter stated that this would be an addition to City Code 95.04 the city has had issues with citizens complaining about neighboring properties having large obviously dead trees that would pose a threat to other people or properties if they fell. With ordinance 2022-5 we would be able to tell citizens that they need to remove the trees. If citizens refuse to remove the trees we may have

to consult with the attorneys. Martinson questioned the definition of dead or dying trees and how do we decided if it is considered dead or dying. Administrator Potter stated that the primary focus would be on the very obviously dead trees. The city may be able to have somebody from the nursery come and confirm whether the tree is diseased or not.

- **Motion** by Martinson to approve ordinance 2022-5, seconded by Harju; all voted aye.

c. City Financial Investments

- Interest rates are increasing, and the City of Cokato needs to look at how the money is invested. The city would like to keep the money local if possible and if the banks are willing to match rates. The 4M fund rates are also climbing and it may be used if we are not able to get the local banks close to matching the rates. Administrator Potter suggested that we not start investing in 3-5 year CDs currently.

d. Resolution 2022-41 to approve the preliminary tax levy for the 2023 Budget Year.

- Mayor Erickson suggested going with option one with a total preliminary levy of \$1,615,882 an 8.9% increase. Wilson stated that going with option one would keep up with the inflation rate.
- **Motion** by Wilson to approve option one 8.9% increase for the preliminary levy, seconded by Wilson; all voted aye.

6. Public Works/Parks

a. Water Tower Update and Pay Application

- Engineer Halverson suggests that the city pay the pay application two of the water tower project for \$172,358.50. The work is almost complete by J.R. Stelzer Co. and Halverson stated that they did a fantastic job and got the work done quickly.
- **Motion** by Martinson to approve pay application two for \$172,358.50, seconded by Wilson; all voted aye.

b. Temporary Employee to assist with the Ice Rink

- Currently the public works employees flood the ice rink. The rink needs to be flooded after the skating rink has closed for the night and many times that results in overtime being paid to the public works employees. To reduce overtime hours Administrator Potter suggested hiring two seasonal employees to flood the ice rink. Currently the average pay for overtime is around \$32 per hour. Public works director Jeff DeGrote said that two people are needed to drag the hose for flooding. Administrator Potter will post the job of flooding the ice rink advertised at \$20 per hour.
- **Motion** by Wilson to advertise the ice rink flooding position, seconded by Harju; all voted aye.

7. City Administrator Report

a. Draft Language with Dassel Cokato Schools regarding review process for the water extension to DC School

- Cost breakdown of the original engineering study was 1.2 – 1.4 million dollars for the total cost. The city would try to pick up other properties on the route to the school to get the most use out of the watermain. Ideally the city would like to run the watermain in a way that would allow future expansion of the city. Councilmember Wilson questioned if the school would still use the wells that they currently have to fill the pool and to flood the skating rink. Engineer Halverson believes that the school would still like to use the wells to fill those. Wilson stated that he would like to learn a little bit more before making any decisions on a cost share. The school would like the project completed by 2024. Engineer Halverson will work with his team to get a better understanding of the scope of the project and costs.

b. Possible County Property Tax Abatement to assist in County required turn lanes (Fieldcrest & CSAH 3)

- Wright County has set up a tax abatement program but has not yet released the application. This would help with funding for the turn lanes required for Industrial Park. Administrator Potter would like approval to fill out the application when it is released for two years of tax abatement which would amount to about \$62,000.
- **Motion** by Wilson to apply for tax abatement when the application is released, seconded by Martinson; all voted aye.

8. Financial Reports

a. Approval of Claims - \$682,973.87

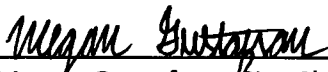
- **Motion** by Harju, seconded by Phil; all voted aye.

b. Cash and Budget Reports

- **Motion** by Martinson, seconded by Wilson; all voted aye.

9. Adjournment

- **Motion** by Wilson to adjourn, seconded by Harju; all voted aye.
- Meeting Adjourned at 7:42 pm.



Megan Gustafson, City Clerk



Gordy Erickson, Mayor