

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2023

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers

- Mayor Harju called the Cokato City Council to order Monday, October 9th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers. Members present were Mayor Harju, Council Members Erickson, Martinson, Sebring, and Wilson. Also present were members of the Public and Staff.

2. Approval of Agenda

- **Motion** by Wilson to approve the agenda, seconded by Sebring; all voted aye.

3. Public Forum – No one spoke at the public hearing

4. Consent Agenda Items - Motion by Erickson to approve the agenda, seconded by Wilson; all voted aye

- a. Approval of Minutes from September 11, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
- b. Sheriff's Report
- c. Resolution 2023-34 of Resignation of Teresa Martinson from City of Cokato
- d. Disposal of City Records

5. Mayors Report

- a. Cokato Historical Society Quarterly Report
- b. Johanna Ellison presented the Cokato Historical Society Quarterly Report. Which included a Lost Country Schools YouTube Video and there is a new grand opening of an exhibit on November 2, 2023. Over 1,000 people visited the Museum in August with the Corn Carnival.
- c. Cokato Ambulance – Possible New Ambulance- Jimmy Martinson Ambulance Director – Jimmy Martinson Cokato Ambulance Director had a report on a possible new ambulance. The current rig is fully operational currently, but the department wants to plan for a new ambulance. Current design takes 18 to 24 months and the plan is to look at having the ambulance in 2026. Councilor Wilson asked if research could be done about what a downpayment would be an ambulance. The cost for an ambulance may be between \$250,000 and \$300,000. There was discussion about a Capital Improvement Plan for City facilities. A Capital Improvement Plan will be developed and be brought back to the City Council.
ToughBooks – The ambulance received a \$1,000 to put toward a new Toughbook. The ambulance has a Dell computer that is not very functional. The cost was \$4,812. Motion by Sebring to purchase the Toughbook, seconded by Erickson.
- d. Personnel Policy Amendment – Potter explained the proposed changes in the Personnel Policy that would provide clarification for Museum Staff. The following change would be made *“For Museum staff, when a holiday falls on a Sunday or a Monday, the preceding Saturday will be the “observed” holiday”*

Public Works

- a. **Industrial Park – Pay Application and Adjustments** -This was an adjustment made to the contract with substantial completion with a change order that is a change order of \$248,620. Motion, Martinson and seconded by Wilson, passed. Wilson moved to approve the \$56,202.04 Pay Application, seconded by Erickson and passed.

- b. **Compost Site Update** - Potter stated that chipping of the wood pile starts week and it should take between 2 and 3 days. The gate will come later this fall. It was discussed that by Wilson that the fabs are enacted later this year or early winter so people can deposit their branches and sticks at a later time.
- c. **1st Street SW Paving** – Potter stated that Perry Siltala wanted to extend curb on 1st Street SW by the City well house and south of the former lumberyard. This was due to poor drainage in the area. The Council agreed to pay for 27 feet of the street with Wilson making the motion and Martinson seconding the motion which passed.

The Council asked about the flood study that was being conducted in the area as well. Potter stated that he would get an update of the flood study for the City Council.

City Administrator Report

- a. **Swimming Pool Season Summary Report** - Potter gave a report that the swimming pool was open 75 days this year had 4,375 visits for the pool season however the pool lost \$63,380. There were costs increased labor costs and chemical costs with the pool season.
- b. **Industrial Park Update** – The City will be meeting with Centerpoint Energy tomorrow about the natural gas for the industrial park. Council Wilson and Administrator Potter will both be attending this meeting.
- c. **Sheriff Contract Update** – The City is still discussing the contract with the Wright County Sheriff's office and the Council wanted to discuss with the County and possibly County Board about the contract.
- d. **Ice Rink Attendant Applications** – The Ice Rink Attendant positions will be advertised for the outdoor ice rink. The Hockey Association will be contacted for possible assistance as well as Hiperline who volunteered last year.

Financial Reports

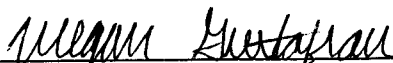
- a. **Approval of Claims** – Sebring moved to approve the approval of claims which was seconded by Wilson. Harju, Sebring, Wilson and Erickson voted in favor and Martinson voted against. The motion passed.
- b. **Cash and Budget Reports** - Erickson moved to approve the Cash and Budget Reports which was seconded by Sebring which was passed unanimously.

At this time Phil Martinson offered his resignation from the City Council since he was moving out of state.

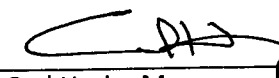
1. Adjournment

- **Motion** by Martinson to adjourn, seconded by Wilson; all voted aye.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

ATTEST:


Megan Gustafson, City Clerk

APPROVED BY:


Carl Harju, Mayor