

CITY OF LEONIDAS
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
November 14, 2023 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Milton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The City Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Attendance

Present: Mayor JoAnne Milton, Councilor Cassandra Cave, Councilor Jay DeRoos, Councilor Brian Otto, Councilor Nathaniel Rock, Maintenance Leroy Roos, Clerk McKenzie Clinton

3. Adopt Agenda

After reviewing the October 10, 2023 meeting minutes, councilor Rock had concerns regarding the wording in the chicken ordinance. This will be added to the agenda as item G under new business.

Motion by DeRoos, second by Rock to adopt the agenda. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes of October 10, 2023 City Council Meetings
- B. Approval of Payroll ending 10/31/2023
- C. Approval of Claims ending 10/31/2023

Motion by DeRoos, second by Rock to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

5. Reports

A. Clerk's Report

Clerk Clinton stated that the City's website is now available online. A letter announcing this to the residents will be sent in December along with other information regarding the city and the 2024 city council meeting dates. She also has been in contact with the city's attorney regarding the police and fire protection contracts that Eveleth had sent over. The Leonidas Park lease with Eveleth is also being reviewed.

Clerk Clinton then spoke about the filing and organizing that she has been working on in the office, she stated that she was able to find files and meeting minutes from 2014, 2015, and 2016. There are still some minutes that need to be located but she is hopeful that she will be able to locate all of them. Clerk Clinton also spoke about the need to finalize a 2024 budget in January. She provided the council with budget worksheets as well as the receipt and disbursements from 2022 & 2023. A 2024 Budget meeting date will be set at the December meeting.

B. Maintenance

Maintenance Leroy Roos reported that the new dog waste station and benches purchased through the Eveleth Community Foundation grant had been installed. He then spoke about the need for leaf mulching in some parts of the city.

A brief discussion occurred about purchasing a new snowblower, the estimate Leroy had received from John Deere for a new snowblower head was \$4,000.00. Leroy felt that due to the price, the current snowblower would be adequate for this year. Mayor Milton then stated

that the purchase of new maintenance equipment should be discussed during the 2024 budget meeting and if new equipment is needed, it should be included in the budget.

C. Hall Manager

There was one rental in October and two rentals scheduled for November.

5. Old Business

Nothing to discuss at this time.

6. New Business

A. LMCIT Waiver

The league of Minnesota Cities sent a liability coverage waiver form. The form gives the city the option to waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn. Stat. 466.04. If the city were to waive the monetary limit, they would be liable to pay any excess costs if a claimant's recovery amount was higher than what is covered under the city's insurance policy. The city has not waived the liability coverage in the past as this is what is recommended by the city's insurance agents.

Motion by Rock, second by Otto to not waive the liability coverage. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

B. Fire and Police protection Invoice

The City of Eveleth sent the invoice for Police protection for the years 2022 and 2023 and Fire protection for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023. The total for the invoice was \$16,200.00. The council was in agreement to pay the invoice because police and fire protection had been provided by the city of Eveleth.

Motion by Cave, second by Rock to pay the invoice. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

C. Fire protection Contract from City of Eveleth

The City of Eveleth sent a copy of the Fire Protection Contract that would begin January 1, 2024 and go through December 31, 2025. The cost of the fire protection would be \$600.00 a month, for a yearly cost of \$7,200.00. A brief discussion about this occurred. Councilor Otto stated that he felt the price was fair because Leonidas had been paying \$400.00 a month since 2018 and that the cost for the fire department have increased significantly during that time. Clerk Clinton said that she saw no issues with the contract but would like to have the city's attorney review the contract to ensure Leonidas is protected. The Council passed a motion to accept the Fire Protection contract with Eveleth contingent on the city's attorney review.

Motion by Rock, second by DeRoos to approve the Eveleth Fire Protection Contract. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

D. Police Protection Contract from City of Eveleth

The City of Eveleth sent a copy of the Police Protection Contract that would begin January 1, 2024 and go through December 31, 2025. The cost of the fire protection would be \$150.00 a month, for a yearly cost of \$1800.00. Leonidas had been paying \$75.00 a month, for a yearly cost of \$900.00 since 2018. Councilor Otto stated that the cost for the police department had also increased significantly and felt that the increase in the cost to Leonidas was justified. Clerk Clinton said that she also saw no issues with the Police protection contract but would like to have the city's attorney review the contract to ensure Leonidas is protected. The Council

passed a motion to accept the Police Protection contract with Eveleth contingent on the city's attorney review.

Motion by Rock, second by DeRoos to approve the Eveleth Fire Protection Contract. Ayes – All. Motion carried

E. Park Lease

The Leonidas Park Lease with the city of Eveleth was reviewed. The council had concerns about the language used regarding the city of Eveleth insurance responsibilities. Councilor Otto questioned if there should be more specific language stating that Eveleth is responsible for all injuries or accidents that occur at the ice rink. Councilor Rock then stated that specific language regarding insurance for the playground should also be included. A Brief discussion regarding Leonidas's property insurance occurred. Clerk Clinton stated that the city has general property and liability insurance but that she does not believe there are any specifics regarding the playground, or ice rink. She will discuss this with the city's insurance agent and report back at the next meeting. She will also have the city's attorney review the park lease.

F. Animal Control

A brief discussion occurred about the need for an animal control agent for Leonidas. The Eveleth Police department hires an outside company to provide animal control for Eveleth and therefore will not be providing it for Leonidas with the new Police protection agreement. Clerk Clinton said that she has seen invoices from the Mesabi Humane society in the office and believes they were providing animal control in the past. The council felt that it would be helpful to speak to the organization that provides animal control for Eveleth to determine if they would be available to also provide animal control for Leonidas. Clerk Clinton stated that she will speak with the Eveleth Police Department to determine what organization they work with. This will be discussed further at the December meeting.

G. Chicken Ordinance

Councilor Rock had concerns about the chicken ordinance license requirements. The ordinance currently states that each lot may apply for a chicken license. Councilor Rock asked what the rules would be for lots with multiple household such as the duplexes and triplexes in the city. A brief discussion about this occurred. The Council felt that in order to make it fair for all residence, that all households should be able to apply for a license. The council also felt that the lots that the duplexes and triplexes are on are big enough to allow for adequate space for multiple chicken coops.

Motion by Rock second by Otto to allow for a chicken license per household. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

8. Adjourn

Motion by DeRoos, second by Otto to adjourn the meeting. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

JoAnne Milton, Mayor

Attest: _____