

Mayor Fred Froehlich called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on March 10, 2025 in the Council Chambers.

Members and guests sited the words to the Pledge of Allegiance.

In addition to Mayor Froehlich; Councilmembers: Mary Wels, Phil Radel and Kevin Ostermann were present. Councilmember Matt Anthony was absent. Others in attendance included Vanessa Drill and Karen Fluegge(*The New Ulm Journal*).

The agenda was approved on a motion which was made M. Wels, which was seconded by P. Radel, and which carried with all voting in favor.

The minutes of the regular meeting on February 10, 2025, were approved on a motion which was made by P. Radel, which was seconded by K. Ostermann, and which carried with all voting in favor.

The bills totaling \$38,177.78 were approved on a motion which was made by P. Radel, which was seconded by M. Wels and which carried with all voting in favor.

Clerk noted that on the northeast side of Nicollet there are parcels that have a mixed use of Industrial and commercial, clerk requested to get this rezoned and cleaned up. One of the property owners in the area maybe splitting his three lots into 2 lots which the zoning is mixed.

Public hearing date of April 7th at 6:00 pm with regular city council to follow was set for a rezone of mixed uses which was approved on a motion made by K. Ostermann and which was seconded by M. Wels, and which carried with all voting in favor.

Maintenance requested to have six trees removed in the Greenspace Park due to emerald ash borer. Councilmember Radel suggested to only take out 3 trees and treat 3 of the other trees. Council suggested reaching out to the Nicollet Lions to see if they would be interested in sharing in the costs.

The purchasing a Leaf Vac was again discussed again and no decision was made.

Councilmember Ostermann shared the discussion on 9th street. Councilmember Wels and Ostermann along with the City Engineer Joe Duncan met with Hewitt's regarding 9th Street. After a long discussion, councilmembers relayed to council the best option for safety concerns would be to close a portion of 9th Street. A portion of the street would be closed and still belonging to the city. An agreement will need to be made between Hewitt Manufacturing and the city regarding liability on the closed portion of the street. Council agreed to holding a public hearing for the closing of a portion of 9th Street.

Public hearing date of April 15th at 6:00 pm was set for the closing of a portion of 9th Street which was approved on a motion made by K. Ostermann and which was seconded by M. Wels, and which carried with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Ostermann provided a report from his attendance at the joint powers board meeting in February. Ostermann provided an estimate for a new pumper truck that was discussed at the joint powers board. A representative from Custom Fire was at the joint powers to discuss a new pumper truck. Currently Custom Fire has a truck that costs about \$650,000 but with changes to include everything that is required on the truck the cost will become \$800,000. If waiting for two to three years to purchase a new truck, the cost will be over a million dollars. The estimate provided included five-, seven- and ten-year financing options. Currently, the city's budget allows for \$25,000 per year for this type of purchase which means that the levy would need to be raised to cover the extra costs.

After a lengthy discussion a motion was made to support the seven-year financing plan on the purchase of a new pumper truck, but will go with the majority rule of the other parties of the Joint Powers Board which was approved by P. Radel, and which was seconded by M. Wels, and which carried with all voting in favor.

Mayor Froehlich noted a beaver has been sighted in the Mara Tonka Pond and has cut down a tree which was located on the north side of the pond.

Quote for a new lawn mower (which was budgeted) from Kibble Equipment in the amount of \$9,850.00 was approved on a motion which was made by K. Ostermann, which was seconded by F. Froehlich, and which carried with all voting in favor.

Not to hire a seasonal part-time employee for lawn mowing at this time and mowing will be during the city's regular business hours was approved on a motion which was made by K. Ostermann, which was seconded by P. Radel and which carried with all voting in favor.

2025 Annual contract with Frontline Warning Systems was approved on a motion which was made by P. Radel, which was seconded by M. Wels, and which carried with all voting in favor.

A request for funding from MN River Valley Scenic Byway was presented. No action was taken.

Ord No. 170- Granting a Franchise to Fort Randall Cable Systems was approved on a motion made by K. Ostermann, which was seconded by M. Wels, and which carried with all voting in favor.

LG220 Application for SAL Bingo Event on April 26, 2025 was approved on a motion made by F. Froehlich, which was seconded by k. Ostermann, and which carried with all voting in favor.

Reminders of the upcoming, meetings were noted:

- 1) April 7, 2025 - 6:00 PM, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting, Monday
- 2) April 15, 2025 – 6:00 PM, Public Hearing, Tuesday

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m., which was approved on a motion made by M. Wels, which was seconded by P. Radel, and which carried with all voting in favor.

Vanessa Drill, City Clerk/Treasurer