

**SPRING GROVE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**April 20, 2021, 6:00 PM**  
**Fest Building**

The regular meeting of the Spring Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Solberg at 6:08 P.M. on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at the Fest Building and VIA Zoom.

Present: Mayor, Scott Solberg  
Council Member, Travis Torgerson  
Council Member, Karen Folstad  
Council Member, Trent Turner  
Council Member, Chad Rohland

Also, Present: City Clerk/Administrator, Julie Amundson,  
Attorney Greg Schieber  
Michael and Deanna Solum  
Karen Solum  
Jacqueline Wennes  
Jordan Gerard - The Caledonia Argus  
Charlene Corson Selbee – Fillmore County Journal

VIA ZOOM: Scott Huneke, WHKS  
Jean Volkenant

Council Member Rohland moved to adopt the agenda after adding item 12 under New Business, hire Nick Bruns as stand-by Officer to start training. Second by Council Member Torgersen, all voted in favor, motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Folstad moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, second by Council Turner, all voted in favor, motion carried.

**OPEN FORUM**

None

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Solberg moved to open Public Hearing on the Sale of Parcels 15.0075.003 and 15.0075.004 which is 2.73 acres located in Wilmington Township. Attorney Schieber explained the reason for the Public Hearing. A city employee expressed interest in purchasing land owned by City of Spring Grove and in the interest of transparency and fairness the City thought it best to advertise the land for sale and conduct the sale by sealed bids.

Administrator Amundson informed the Council 3 bids were received before the deadline of April 19, 2021 4:00 pm. One bid came in the morning of April 20, 2021. Attorney Schieber explained there isn't a state statute that defines whether a bid can or cannot be accepted after the deadline. That decision needs to be determined by the City Council. They can accept the late bid, decide to refuse the bid, or they can reject all the bids. Council

Member Rohland moved to reject the late bid, second by Council Member Torgerson, all in favor via roll call vote, motion carried.

Bids were opened by Administrator Amundson. First bid was from Paul Morken for the amount of \$2,394.87. Second bid, Michael Solum for \$8,107.00, and the third bid from Christopher Petersen for \$10,000.00.

Attorney Schieber explained, the City Council has the option to invite the bidders back for a bid off, even though such an action wasn't advertised. Mayor Solberg move to have the top two bidders have a bid off, a time and place to be determined by both parties. Second by Council Member Folstad, motion passed by roll call vote. Council Member Torgerson moved to close the Public Hearing, second by Council Member Rohland, motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Discussion was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Project which consist of replacing the watermain, storm sewer, aggregate base, bituminous pavement and any other restoration needed. The project estimated cost for the City would be \$340,000.00. For 2021 budget only \$160,000.00 was added to cover the cost. Administrator Amundson explain conversations were held with Tweeten Lutheran Health Care Center and Spring Grove Assisted Living. Both facilities budgets weren't prepared for that type of repair this year. They both requested to have the project put off for another year. Mayor Solberg moved to table this project for this year and address during the budgeting process for 2022. Second by Council Member Torgersen, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Update was given on the painting of cross walks and curbs. Painting will be done before Syttende Mai Festival.

The pump has been ordered for the pool. The Utility Crew will have the old pump in working order just in case the new equipment doesn't arrive in time to be installed before the pool opens. Pool is set to open June 7, 2021 and lessons to start June 14, 2021.

Council Member Rohland gave an update on Syttende Mai Fest. There will be no inflatable bounce houses this year, but there will be soap box car races, corn hole toss, music, food and beer tent. A request was received for \$2500.00 from 2020 budget and \$2500.00 from 2021 budget. The committee is faced with a lot of expenses, but without last year's event is short on funds. Council Member Folstad moved to award the budgeted \$2,500.00 for this year's celebration. After the celebration this year, do a review of the event to see if there is a need for additional funds. Second by Mayor Solberg, all voted in favor, motion carried.

In 2019, discussion was held on the City Ordinance Chapter 520, Animal Regulations. At that time there had been a request to allow ducks within the City Limits, no action was taken and the issue tabled to a later date. Council Member Rohland moved to keep the Chapter 520 as is and not allow residents to have ducks within the City Limits, second by Member Torgersen, all voted in favor, motion carried.

The Cooperative Landscaping Agreement between MN DOT and the City of Spring Grove was presented. This is for the grant of \$8,000.00 to plant replacement trees on the west end of Spring Grove along Highway 44. Council Member Rohland moved to authorize Mayor Solberg to sign the grant, second by Council Member Solberg, all voted in favor, motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Request was received from the Syttende Mai Committee for a temporary liquor license Patrick Longmire for Syttende Mai. Mayor Solberg moved to approve the liquor license, second by Council Member Torgerson, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Council Member Rohland moved to hire Chris Strinmoen as Sports Summer Recreation Director for 2021, second by Council Member Torgersen, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Council Member Turner moved to hire Kaitlyn Gross as WSI/Lifeguard, Olivia Wennes and Kohl Betcher to work in Concessions at the pool. Second by Council Member Folstad, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Discussion was held on a Non-Sports Summer Recreation Director. Council Member Rohland moved to put a notice out on Facebook and advertise for one week in The Caledonia Argus for a director. Second by Mayor Solberg, all voted in favor, motion carried.

City Hall received an email expressing concern with the condition of the flower boxes in Main St that are decorated with rosemary. After brief discussion, this is something the Council has no control over being it is private property.

Utility Director Morken submitted a request to purchase a new John Deere Z930M ZTrak Mower. The current mower deck is worn out and is need of replacing. A replacement deck was ordered and would be \$6,400.00, just for the deck but would still need spindles, pulleys, discharge chute, and other small items. Funds would come from Street Machinery and Equipment Acct., Water Other Equipment Acct., Parks Equipment, and from the budgeted gas barrel that has not been purchased. There will be a restocking fee of \$230.00. With the cost of the deck and everything that is needed, it is a better deal to purchase a new mower and return the replacement deck. Mayor Solberg moved to purchase the John Deere Z930M ZTrak Mower, return the replacement mower deck and pay the restocking fee. He asked to reconsider using the budgeted gas barrel funds and look for another fund source. Second by Council Member Rohland, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Council Member Folstad moved to approve the installation of three Solar Lights and poles out on Enterprise Dr. at the cost of \$400.00 each. Second by Council Member Torgersen, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Administrator Amundson shared the information she was given from MI Energy wanting to give the City of Spring Grove Charging Stations for Electric Vehicles. MI Energy is looking to provide a model of the Cities choosing, with the City paying the cost of installation, which can run between \$2,000.00 to \$4,000.00. Authorization was given to Administrator Amundson to obtain more information from MI Energy on the charging stations, search out a location that would be suitable and agreeable with the Utility Director. Report back at a later date.

A call was received from All Energy Solar requesting information on the Cities rebate system for Solar Energy. At this time, no one in the City has Solar Energy and no plan is in place. The topic was discussed and recommended to have the Planning and Zoning Commission look into this and to have the Comprehensive Plan for the City be placed on the agenda.

Administrator Amundson requested to change the hours City Hall is open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm to 8:00 am to 4:30 pm and cutting the lunch break back to 30 minutes. There is very little to no door traffic after 4:00 pm. Mayor Solberg moved to change the daily hours of operation for City Hall to be 8:00 am to 4:40 pm, second by Council Member Folstad, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Contract for insect and rodent control with Plunkett were presented. One contract covered City Hall and the Aquatic Center, and the other covered the Fest Building. Both contracts totaled \$983.25 for 1 year program. Council Member Folstad moved to sign both contracts, second by Council Member Rohland, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Chief Folz requested approval to start training Officer Nick Bruns who would fill in as a stand-by Officer. After much discussion, council members requested information on how many hours of training would be required, how does another Officer fit into the Police Department budget and to put this on next month's agenda.

**MAYOR/COUNCIL**

The next meeting will be May 25<sup>th</sup>, one week later because of Syttende Mai and not all members would be able to be present.

Closed session to review the application received for the Utility Directors position and annual review of the City Administrator was set for April 28, 2021 at 6:00 pm at Spring Grove Communications Conference Room.

**MEETING REPORTS**

EDA – Adverting front lots in the Industrial Park for sale. Discussed the Village Motel, applied for a grant to beautify the Alley between YOOH and Keller Williams office building.

PARKS -Working with grant to plant trees on Highway 44. Looking to have stumps ground out from last years tree removal. Checking into getting Pickle Ball court added out by the basketball court.

PLANNING & ZONING-Reviewed three applications and worked to consolidate two parcels for a resident.

LIBRARY-Had a meeting today and will have a recommendation for a new director to bring to the next meeting. Looking to open more per the Governors guidelines

FIRE-No meeting

Council Member Turner moved to adjourn at 7:55 pm, second by Council Member Rohland, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Julie Amundson  
Clerk/Administrator

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Scott Solberg  
Mayor