

SPRING GROVE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Via Zoom
Minutes
January 19, 2021 6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Spring Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Solberg at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 VIA Zoom.

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

Also, Present: Julie Amundson, City Clerk/Administrator
 Jordon Gerard - The Caledonia Argus
 Charlene Corson Selbee – Fillmore County Journal
 Courtney Bergy Swanson - EDA

Council Member Torgerson move to adopt the agenda, second by Council Member Rohland, all approved by roll call, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Rohland moved to approve the consent agenda, second by Council Member Folstad, all approved by roll call, motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

None

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Chief Turner reported they responded to 22 calls in 2020, this is up from previous years. There were 19 meeting and training exercises in 2020 which is down from 2019 because of the Pandemic. The Fire Department has 23 members and will be adding 2 more as of January 2021. Assisted the Mabel Fire Department with Mutual Aid. Thank you to the City of Spring Grove (funds from the Corner Store profits) for providing the Fire Department with a Side by Side. The Firemen were able to put it to use this past year.

Committee appointment of Council Liaisons for 2021 consisted of;
Economic Development Authority, (EDA) - Mayor Solberg.
Housing Committee - Council Member Torgerson.
Fire Relief Association will be given at a later date.
Library Board - Council Member Folstad.
Parks Commission - Mayor Solberg.
Planning Commission - Council Member Turner and Council Member Torgerson.
Administration - Council Member Rohland.
Fire Department - Council Member Rohland and Council Member Turner
Police - Council Member Rohland and Council Member Torgerson.
Public Works - Council Member Folstad.
Liquor Store - Council Member Rohland and Council Member Torgerson.
Swim Center/Summer Rec - Council Member Rohland and Council Member Folstad.
Cable TV - Mayor Solberg.

Union Negotiating Committee - Council Member Turner, Council Member Folstad, and Clerk/Administrator Amundson.

Council Member Turner moved to appoint Council Member Folstad as Mayor Pro-Tem, second by Council Member Rohland. All approved by roll call vote, motion carried.

Discussion was held on designating an official newspaper for the City of Spring Grove. Council Member Rohland moved to accept Resolution 21-09 and declare The Caledonia Argus as the Official Newspaper for the City of Spring Grove for 2021. Second by Mayor Solberg. All approved by roll call vote, motion carried.

Mayor Solberg explained the Landscape Partnership Project. The MN DOT awarded the City a grant of \$8,000.00 to replace trees along Highway 44 on the west end of town. They sent a person to inspect the site, draft a design with trees that would work well in that area. Council Member Folstad moved to approve Resolution 21-10 Authoring Application and Primary Contact Person, second by Council Member Torgerson. All approved by roll call vote, motion carried.

Opening the Fest Building for walkers was discussed. It was previously open for walking, but due to the nice fall weather there was a lack of use it was decided to close the building. Mayor Solberg moved to open the Fest Building for people to come and walk around the building. It will be open the same hours as before, 8:00 am to 10:00 am and 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Monday through Thursday. Safety rules apply per the Governors orders. If there is no interest shown in 2 weeks, the building will be closed again. Second by Council Member Rohland, all approved by roll call vote, motion carried.

Courtney Bergy Swanson presented a plan to revitalize the Downtown Development District. The first step would be to identify and develop an inventory of commercial buildings that are vacant with no plan for commercial use, or are being used for storage, this would include the Motel. The need is to identify the actual problem, whether it is the need for physical help, marketing, or if there is a need for fix up funds. Then work with Planning and Zoning to see what the possibilities are and if need be update current ordinances. The goal is for everyone to be on the same page and share the collective goal. After some discussion it was decided to have Courtney go back to the EDA, and go ahead and develop the inventory list. Then determine which is the best path to take in moving forward.

Courtney talked about the two current websites the City of Spring Grove is using. She and Administrator Amundson had a meeting with Robin Bartell to discuss both of the sites. EDA owns the springgrove.mn site, while the springgrove.govoffice site wasn't able to determine who set it up because of its age, but was set up under a Go Daddy account and is set to expire in 2022. Currently Courtney and Amundson are working with Robin to make changes and get everything moved from the old site onto the springgrove.mn site. The EDA would like to work out a new deal with the City concerning the website. When it was set up there wasn't a clear vision established and now that the City is moving everything over from the old site, there needs to be a discussion on who pays for it and to set some parameters for the site. EDA budgeted this year to cover the cost of the site but for 2022 something has to be worked out.

Co- Managers Mariah Edgington and Alyssa Johnson requested to change the hours of open swim. The Managers stated there are very few people that swim from the hours of 5:00 to 6:00 pm. Shortening the open swim time would allow for earlier swim lesson times. Council Members Folstad and Rohland will meet with the Co- Managers and discuss the issue. No action taken.

Mayor Solberg moved not to waive the liability coverage through LMC (League of Minnesota Cities). Second by Council Member Folstad, all approve by roll call vote, motion carried.

POLICIES/ORDINANCES

Administrator Amundson presented an update Chapter 708 – Sidewalks in the ordinance. There has been issues with residents putting grass clipping, leaves and other debris in the streets and not clearing away snow from intersections where the sidewalk meets the street. After much discussion it was tabled until next month.

MAYOR/COUNCIL

Council Member Rohland brought up concerns on how the snow was piled in front of the school from the snow fall on January 14th. Parents were having difficulty dropping students off. Options were discussed on how traffic may be re-routed when the City is dealing with snow removal. Mayor Solberg will be checking with Paul Morken on the possibility of removing the parking spot closest to the intersection in front of the Trinity Center to improve visibility for oncoming traffic.

The next regular meeting will be on February 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

MEETING REPORTS

EDA – At the last meeting discussed the lodging study. They will be reaching out to a hotel that showed interest in coming to Spring Grove. Sold an industrial lot. All CARES Act Funds are disbursed to local business that applied. Doing a market analysis for Doc's & Norski's.

PARKS – no meeting

PLANNING & ZONING – no meeting

LIBRARY – no meeting

FIRE DEPARTMENT – nothing more to report.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Rohland move to adjourn at 7:36 pm, second by Council Member Torgerson, all approved by roll call vote, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Attested: _____

Julie Amundson
Clerk/Administrator