**SPRING GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**June 21, 2022, 6:00 PM**

**Spring Grove Communications, Room 100**

Mayor Solberg called the June Spring Grove City Council meeting to order at 6:00 pm by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Present: Mayor Scott Solberg, Council Members, Chad Rohland, Travis Torgerson and Trent Turner.

Staff present: Administrator Amundson, Utility Director John Sylling, Administrative Assistant Stephanie Jaster.

Zoom: Council Member Folstad, Courtney Bergey Swanson with CEDA.

Guests present: Charlene Selbee with Fillmore County Journal, Jordan Gerard with Caledonia Argus, Pat Longmire, and Lee Hoekstra.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Council Mayor Solberg moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Council Member Turner, all voted in favor, motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Rohland moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Council Member Torgerson, all voted in favor, motion carried.

**OPEN FORUM**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

Discussion was held on the Corner Municipal Liquor Store. Council Member Rohland moved to abolish the Municipal Liquor Store as of December 31, 2022. Motion died due to lack of a second. Discussion continued how the question should be worded for the public to understand what they are voting on. Mayor Solberg moved to have the question on the next feasible election ballot asking if the city should continue operating the municipal liquor store. Seconded by Council Member Turner, voting in favor were Council Members, Turner, Torgerson, Rohland and Mayor Solberg. Council Member Folstad was unable to vote being she was on a zoom link.

A request was received for the City of Spring Grove to take action to allow Adin Solum to connect to both the city’s water and sewer system. Mr. Solum plans to build a house on his parcel 13.0145.000 and connect to City of Spring Groves infrastructure. Council Member Turner moved to allow Adin Solum to connect to both city water and sewer. Seconded by Council Member Rohland, all members present voted in favor, motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Courtney Bergey Swanson explained DEED Redevelopment Grant application for the Roverud Park Quonset Site. There is a developer currently interested in the area for 8-10 town homes. Council Member Rohland moved to give approval to apply for the grant, seconded by Council Member Torgerson, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Administrator Amundson asked permission on behalf of Spring Grove Communications (SGC), if the permission would be granted by MN DOT, to put Smart Rural Community signs on the east and west end of the city. SGC was recognized for providing broadband services to the city and rural communities. Mayor Solberg moved to allow adding the signage to the Spring Grove signs with MN DOT approval. Seconded by Council Member Turner, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Council Member Turner explained PERA for Volunteer Firefighters Plan and requested an increase in the benefit. The plan is locked in for 5 years and government aid can be used to help pay the benefit if need be. Mayor Solberg moved to increase the PERA benefit level to $1300. Seconded by Council Member Torgerson, Council Members Turner and Rohland abstained, Solberg and Torgerson voted in favor, motion carried.

Council Member Turner moved to approve the Contract for Mosquito Abatement Services with Driftless Region Vector Control LLC. Seconded by Council Member Rohland, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Administrator Amundson explained changes in Title 900 Environmental Regulations, Chapter 904. Changes included adding subsection B. Grasses and Weeds, included changing the length of time the responsible party must cut or remove grass or weeds to 7 days after receiving the notice of violation, and only one notice will be sent to the owner or person in control of the property. Added to subsection 6 was the sentence, grass is to be blown into the lawn instead of into the public street. Mayor Solberg moved to adopt the changes and to print a summary of the changes in the paper of record. Seconded by Council Member Torgerson, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Budget meeting will be on July 18, 2022, at 5:30 in City Hall.

**MAYOR/COUNCIL**

The regular Council meeting will be held on July 19, 2022, at 6:30pm in Room 100 of SGC.

**MEETING REPORTS**

**EDA –** Update on the restaurant challenge, discussed EDA portion of the Comp Plan, and talked about grants they are applying for.

**PARKS & REC –** No meeting.

**PLANNING AND ZONING –** No meeting.

**LIBRARY –** Talked about online library meetings. August 18th there will be a book signing and reading. Planning a stuffed animal sleep over.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT –** No meeting.

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:06 pm Mayor Solberg moved to go into close session to discuss the Chief of Police replacement and options for providing protective services to the city.

At 7:54 Council Member Turner moved to end the close session and return to open meeting. Seconded by Council Member Torgerson, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Solberg stated that through the course of searching for Chief of Police, the City Council is going to have discussions with Houston County to provide coverage for the City of Spring Grove.

Discussion was held on the results of interviews for the Clerk/Administrators position. Mayor Solberg moved to extend the offer of the position to Jana Elton, starting at the base salary. Seconded by Council Member Turner, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Solberg moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm, seconded by Council Member Rohland, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Julie Amundson

Clerk/Administrator