

October 21, 2019

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Acting Mayor S. Strom called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Mayor R. Rector was absent. Council members present were, P. Shablow, L. Kowaliuk, P. Matthew. City employees present were S. Lund & E. Toomey. Public present was J. Frei.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Kowaliuk made a motion, Shablow seconded, to accept the minutes of the September 15, 2019 and the September 24, 2019 council meetings. **M/S/P – Kowaliuk/Shablow/All.**

**Citizen Concerns/Public Comments:** Frei, from the Improvement Committee, asked the council for a liquor license for Sunday November 10, 2019 for the Maverick Bar. Kowaliuk made a motion, Shablow seconded, to approve a liquor license for November 10, 2019 for the Maverick Bar. **M/S/P – Kowaliuk/Shablow/All.** Frei left the meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Skating Rink Warming House:** Kowaliuk made a motion, Shablow seconded, to put the warming house on bids in the local newspaper, ending on November 15, 2019. The warming house will be moved to the empty lot across from the community center owned by the City. **M/S/P – Kowaliuk/Shablow/All.**

**Yard Cleanup:** The next step will be contacting the Sheriff to talk to the home owners if their yards are not cleaned up by end of this month. Then if the yards still do not get cleaned up, Rector and Strom will contact the attorney and proceed with legal actions against the home owners who were contacted to clean their yards.

**Fixing the Lagoon Fences:** The clerk reminded the council that the fences need to be fixed. She also reminded them that Anderson is the one who holds the license for our wastewater. Toomey said he could not get his license for 3 years. Matthew and Strom will help Moss fix the fences this fall.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Water Meters repaired units:** The clerk and maintenance discussed the repair of the old meters with the council. The old meters have no warranty, and they are an older style and they feel it may not be worth it at \$550.00 to repair them. The council discussed this and it was decided not to fix the meters.

**Donation to Kittson County Historical Society:** Shablow made a motion, Kowaliuk seconded, to donate \$500.00 to the Kittson County Historical Society. **M/S/P – Shablow/Kowaliuk/All**

**Businesses Liquor Licenses for 2020:** Shablow made a motion, Matthew seconded, to approve the liquor licenses for 2020 for 3 businesses. **M/S/P – Shablow/Matthew/All**

**Safety Council - email appointment:** Kowaliuk said at the meeting that she attended, Shablow and Strom attended also, in Greenbush on September 27, 2019, that it was said that LMC wanted an email for another employee to get notifications about the meetings in case the clerk is gone and there was a meeting change. Matthew made a motion, Shablow seconded, to have the Mayor receive the email notifications. Kowaliuk said she was voting against this because she feels that the maintenance person should be getting the emails. **M/S/P – Matthew/Shablow/Strom. Kowaliuk opposed the motion.**

**Opioid Litigation:** The clerk said she had received a letter wanting the city to opt out of the opioid litigations that are currently going on in the United States. The clerk read a news article in which Attorney General Ellison of Minnesota joined 24 other attorney generals in asking a bankruptcy court not to halt their states' legal actions against Purdue Pharma and members of the Sackler family. The council agreed not to sign the litigation.

Kowaliuk then talked to the council about the LMC regional meeting she attended on September 25, 2019 in Thief River Falls, about supporting first responders in the city. She also left the literature and a book about health and safety of law enforcement with the clerk if anyone wants to read about this. The clerk said Kowaliuk had brought back, from the meeting, a bag containing packets of Deterra for people to take to dispose of opioids and other medications.

**Brick for Lift Station:** Toomey talked about a brick to put in the lift station that will help dissolve matter and grease, it costs \$160.00 each and will last for 4 months, this will be used along with the current packets Toomey is using in drains. Matthew made a motion, Kowaliuk seconded, to purchase the brick. **M/S/P – Matthew/Kowaliuk/All.**

**Maintenance Hours:** Strom explained to Toomey that the working hours for the city are 8am to 12pm and 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm with a 15 minute break in the morning and a 15 minute break in the afternoon. Strom said he had been checking time cards to see how much vacation Toomey has been taking. Shablow asked Toomey if he was working 40 hours a week. Toomey said he is. The clerk said she had made up slips that the employees fill out when they are going to be leaving work. Strom told Toomey that he cannot be driving the city vehicles without being punched into work on his time card.

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Shablow told Toomey that he would be personally responsible for the city vehicle if he was driving it when he was not punched in. Shablow then asked Toomey whose trailer he used to go get sand bags. Toomey said it was Erickson's. The council said it is a liability to the city to borrow any vehicle and he was not to that anymore. Shablow said the Fire Department has a trailer he may be able to use if he needs one. Shablow asked Toomey if he worked Columbus Day. Toomey said the clerk told him that he had to and the clerk said Toomey was confused when she tried to explain the floating holiday to him. Shablow said Toomey had the City truck with the generator blocking a city street and both city shop doors open then went home with another city vehicle for dinner. Matthew stated that he was also aware of this, and that the pickup sat blocking the lane of traffic for a significant period of time. Matthew told Toomey never-ever is he to block a city street and it is only common sense that you do not do that. Strom said a couple of people told him that they saw Toomey coming out of the Maverick bar with a bottle during working hours. Toomey said he punched out before he went to the bar. Strom said he had checked Toomey's time card and he was punched in to work at the time of the occurrence. Shablow said she saw Toomey go into the city shop with the bottle. Toomey said he left it outside the city shop. Strom asked Toomey why he was not at work when the company from Greenbush came to pump out the outhouses. Toomey said he did not know when they were coming and they could have knocked on his door and he would have helped. Strom asked Toomey if he was wearing a safety vest, Toomey said he was. Strom told Toomey that he has to wear a safety vest even over a coat.

**MAINTENANCE REPORT:** Toomey said he did not have a maintenance report only that the school gym needs water. Strom will take care of it. Toomey said that Ottetail dumped tree branches in the wrong place at the city dump, so Toomey moved them. Toomey then said he wants it on record that he will punch out before getting wine.

**CITY BILLS/CLAIMS TO BE AUDITED:** Kowaliuk said she did not need to be paid mileage to go to the meetings and asked Shablow if she wanted the pay. Shablow said yes, she wanted to be paid and then Kowaliuk said she might as well be paid also. Toomey said he did not need to go to the OSHA meetings because he already had been to them, and knew everything. Shablow informed Toomey that he will be attending those meetings as you need to take these yearly. Kowaliuk made a motion, Shablow seconded, to pay the city claims. **M/S/P – Kowaliuk/Shablow/All.**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT BILLS/CLAIMS TO BE AUDITED:** Shablow made a motion, Matthew seconded, to pay the Fire Department claims. **M/S/P – Shablow/Matthew/All.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Matthew made a motion, Kowaliuk seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. **M/S/P – Matthew/Kowaliuk/All.**

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be on November 18, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

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Sandra Lund, City Clerk