

# MINUTES

## City of Carlos Regular Council Meeting

### City Hall, Carlos, Minnesota

Thursday, May 14, 2020 7:00 PM

1. **Mayor Michael Bous called City of Carlos Regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance @ 7:00 pm**
3. **Roll Call** was taken: Mayor Michael Bous; Council Members Ronna Berghoff, Teresa Zweig, and Todd Burgess and Council Member Maria Doucette were present. Public Works Official Jeff Gunderson, County Engineer Jared Voge, Fire Chief Tim Sukke, Fire Dept. Secretary Olivia Niblett and City Clerk/Treasurer Lori Johnson were in attendance.
4. **Meeting Minutes from April 9, 2019 were reviewed.** Ronna Berghoff made a motion to approve the minutes, Todd Burgess seconded it. April 9, 2020 Minutes were approved.
5. Mayor asked for **Petitions from the Public**. Nicole Botzet would like to know if any decision available yet for Carlos City Summer Celebration. Fire Chief Tim Sukke said, "Probably Not" going to have it. Nicole said she would like to go ahead and have the 5K Fundraiser in Memory of her daughter regardless. If necessary she would make it a virtual event. She plans to do it just this year and next year will be the final year, as that would have been Kortni's graduating year. Not having food stands this year and will have small, if any silent auction to observe and be in compliance with pandemic guidelines. All Council Members agreed it was fine to have the 5K Fundraiser as long as required protocol was followed.
7. **City Treasurer Report given by Lori Johnson**
  - a. Receipts included a \$2500 reimbursement for training to the CFD from MN Management & Budget. Received the second half of 2019 payment from Belle River township of \$3980 for Fire Protection and \$967.50 for First Responders. Transferred City of Carlos first half 2020 Fire Protection payment of \$6500 to Fire Department Fund. Received Quarterly interest payment on CDs at Blackridge totaling \$1104.46 and \$246.07 was earned on the CFD CD. We had the transfer from Bremer Savings to BlackRidge Checking of \$15000. Total Receipts were \$60230.79.
  - b. Disbursements include the same transfers, mentioned above: the \$6500 to CFD Fund and \$150000 transfer from Bremer to Blackridge. Total disbursements for month of April were \$45558.99.
  - c. Claims: from #1570-1594 total \$26,216.04, after subtracting the bill to Cowing Robard for a jacket which Adam told me the Fire Department would take care of. Included in this total is the \$6733 payment for the CFD Washer/Extractor (which comes out of the CFD fund); the payment for the snow plow for \$7690; a payment to Granite Electronics to repair Emergency Siren for \$1178.62; \$2232 to Douglas County Assessors Office.
  - d. Our current checking balance is \$31,573.28, our claims total \$26,216.04: we should be OK. We will be getting the 1<sup>st</sup> half of property tax payment in June.
  - e. As discussed last meeting, I created a letter to advise those water customers that were incorrectly being billed as "Standby" that it is being changed.  
Teresa made a motion to approve the Treasures' report, Maria seconded it; Motion carried 4-0.
- 8 **Engineer Report**, Jared Voge: Nothing to report. Available for questions.
9. **Public Works Report**, Jeff Gunderson
  - a. Clean up Day went great! Good turn-out.
  - b. Blade Alleys; Should be able get over to the roads by Linda Freads' trailers now. Jeff said we need 9-10 loads of gravel; going price is \$220 a load, which includes 12 yards per load. Council agreed that was good price.
  - c. Hydrants flushed; everything excellent.
  - d. Water tests are good. Seem to have resolved copper issue.
  - e. Swept Streets in Carlos and County Roads and Miltona and Nelson. Revenue from that is about \$3000.
  - f. Estimates for lawn mower. Best one in Jeff's opinion is the Country Clipper from Wadena. Our current mower has 1200 hours on it, last year the trade in offer was \$1000 more; soon there will be no trade in value. The trade in value they are offering for current mower is \$1800, and the price of new one after trade in and after government discount is about \$8400. Todd suggested that if our current mower were to blow up, all we would be out is \$1800. All Council Members stated that it would be nice to upgrade, but since we are in a time with this pandemic where everything is unpredictable, it is best we just stay with current mower as long as it still works.
  - g. Read meters, all meters. Would like to start the conversation on the Radio Read meters because it will be a summer long project to get them installed. Our current Reader is showing its age and making mistakes. Battery prices keep going up, next time it goes out will be about \$2000. Council requested the Salesman for the new Radio Reader come talk to us next month to hear the updated information.
  - h. Jeff suggested something to keep in mind would be chip seal, seal coating for the roads. Would extend life about 15 years. When asked for his opinion, Jarod Voge City Engineer stated the recommended procedure is to mill and overlay pavements. Jarod did say that many are doing the chip seal. It was stated that the mill/overlay procedure is much more expensive. There was a report done last year on an extensive plan for our road maintenance and replacement. Council said we should look that up and see what that says.

**10. Clerks Report, Lori Johnson**

- a. Water bills done May 7. All Meters were read. We should start looking into the best place to get the radio meter reader to avoid the difficulty in reading meters during winter months. It will be a summer long project to install the new adaptor into each house.
- b. We have a spot on the Belle River Township Council Annual Meeting Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00pm at St. Nicholas Church.
- c. I received a call from Amy Balcome. She said she thinks the people living in the doublewide on the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> and Carlos Ave. are burning their garbage. She said there is terrible stink and smoke coming from there and she said that huge pile of garbage that they have under the tarp has been slowly getting smaller. Maria lives near there, said she didn't think they were burning garbage, but they do continue to put garbage under tarp including food waste which is attracting vermin and is a health hazard. This has been an ongoing problem for way too long. Send letter, if no reaction, call Sheriff to issue citation. Jeff added there is another residence on corner of Douglas Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> Street that has a large pile of garbage accumulating in their back yard.
- d. I prepared the Resolution 2020-04-09 as discussed last meeting on water shut offs and late fees during this pandemic. Todd made a motion to approve resolution, Maria seconded it, motion carried 4-0.
- e. I received a request from a resident wondering about the ordinances pertaining to chickens. It appears that a lot of towns with small populations, like ours, do allow it. I have included a sample ordinance from another town to look at. Council said absolutely not, no farm animals allowed in city limits.
- f. Decision was made to have elections as "normal": using spacing, masks, and lots of sanitizer. Those who would like to not come will be able to use the absentee ballot, as always.

**11. Fire Department Report, by Fire Chief Tim Sukke** Parades have been a hit with young and old. Washer/Extractor is here- not hooked up yet because they haven't been able to meet regularly. Request was made to take Ed Niblett's gear out of service to either build something in memorial to him to put up in new Fire Hall, or else his wife Jodi would like it. Todd made a motion to take Ed's gear out of service, Teresa seconded it; Motion carried 4-0. Did some grass burning a couple of weeks ago. Looking forward to getting back into regular training.

**12. Ball Park Committee Report:** Nothing new to report. Jeff reported bathrooms are still locked. Ronna said most all baseball leagues have been cancelled, or put off until possibly mid-July.

**13. Sheriff Department Log:** Report available for anyone to look at on back table.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A.** Offers on old truck: so far only one offer has been made. Ronna said her Dad and Husband would also like to submit an offer. Decided to set a deadline for next Wednesday for bidding to end, and then take the best offer at that time.

**B.** New Fire Hall: Wondering if School Board has been meeting, and what the status is. Lori sent email to Alan Zeitheimer and has not had a response. Tim Sukke said he will give Alan a call to find out status.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A.** New Contract with Gardonville for lease of space on our Water Tower to put their antennas; needs a Resolution to approve it. New Contract basically same as before, just increase in price from \$50 per month per antennae (8 of them) to \$75 per antennae, with an annual increase scheduled after that. New contract does also include internet service for Fire Hall; decided phone service is not needed. Todd made a motion to approve the Contract with Gardonville, Ronna seconded it; motion passed 4-0.

**B.** Carlos resident submitted bill for possible reimbursement regarding repair to water line. Jeff stated that our responsibility ends at curb stop, thus we are not required to reimburse him for this repair.

**C.** Jeff Kuhn from Widseth contacted us regarding their in-house grant writer

**MISCELLANEOUS/ UPCOMING EVENTS:** Todd raised issue of having background checks for all new employees, including firemen. It was discussed that it should occur before paying for the training and that it should be written up in Personal Policy.

Secondly, Todd asked if he would need a permit for a shed on his property that is 12'x20'. Lori said she would check with Lynn Timm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Maria Doucette presented motion to adjourn, Todd Burgess seconded it; Motion carried 4-0. May 14, 2020 Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.



Lori D. Johnson, City of Carlos Clerk/Treasurer