

Hanska City Council – Regular Meeting

June 10th 2024

6pm – Hanska Community Center

Regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Vee at 6:00pm. Members present Vee, Kjelshus, Geiger, Miller and Larson. Members absent: None

City Clerk Moldan, Public Works Tauer

Library –Angela Pick

Citizens, Ron Frederickson, Quinten Hanson, Larry Stoesz, Lonny Lantz, Keith Frederickson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Geiger moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Larson. Motion passed.

Open Citizens Comments: Ron Fredericksons two trees on the boulevard have been taken down and wants to know what is going on with the curb and sidewalk. Tauer said it would be around 16 feet of curb. Council referenced City Ordinance 92.01 € Repair of sidewalks and alleys (1) *Duty of owner*. The owner of any property within the city abutting a public sidewalk or alley shall keep the sidewalk or alley in repair and safe for pedestrians. Repairs shall be made in accordance with the standard specifications approved by the City Council and on file in the office of the City Clerk. After council discussion council asked Tauer to get 3 bids on the curb and sidewalk council will review at the next meeting. Geiger said the city needs to put a plan together and be proactive on Ash Trees. Quinten Hanson, Larry Stoesz, Lonny Lantz, Keith Frederickson were in attendance to discuss the change to water/sewer billing on vacant/empty properties. Geiger explained council made the decision based on the 2023 audit report and Bolton and Menk median household income study. The city needed to increase water and sewer rates by \$25,000.00. Clerk expanded on this by adding the city is paying for street, water/sewer projects. City residents voiced their opinions that if they are not using the water they should not have to pay for it and wanted council to hear them.

Geiger moved to approve minutes from the May 13th 2024 meeting. Seconded by Larson. Motion passed.

Miller moved to approve City claims. Seconded by Geiger. Motion passed.

Library – Angela gave the report. Summer reading has started 38 kids are signed up.

Wednesdays will be an activity day, June 12th there will be a water balloon fight. Average of 10 kids and 5 adults per day. Current hours are 10:00am-3:00pm, hours might change to 11:00am-4:00pm. Library got a \$4,000.00 grant to use for HVAC, council said it should be used on a furnace.

Fire Department- Larson Fire Dept is getting the 50% 50% matching grant and is deciding how to use it.

Public works- Tauer gave the report. Stump grinding is going well about 20 minutes for a small stump. Gaga Ball pit is done. Tauer hasn't gotten the new generator yet.

City Clerk Moldan – City website is done clerk can add pictures for different pages if anyone has some pictures. Update on 4th of July parade, 23 confirmed entries still looking for volunteers. Clerk is working on the USDA grant. An additional letter was sent to Geiger regarding his dog, council said if he doesn't respond, to continue on with the process. 16 water shut offs went out. Council asked what the current late fee is? Late fee is at \$10.00, after some discussion council said to rise the late fee to \$15.00, maybe more people will pay their bills on time. Council asked if there was anything they can do about the water/sewer bills for vacant/empty properties? Clerk said the amounts are based on the audit. Geiger mad the suggestion to charge the vacant/empty properties half amounts and make up the difference with base fees and water usage fees, council members agreed to make the change, clerk will adjust the rates. Clerk said the laws are changing for salaried employee's 1st change is July 1 2024 pay must be 43,888.00 per year, the city meets these requirements. 2nd change is starting January 1st 2025 salaried employees must make 58,656.00 per year.

Council: Kjelshus asked if there are any grants out there to help with Ash tree removal, clerk said there is one through the DNR, it's a hard grant to get with so many cities dealing with Ash trees, clerk will look into this. Vee asked council if anything was going to be done with the cars on the Strassburg property? Council said the property is looking better. Vee brought information on the Veterans memorial this would be a large display with 50 small plaques that can be purchased and engraved. The city would purchase the large display and sell the small plaques. Vee will get more information on the cost.

Geiger made a motion to adjourn, Kjelshus seconded, meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm

Attest: City Clerk, Cinnamon Moldan

Mayor, Daniel Vee