

February 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the Cuyuna City Council was held at 6:00 pm at the Cuyuna Fire Hall. Present were Mayor Brix and Council Members Haag, O'Brien, Smith, and Workman. Also present were Cuyuna Fire Chief Hasskamp, Cuyuna Police Chief Smith, City Engineer Tim Houle, and Clerk-Treasurer Bedard. City Attorney Tom Pearson attended remotely.

Mayor Brix led the pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Workman to approve the minutes for the January 10, 2023, regular council meeting. Second by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Smith to approve payment of the invoices and forthcoming regular monthly invoices. Second by Haag. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Chief Report:

- Council reviewed the monthly fire department report presented by Chief Hasskamp.
- There was one first responder callouts for the month in Cuyuna and no fire callouts.
- February training will be SCBA Drills/Ladder Refresh by FIRE Inc.

Water and Sewer Report:

- City received two reports of low water pressure and will investigate with the water operator.

Planning and Zoning Activity Report:

- One accessory structure land use permit application.
- One letter sent to property owner for an unpermitted accessory structure.

Police Chief Report:

- Police Chief Jesse Smith provided the council with the January activity report. During the month, the department issued 29 traffic warnings and 2 citations. The department provided agency assists to the Minnesota State Patrol and Deerwood Police Departments. Among the monthly responses, officers addressed reports of excessive vehicle speeds, multiple reports of snowmobiles driving fast and on private property, assisted with locating a runaway juvenile, attempted a service warrant, and responded to a call of a deceased individual.
- Chief Smith completed modules of the Incident Command System training series.
- Department is working on employment backgrounds for three officers.

Engineering Report:

- Tim Houle, City Engineer, provided information in the Unfinished Business portion of the agenda.

Campground Report:

- Campground reservations opened on the city website the last week in January. The city received reservations for over 200 RV camping nights. Many reservations are for 3 or more nights.

Public Comments:

- No public comments.

Unfinished Business:

- City Engineer Tim Houle told the council Widseth, on behalf of the City, sent out requests for a proposal for a consulting specialist to prepare nomination paperwork for the National Register of Historical Places. Proposals will be reviewed at the March council meeting.
- Widseth continues to develop the PER/ER for the potential water project.
- Mr. Houle introduced Nick Peterson of Widseth, who will be a second engineer assigned to assist the city as needed.
- Attorney Pearson reported there is a court order on the nuisance ordinance violation, but the city must wait until May 1, 2023 to take any action. The property owner has until that date to remove items and bring the property into compliance with the city ordinance.

New Business:

- Council reviewed the proposed Data Practice Request Policy resolution. The City Attorney recommended approving the resolution which will allow the city to charge a fee for city costs researching, gathering, and copying requested documents.
- **Motion by Workman to approve the Data Practice Request Policy resolution. Second by O'Brien. Motion carried unanimously.**
- John Taylor, Sno-Serpents Snowmobile Club representative, inquired if the city owned property where snowmobilers could park their snowmobile trailers. While the city does not have such property, the council did mention Mr. Taylor could contact private property owners who might consider allowing trailer parking.
- Chief Smith provided a follow up report on the snowmobile issues in the city and noted a significant increase in snowmobile traffic. He is working with the Sno-Serpents Snowmobile Club to place additional signs up to educate snowmobilers where they can ride in Cuyuna and avoid crossing private property. Chief Smith feels education can reduce the issues while still encouraging snowmobilers to come into the city. Also, the owner of the Woodtick Inn requested to place signs directing snowmobilers to his business. Council approved and asked the owner to coordinate locations with the city police chief. John Taylor shared the Sno-Serpents Snowmobile Club will work on better signage in 2024. He shared snowmobilers not staying on trails is a statewide issue.
- Chief Smith discussed remodeling the city hall bathrooms which are in poor condition. Mayor Brix will meet with Chief Smith and look at improvements needed and obtain proposals to repair and ensure the bathrooms meet ADA requirements. The city also will review this spring placement of a handicap parking spot at the city hall and appropriate thresholds in doorways.
- Mr. Ed Anttila, Woodtick Inn owner, reminded the council they will be hosting their annual ice fishing contest this weekend, including a Friday evening special event.
- There were 584 unique visitors in January to the city website, 2057 pageviews, and a year-on-year growth of 25.66%..

Adjournment:

- **Motion by Haag to adjourn at 6:43 PM. Second by Workman. Motion carried unanimously.**

William F Bedard
Clerk

Lloyd Brix
Mayor