**Minutes of the Regular Meeting-7:30pm Tuesday**

**October 10, 2023**

**Mendota VFW 1323 Sibley Memorial Hwy,**

**Mendota Minnesota**

1. Call to order: Mayor Mielke called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Present: Mayor Mielke. Council Members Golias, Perron, and Donnelly. Attorneys Tom Loonan and Christina Benson, Engineer Lucas Jones, City Clerk Kathy Krotter, and Captain Wegener. Council member Rasmussen absent.

4. Agenda: Mayor Mielke asked if there were any last-minute changes to the agenda. No changes. Motion to approve agenda by Mayor Mielke, seconded by Council Member Perron. Approved 4-0.

5. Approval of September 12, 2023, City Council Meeting minutes. Motion to approve last month’s minutes. Motioned by Mayor Mielke and seconded by Council member Perron Approved 4-0.

6. Treasurer’s Report: Motion to pay the bills by Council Member Golias and seconded by Council Member Donnelly. Approved 4-0.

7. Cannabis Ordinance Lawyer Christina Benson gave some background on the Ordinance from the public hearing last month. This gives the city some time to adopt some ordinances before licenses start getting issued. This is not a public use ordinance. Christina asks if there are any questions. Tom and Christina summarized the ordinance.

Chritina stated that we need to adopt ordinance 23-09 an interim ordinance prohibiting the operation of cannabis businesses in the city of Mendota. Moved by Council Member Golias and seconded by Council Member Perron. Approved 4-0. The next thing is the Summary Public Resolution, it is for the city clerk to post a Summary of the Cannabis Ordinance in lieu of posting the whole ordinance. Christina read the summary. Ordinance No: 23-11. Motioned to approve by Council Member Golias and seconded by Mayor Mielke. Approved 4-0

8. Jack Nord-Sibley house about bees. The Sibley site is thinking of adding honeybees to the site. Honeybees fall under the category of agriculture. But the city is not zoned for agriculture. The Sibley site is wondering what the city would think if they had honeybees. They would be back by the Faribault house tucked back and would not be around any walking paths or roadways. Then in the spring they are thinking of planting an apple orchard on site. Tom asked when they were thinking of having the bees. Jack stated that they are working with a company called Kinnickinnic Bees. The Sibley site would not oversee any of the maintenance of the bees, it would be trained beekeepers coming out once a month. They would install the hive in the spring and then come out monthly after that. The site would get about sixty-seven dollars a month. Tom said that he would have to do some research on this for Jack, but he thought he would be permitted to do this. The third party will harvest the honey and give it to the Sibley site.

9. Public Comments: Opened at 7:41 pm. Residents asked about the demolition at 1345 Second Street. Someone asked about the Cannabis ordinance. The statue states that each city can have 1 license for every 12,500 people. Closed public comment at 7:44 pm.

13. Council Comments: Open council comments at 7:44 pm.

Council Member Rasmussen: Absent

Council Member Golias: Nothing

Mayor Mielke: Stated he had some mail, if anyone would like to look at it. Mayor spoke about the trees and that we finally got a bid. The clerk was instructed to contact Miller Tree Service and have them go ahead, after direction by Council. Mayor attended the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program. BTYR was identified by the state as being the number one Beyond the Yellow Ribbon in the state. Mayor stated what the group has done for veterans in our area. The program includes five cities, South St Paul, Mendota Heights, Lilydale, West St Paul and Mendota. They are called the Northern Dakota County Group.

Council Member Donnelly: Halloween is coming up and it is on a Tuesday, looking forward to seeing everyone out and about.

Council Member Perron: Nothing

Closed council comments at 7:47 pm.

14. Staff Comments: Open Staff Comments at 7:47 pm.

Captain Wegener: September was not a large report, there were 18 calls and 2 cases. We are in the process of hiring new officers. Last month we hired Mark McKernan and now we have hired a new officer, Logan Welter. Mayor asked if Victoria Curve was ever going to get done. Council Member Donnelly asked if the calls to the 300 block of E Street have settled down. Captain stated yes, but it is still always better to call if there is a problem.

Lucas Jones: Lucas stated that he has been working with Kathy on some correspondence and reviews with 2 Windy Ridge. Resident is doing some landscaping. Lucas thinks it would be worthwhile to get together with the planning committee and talk development prep, park dedication fees, sewer and water fees and other things. The city still needs to update the MS4. Lucas did meet with MNDot the Thursday after the last meeting, to discuss the TED program (Transportation Economic Development Grant) and we have decided not to submit anything for this year. Our project may not be the best candidate since it is a business base instead of housing based. But we will be in touch with MNDot on other funding projects, since MNDot is aware of what projects we are working on. (the city’s water project) Council member Donnelly asked if Lucas could send him some information about the watermain projects so he could reach out to the new house seats.

Lawyer Tom Loonan: Tom did talk to Jennifer Haskamp about the fees. He thought she would be at the meeting today, but he could not get ahold of her. Tom has heard from the Benson Metal developers after the meeting last month. They are going with a variance concerning the height restrictions. Tom has been working on the Kreitz transaction. Everything was taken care of, until Bridget went to the County. They had an issue with the title, so Tom is working with the county on the issue. MNDot is the authority here, and this is how they did it and that’s how we did it. Christina talked about the park dedication fee. The supreme court finally issued clear authority on what the formula should look like and what your ordinance can and cannot do. Lucas stated that he had worked on the sewer and water capacity and where the city is at on that.

City Clerk: Primary election is Thursday November 16th, and the Election will be December 5th, 2023.

Closed staff comment at 8:04 pm.

14. Adjourn: 8:04 pm. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Council Member Donnelly and seconded by Mayor Mielke. Approved 4-0.