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

**September 12, 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, Rasmussen, and Donnelly. Attorneys Tom Loonan and Christina Benson, Engineer Lucas Jones, City Clerk Kathy Krotter, and Captain Wegener.

4. Agenda: Mayor Mielke asked if there were any last-minute changes to the agenda. Lawyer Loonan stated that number 8 on the agenda would be a Public Hearing for the School Bonding. Motioned to change agenda by Mayor Mielke and Seconded by Council Member Golias. Approved 5-0.

5. Approval of August 8, 2023, City Council Meeting minutes. Motion to approve last month’s minutes. Motioned by Council Member Golias and seconded by Mayor Mielke. Approved 5-0.

6. Treasurer’s Report: Motion to pay the bills by Mayor Mielke and seconded by Council Member Perron. Approved 5-0.

7. Public Hearing Cannabis Ordinance Lawyer Christina Benson gave some background on the Ordinance. The public hearing is to consider whether to adopt a moratorium ordinance which would allow the city to conduct a study and prepare their ordinance for when Cannabis licenses become available from the state. The ordinance (moratorium) would give the city time to decide which direction to go until January 1, 2025. Also, direction would be heard from the public on whether drinking, smoking or eating of Cannabis would be allowed. Mayor asked some clarifying questions about smoking at businesses. Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:37pm. The public asked questions. The moratorium would mostly control businesses and zoning. The moratorium would not affect private use. Public hearing closed at 7:45pm Direction from council to move forward on the moratorium and ordinance. Approved

8. Public Hearing Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) City clerk gave background information of the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) Mayor opened public hearing at 7:53pm. Public asked questions. Closed public hearing at 7:55pm. Motion to approve ordinance by Mayor Mielke and seconded by Council member Donnelly. Approved 5-0

9. Public Hearing Taft-Stonebridge School Bonding Resolution: Lawyer Loonan gave background information about the resolution that the city was asked to be an issuer with the American National Bank to assist in a public financing project for a Stonebridge building company who is seeking financing to do improvements to charter schools and refinancing for outstanding debt. The city is asked to be a conduit for a chunk of the debt in which the city would receive approximately five thousand dollars for the city’s help. Mayor opened public hearing at 7:58pm.

The public made comments and asked questions. Tom Loonan called Mr. Burns from Taft Law firm to clarify some questions that the public had. Closed public hearing 8:06 pm. Resolution 23-09 was read by Lawyer Loonan. Motion to approve resolution by Mayor Mielke and seconded by council member Rasmussen Approved 5-0

10. Judd Fenlon-Benson Property Site Plan: Mr. Fenlon and his associate Josh presented their plans for the Benson Property. They presented two different designs. The Mayor, Council and public asked questions and commented on the new plans. Lucas gave his oversite of the property. 41:35

11. Preliminary Tax Levy: Mayor and Council went through the budget for the preliminary tax levy; Motion to approve preliminary tax levy of $170,000 by Council Member Golias and seconded by Council Member Rasmussen.

12. Public Comments: Opened at 9:14 pm. Residents asked about updates on 265 E Street project. Mayor and Lucas updated on the changes that were made. The only thing left to be completed is the lot combination. Residents asked about soil boring samples, the springs and drain tile. Talked about the Benson property. Questions about apartments, multifamily homes, and group homes. Closed public comment at 9:25 pm.

13. Council Comments: Open council comments at 9:25 pm.

Council Member Rasmussen: Thanked the clerk for the wonderful picnic on Saturday.

Council Member Golias: Also thanked the clerk (ditto)

Mayor Mielke: The Mayor (triple ditto on the picnic), has mail if anyone is interested in looking at it. Mayor asked if Miller tree service had sent over any bids for the trees. The clerk stated that she reached out to Xcel about the trees that were too close to the electric lines because Miller tree service could not touch those.

Council Member Donnelly: Stated that the town picnic was awesome, his kids talked about it for two weeks before it was here. Thanked Gunnar for all the work he does around town. It really does make the town look beautiful. Apologized for missing two meetings in a row.

Council Member Perron: Nothing

Closed council comments at 9:28 pm.

14. Staff Comments: Open Staff Comments at 9:28 pm.

Captain Wegener: August 18 calls opened 4 cases, three of the four were property cases. We are in the process of hiring new officers. They had a promotion last week. Pete was moved to sergeant and Mark McKernan is a new officer. Conditional going to the council for another police officer. Changes, some individuals left and moved onto different positions and some even to other states.

Lucas Jones: Updated fee schedule should be done with all the new developments. Maybe for building permits, escrow amounts, sewer and water access charges. We should figure out what kind of capacity for sewer and water we have and for future growth. We could say this is what capacity you are taking up and this is what it is going to cost new developers. So, taxpayers don’t get hit with these charges, since it would be hard to go back to the developers after everything is done. Park dedication fees, to improve the park in the middle of town. Lucas suggested that Swanson Haskamp could come up with these charges. (Based on the size of the project.) Lucas asked for directions on the fee schedule. MS4 should go to planning commission. Mayor, clerk along with Lucas and one of our mobility engineers will be meeting with MNDot on Thursday for the TED grant which is Transportation Economic Development. Friday Lucas will be participating in a condac meeting for public works and engineers in Dakota County.

Lawyer Tom Loonan: Talked about the fee schedule and Tom has reached out to Jennifer Haskamp. Stated that Ms. Benson has done a fine job with getting everything up to date with the marijuana situation in the city. And the ordinance will be drafted for the next meeting. Tom checked with our current zoning code and our residential district does allow duplex’s triplex’s and four plex’s to allow as a condition use permit under our current zoning code. Nothing 5 and above.

City Clerk: Had nothing new.

Closed staff comment at 9:50 pm.

14. Adjourn: 9:50 pm. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Council Member Donnelly and seconded by Council member Perron. Approved 5-0.