

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting-7:30pm Tuesday,  
December 8, 2020  
Online zoom meeting**

\*Attorney Tom Loonan announced that the council is meeting remotely and Mayor Mielke will conduct the meeting and all voting will be done by rollcall.

1. Call to order: Mayor Meilke called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Present: Council members Golias, Perron, Rasmussen and Donnelly. City Attorney, Tom Loonan, City Clerk, Kathy Krotter, and Captain Wegener. Engineer Lucas Jones. Absent Building official, Mike Andrejka.
4. Agenda: Motion to approve agenda by Mayor Mielke and seconded by Council Member Donnelly. Adding the final tax levy. Approved 5-0.
5. Approval of November 10, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes: Correction page 2-public comments, touch base. Page 3, ¾ down change to their water. Motion to approve minutes by Council Member Perron and seconded by Council Member Rasmussen. Approved 4-0. Mayor abstained.
6. Approval of special meeting held November 13: Motion to approve the minutes by Council Member Perron, seconded by Mayor Mielke. Approved 4-0 Council member Donnelly abstained.
7. Treasurer's Report: Motion to move to pay the bills by Council Member Perron and Seconded by Council Member Golias. Approved 5-0
8. Building Official report Mike Andrejka: Mike was absent but reported to the city clerk that he issued one permit and closed seven for the month of November.
9. Water main update by Lucas: Lucas brought up the map to explain the water main update. The map was the city of Mendota. Lucas was going to set up a

meeting with the PFA- (Public Facility Association) as they are the ones that handle state bonding monies. The city has received \$650,000 to extend the water main. Lucas has reached out to MN Dot, St. Paul Water, Met Council, Mendota Heights and Dakota County as they all have various interests on the portion on Highway 13. They did not have any specific projects to avoid or to bundle into this project. During the meeting with PFA, Lucas wanted to give them a heads up on the project and all the state holders that he had reached out to. The main thing that came out of the meeting was the clarification from the Mayor that we are not just doing the portion on Highway 13 but to give access to residents in downtown Mendota and throughout town. Lucas went to the map and showed the green area which went from the Post Office up to the villas or private residents on the north edge of Mendota on Highway 13. (1200 to 1230 Sibley Memorial Highway) So area one, the green area still stands on Highway 13. That is 2500 lineal feet of pipe and that would only service the first three homes on the curve by the trail. The items in blue is what we currently have in town and those were brought into town using community development block grants, to get fire hydrants into town. The other blue dots are from the department of health and are known or registered wells that people have. Lucas knows there are probably three times that many but these were the registered ones. The red circles are residents that have city water from St Paul Water services. The orange area is area 2 and is about 3600 lineal feet of pipe and would service 30 new homes. The pink area is area 3 and is about 2400 lineal feet of pipe and would service 17 homes. The areas are broken up by elevations in town and different pressure zones, so we don't run into the same problem and don't want to have pressures near 150 PSI. Area one would be about \$900,000 to extend but if we find rock it would be about 1.3 million dollars. Area 2 would add 6 fire hydrants, cost about \$900,000 and if we find rock and to re-grade the roads would be about 1.2 million dollars. Area 3 would add 5 fire hydrants and cost about \$800,000 or 1.1 million dollars if we found rock. Council member Donnelly had a question and said that Lucas mentioned last time that a benefit of connecting would eliminate some of the dead ends in the water supply, would any of these provide that benefit? Lucas said yes area one and three. The Mayor commented that on the high end the cost would be around 3.6 million and on the low end 2.6 million dollars. Area one could be eliminated from the project. Lucas stated that area one would be the least beneficial and if we apply for other funding mechanism that one would not score very well. But getting rid of the wells and fire protection would get us a high score. Council member Golias

stated that area one would be very beneficial to Lilydale and Mendota Heights. And maybe down the road that could be a separate project and we could approach Lilydale and Mendota Heights and get funding for that. We should go after funding for area two and area three. One main fund is the drinking water revolving loan program thru PFA. We would need to send in applications to the Department of Health for scoring. After you send them in you get on the project priority list. Then you get scored and ranked based on all the applications in the state. The higher the number the higher on the list you get for principal forgiveness or a grant. And secondly a group of them will be low interest loans, like 1 or 2 percent. The good thing about this program is to get on that score card, you can have a larger project and you can reduce it. So Lucas suggests doing all three areas and then when we decide what to do we can come down in scale, but we cannot go up in scale. We need to submit an application and we need to have the projects costed out. The good thing about the drinking water program is that it is a very low expense application, it is a letter and the last one Lucas did was five or six pages. You just go through a quick summary of town and what the existing conditions are in town, what the alternatives are and what the costs are. We have more than half of that done already. If you are the waste water side of things they want you to do a facility plan that would cost \$10,000 to \$25,000 just before you can even apply. Some other funding facilities, PFA suggested that we check in again with the county on the CDBG. With some areas of town we might qualify for those areas like area 2. The other funding was to check in with USDA world development, the only way you qualify is if you are a small town, under 10,000 and outside of the metropolitan area. So being in the metropolitan area does that disqualify us from using this program? The nice thing about this program is that there is a lot more grants available, but there is a lot more upfront costs with reports that need to be done. Mayor Mielke asked about Met Council, but Lucas said they would not be a good choice since they deal with wastewater and storm water, not really water supply. Other options are that if we expand this project, Lucas has gone back and gotten multiple bonding bills as well. With the money that the city has already received we have four years to spend this money. We should identify the wells in the town and get the actual number of wells. Even the number of wells that are no longer in use or not in good shape. Anything bad, water wise that has happened in the town would be good to tell them. Lucas stated that anything we get for funding including the bonding bill money can only be used for public infrastructures. So anything that is within public right of way or public easement. Anything from

there is the homeowner's responsibility, also the closing of the wells. We might not get refunded for road repairs but we could get half or more of it paid for. Also culverts are ineligible for cost to repair. We need to stay 10 feet away from sewer lines.

Lucas also stated that a lot of people are expecting a downfall in the economy which may offer up an opportunity for a stimulus bill for infrastructure. Usually these are a shovel ready project which just means you are ready to go as soon as they give you the money. The most beneficial ones might go first instead of the ready ones. Council Member Donnelly suggested he could do documentation of the wells. He could go around and ask people if they had wells, Lucas said to map it out and take pictures to prove they had wells. (like location of the well) Then if we had questionnaires asking if residents had any water problems or test results from their water that could help too.

10. Final Tax Levy: Mayor Mielke stated that the Levy amount is \$152,766 motioned by Mayor Mielke and seconded by Council member Golias.  
Approved 5-0

11: Public Comments: 8:23 pm. Maria was grateful that the minutes were put in PDF file, she could read them. Closed public comment at 8:24 pm

12. Council Comments 8:24 pm Council member Perron stated that the street light is out on Second and E Street. Mayor Mielke also stated that there is a street light out on D Street also. Council member Rasmussen had nothing, Council member Golias had nothing, and Council member Donnelly had nothing except, let's get the tree up in the park. Mayor Mielke promised to get the tree up, and had one piece of mail. It had been requested to have some street sweeping done. Especially on upper D Street. City clerk said she would call the street sweeping company. Mayor asked if we should keep the emergency powers or give it up. Lawyer Loonan said we should keep it, if the council would want to. Mayor noticed that the pot holes have been repaired. Closed council comments at 8:32 pm

13. Staff Comments: 8:32 pm Captain Wegener stated that he did not have a ton to report. But stated there was an uptick in thefts at Luckys and a vehicle theft that was recovered in St Paul. The car was not in the best condition when found. They keys had been left in the car, a situation where they were warming

up the car. Council member Golias asked if the Captain had a lot of catalytic convertors thefts because they were having a lot at his work. Captain stated they have seen a slight uptick in that. Had two today and mostly see them in industrial park areas. And in areas where they work overnight or leave their vehicles parked overnight. It is better this year than last year though. Lucas said he would leave the Windy Ridge conversation up to Lawyer Loonan. But the attorneys of the dispute did submit Lucas' report of his response to Mr. Ducksons engineers and expert witness. Lucas will be their expert witness. Mayor Mielke and Council Member Golias will be in a mediation next week to act for the city. Mr. Loonan jumped in and took over for the Mayor and stated the city is represented by insurance and the lawyers, but Mayor Mielke and Council member Golias will be the liaisons for the city. Mr. Miller had come to the meeting last week and asked for the \$20,000 escrow money and Mr. Loonan sent a letter to Mr. Miller and there are a few outstanding items not completed. Like the pavement of the street after the development was complete and they cannot finish that until spring so we are going to hold in escrow the \$20,000 as per the agreement. And the items we discussed in the Culligan development. City clerk Krotter had one thing about the voting place for Dakota County that the Mayor needs to sign. Closed staff comment at 8:45pm

14. Adjourn: 8:46 pm Motion to adjourn the meeting by Council Member Donnelly. Seconded by Council member Perron.