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

**March 12, 2024**

**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. Attorney’s Tom Loonan and Christina Benson, Engineer Lucas Jones, Captain Wegener and City Clerk Kathy Krotter.

4. Agenda: Agenda accepted as presented, no changes.

5. Approval of February 13, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve last month’s minutes as is, by Council Member Golias and seconded by Council Member Perron. Approved 5-0.

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

7. Public Hearing for Fence Variance at 265 E Street: Jennifer Haskamp read through the variance request for a seven-foot fence at 265 E Street. Then Jennifer read the findings from what her team thought of the project. Mayor opened public hearing at 7:38p.m. Residents, council, and the applicant’s attorney explained their concerns. Public hearing closed at 7:43 p.m. Council voted 3 no’s, 2 yes. Variance for fence declined.

8. Public comments: Mayor opened public comments at 7:52 p.m. Mayor asked Gunnar how the park looked. Gunnar stated he was going to be tearing out some more buckthorn. Our friends with the new construction site have used the park as a parking lot and have ripped up a section of the park. That should be something to consider in the future to fix up. Residents asked about street cleaning. Talked about fence heights with Jennifer. To change the fence heights, we would need to amend the zoning code. Also there seems to be a lot of rocks in the road at the new construction site. The new construction site could be told that they need to clean up as they work. Closed public comment at 8:09 p.m.

9. Council Comments: Opened at 8:09 p.m.

Council Member Rasmussen: Nothing.

Council Member Golias: Nothing.

Mayor Mielke: Mayor would like to look for consensus from the council to direct Jennifer and her team to revisit our fence heights. The council agrees. Mayor has mail. Application for Officer Scott Patrick memorial 5K that will be Saturday June 1st. Trees from Miller Tree service to have them cleaned up. Did we give Mr. Miller the Ok. Attended the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon event. Telephone pole by Gunnars that should be looked at.

Council Member Donnelly: Snow removal for next year.

Council Member Perron: Graffiti on Benson Metals building again.

Closed council comments at 8:15 pm.

11. Staff Comments: Open Staff Comments at 8:15 pm.

Captain Wegener: Overall, looked at the case count for last year for Mendota and the city had 40 cases that resulted in investigations. Mendota Heights had over 800 cases. So far 2024 has 3 cases. Catalytic converters thefts have gone down.

Lucas Jones: Since the last meeting Lucas has finished up the application for private well testing.

Lucas has started the quote letter for the culvert cleaning.

We just received some information from the senator’s office, Tina Smith, the federal government is now allowing earmarks for projects again similar to how our bonding bill goes. That may be another avenue to discuss. Might be something to look at for our water system.

MS4.

Jennifer Haskamp: Viewed the variance application for the fence. Working on getting the planning commission up and running. Had our first meeting with the group in February. Jennifer talked to Judd (Benson Metals) before the meeting and asked if he would be submitting his application soon. He said he was ready to show Jennifer some preliminary information tomorrow. The fee schedule needs to be amended for the park dedication.

Lawyer Tom Loonan: Wilcziek property, his attorney has been in talks with Tom Loonan. They are still working through the access situation. Very old easement that was granted from the railroad. Tracy’s lawyer, Jack, is comfortable that the railroad never used this access and never will and will not be building a railroad there.

Duckson property has an interested buyer. There is an issue with a vacated B Street where the documentation was not filed properly. Looking through the records it does look like it was a vacated street. It probably was never finalized. The title company has asked the city to re-execute the quit claim deed on that street.

Christina Benson: Looks like your ordinance is silent, ex official member is what Council Member Golias would be at the planning commission meetings. Council members can vote at the planning commission meetings. Regarding the fee schedule that was mentioned, Christina has gone through our ordinance and located some fees that need to be looked into.

Franchise fee for Xcel Energy for gas and electric, Christina has redlined it and has sent it back to Xcel for approval.

She will look through the city ordinances and amend them.

City Clerk: Stated that she has a quote from Village Lawn for grass cutting again this year. It only went up $136.50. Ok to approve quote.

New owner for Axel’s. The new owner is Tom, and his corporation is called Happy Steaks. Received a call from Louise who left Axels for a short time and is back now.

Elections went good, on March 5th. We are number one in the state. Next election August 13th and then November 5th.

Closed staff comment at 8:34 pm.

12. Adjourn: 8:34 p.m. Motion to adjourn by Council Member Donnelly and seconded by Council Member Perron. Approved 5-0.