

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**119 2<sup>nd</sup> ST SW, ROTHSAY, MN**  
**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**June 3, 2019 @7:15 pm**

Mayor Joseph Tillman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1.0 Call to Order:** The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Joseph Tillman at 7:15 p.m. Council Members present: Les Nelson, Daryl Schleeter, Tulsa-Leigh Kugler and Darrell Tollefson. Others present: Troy Larson, Mark Halbakken, Mike Hanson, June Ballard, Eric Larson and Jordan Barry.

**2.0 Public Forum:**

- Mike Hanson questioned the regulations regarding vacated and abandoned alleyways for personal use. An issue with a neighbor installing an underground fence was also brought up. The guidelines will be looked into regarding the above issues. Council will set a clear understanding to the public at the July regular council meeting. The fencing ordinance will be updated to include underground fencing.
- June Ballard made a request to purchase the parking lot adjacent to her property. Council responded that until demolition of the old school is completed and a final future use planning is completed, no decisions will be made.

**3.0 Approval of Agenda:** After two additions, A **MOTION** was made by Kugler, seconded by Schleeter to approve the agenda. Carried.

**4.0 ROTHSAY FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

- No word has come in on the FEMA grant application

**4.1 FIRE REPORT:** Barry reported there were a total of three calls in the month of May; two grass fires and one vehicle rollover.

**5.0 EMPLOYEE REPORTS:**

**5.1 JORDAN BARRY:**

- Barry reported that once the manhole discovered in an alleyway is jettied, more can be done determining where it leads.
- New banners for the street light poles will be researched as the current ones are sun faded and damaged.
- Allied Fire inspections for the Rothsay Event Center (REC) were postponed until construction is complete.
- **MOTION** by Schleeter, seconded by Nelson to approve Harles Cronk Tree Service invoice. Carried.
- Spring cleanup went as planned. Barry suggested not taking treated lumber in the future.
- Public Works Department (PWD) will be sending out letters on "junk" vehicles in July.
- Barry is awaiting his results from tree inspection exam.

**5.2 ERIC LARSON:**

- Larson reported there is a planned power outage for June to replace power lines. Once a date is decided, the public will be notified via Facebook.
- Water and Sewer have been shut down on parts of the REC for demolition to begin Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- RPZ testing will begin on June 4<sup>th</sup> to protect the city's water from contaminants.
- PWD will be scrapping old metal from the REC.
- No prices have come back for new flag poles or swing away mailboxes.
- Gravel and asphalt will be ordered for street repair and maintenance.
- Water samples will be taken before and after a water softener is installed at to bring clarity to the residents on the quality of city water.
- Larson requested vacation June 12-13, as well as July 11. Council granted.

**CONTINUED.....**

**5.3 LISA ZIMMERMAN:** No Report.

**6.0 NEW BUSINESS:**

**6.1 Land Owner Petition:** A Property Owner Petition for Detachment of Property from the City, was submitted to the City Council at the May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting. Before a response could be made, legal counsel was retained to guide and represent the City in this matter. During discussion of the petition, Section 5, stating *"The reason detachment is requested is the property proposed for detachment is and has always been agricultural. No municipal services have been provided, none are contemplated, and the property will never become urban or suburban in character."* was rebutted by Mayor Tillman. Tillman has provided the property owners with the opportunity to request municipal services on several occasions with no response to the matter. The city has also been aggressively looking to grow economically by a way of purchasing land for future commercial and / or agricultural business development. Two of the property owners on the petition declined to participate in any discussions for land purchase in regards to new economic growth opportunities. Section 7, stating *"Summarize what efforts were taken prior to filing this petition to resolve the issues: Petitioner met individually with several council members, who were concerned about potential impact on city revenues but acknowledged the petitioners pay a much higher tax for being in the City rather than Township. It was conveyed to the Petitioners that the City Council would not support a resolution for detachment."* was also disputed. When challenged, property owners acknowledged that the statement was false. Only Mayor Tillman and Clerk/Treasurer Zimmerman were approached prior to the petition being submitted with no opinion stated on behalf of the council. The requesting property owners, also have had for the past thirty-nine (39) years, a reduced rate of one-fifth (1/5) that they pay in city taxes since **Ordinance No.6.00 An Ordinance Setting Forth Urban and Rural Service Districts in the City of Rothsay Minnesota pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 272.67, as Amended** was passed on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 1980. So, while losing a tax revenue if detachment were to happen is a concern, it distresses the city more to lose the ability to grow economically, and for a more equally distributed tax levy. With what information Council currently has, **Resolution No. 2019-10 City Resolution Responding to A Petition Initiated by Property Owners for Detachment of Property from a City** was presented. No motion was made in support; A **MOTION** was made by Tollefson, seconded by Kugler to oppose the petition for detachment. The motion carried on a vote. Moving forward the petition along with the Resolution will need to be submitted to the Office of Administrative Hearings Municipal Boundary Adjustment Unit. A conference call will be scheduled, followed by a hearing to be scheduled within sixty (60) days, with a mediation to be held in the interim.

**6.2 City Planning Meeting Date:** Tillman proposed June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Meeting is scheduled.

**6.3 2019 Prairie Days Fireworks Contract:** **MOTION** to approve the contract as presented by Kugler, seconded by Tollefson, and carried.

**6.4 Prairie Days Special Liquor Permit:** **MOTION** by Tollefson, seconded by Schleeter to approve the permit as presented. Carried.

**6.5 Summer Help Recommendation:** The hiring committee, consisting of Schleeter, Nelson and Barry, recommended the position be offered to Ethan Bennett. **MOTION** to accept the recommendation made by Tollefson, seconded by Tillman. Carried. The position will start immediately following acceptance of a \$10/hour wage by Bennett.

**6.6 East Park Softball Field:** PWD will start digging out the field this week for fast and slow pitch softball. Grants will be applied for to install dugouts. Fences will be looked at for replacement in 2020.

**6.7 Bulk Water Rates:** Reports show that over 2017 and 2018 the city has been operating its bulk water filling station at a loss of \$4,320.00. New rates will be approved at the June 17<sup>th</sup> special meeting to begin July 1, 2019.

**6.8 Resolution No. 2019-8 Approving Property Tax Abatement:** **MOTION** by Nelson, seconded by Schleeter to accept the resolution as presented. Carried.

**CONTINUED.....**

**6.9 Resolution No. 2019-9 Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds: MOTION** by Kugler, seconded by Tollefson to accept the resolution as presented. Carried.

**6.10 Addition to the Agenda; Nelson Resignation:** A **MOTION** was made by Tollefson, seconded by Kugler to pass the resolution as presented. Carried. Nelson abstained. Council thanks Nelson for his dedication to the City of Rothsay and wishes him well on his future endeavors.

**7.0 OLD BUSINESS:**

**7.1 Community Slip & Slide:** Tillman will work with PWD and the band students to run/work a community slip and slide with proceeds to benefit the Rothsay band.

**7.2 June 29<sup>th</sup> Movie in the Park:** If weather does not cooperate, the event will be moved indoors or rescheduled.

**7.3 Addition to the Agenda; Community Person of the Year:** All City Council members are to speak with five individuals to refer a nomination to the Prairie Days website. Council will make a final decision at the July meeting.

**8.0 Approval of May 6, 2019 Council Minutes:** A **MOTION** was made by Schleeter, seconded by Kugler to approve. Carried.

**9.0 Present & Approve May Financial Statements and Hand-Payables: MOTION** by Nelson, seconded by Kugler to approve as presented. Carried.

**10.0 Present & Approve June Accounts Payables: MOTION** by Nelson, seconded by Tollefson to approve as presented. Carried.

**11.0 MOTION** to adjourn made by Nelson, seconded by Tollefson, and carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Transcribed by,

Lisa Zimmerman,  
City Clerk/Treasurer