

City of Battle Lake - City Council Minutes– January 24, 2017

The Battle Lake City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 5.30 p.m. at the Battle Lake City Hall. Mayor, Gene Kelm called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with Council members Ryan Christensen, Don Maslow, John A. Salvevold and Marjorie Quammen present Also present were City Clerk/Treasurer, Val Martin; Police Chief, Kent Kortlever; Public Works Superintendent, Steve Seufert; and Liquor Store Manager, Adam Freyholtz.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Maslow moved to approve the agenda with additions. Quammen seconded. MCU

Salvevold moved to approve the claims list. Quammen seconded. MCU

Quammen moved to approve the acknowledgement of a summons to clear a title for property owned by David Himmelspach, Jr. It is adjacent to city right-of-way with no concerns as reviewed by Attorney JJ Cline. Maslow seconded. MCU

Himmelspach property

Seufert discussed an issued with snow in the right-of-way and the request to remove it due to visibility issues and concerns from the adjacent property owner. As of today, the County has removed a large portion of the snow. As this could be an on-going concern, council requested Seufert do some further checking on the possibility of storing snow on a nearby field, snow fence or other ideas to remove and store the excess snow.

Snow in right of way

Maslow asked to discuss the snow removal and ice melt being done for downtown businesses. Are we providing special treatment to those businesses when others have to pay for City services such as sanding parking lots? There was an on-going discussion on how to handle this – do we continue the service? Do we go back to the requirement that they do the snow removal and taking care of ice melt? Council asked staff to track expenses and put on the agenda for August to review for the next winter's season. Someone asked about the snow under Granny's Pantry awning. Seufert explained that it is too low and they have asked the owners to have it raised but this has not been done.

Snow removal and ice melt in downtown area

A council orientation was presented to the council. Staff went through a number of city requirements, statutes, council authority, open meeting law, staff vs. council authority, general staff duties for each department, financial information, and additional resources. Each department head went through a power-point to give the council additional detail. Kortlever had to leave the meeting early so we will add his power-point to a future council meeting which also may include a review of economic development incentives.

Council orientation

Council was in agreement that the information was helpful. Kelm said that he has heard good things about both the City Council and staff.

Additional resources from the League of MN Cities were distributed to the council.

Upcoming events: LACC is having bingo on February 18th and there is a Fishing Contest on West Battle on February 11th.

Seufert informed the council that there have been some needed repairs done to the snowplow truck. It is in the process of getting fixed and will cost about \$3500.

Adjourn at 9:23 p.m.

Valerie J. Martin
Clerk/Treasurer