

Barrett City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 9, 2015
6:30 p.m.
Barrett City Office

Present: Mayor-Les Alvstad; Council-Todd Lang, Kathy Wevley, Jason Wendt, Brian Tucker; Maintenance-Gerald Puchalski; Clerk/Treasurer-Marita Rhude. Guests: Jeff Merrick, Betty DeClercq, Jeannie Junker.

Mayor Alvstad called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Betty DeClercq addressed the council in support of the Barrett Care Center tax abatement request. She feels that the Care Center is a good thing for the City and feels that the City and community should appreciate and support them in their efforts.

Lang made a motion to approve the agenda as amended with the additions of appointing the Fire Department Officers and Liability Coverage Waiver, seconded by Tucker. MCU

Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 12th meeting, seconded by Wevley. MCU

Les Alvstad reported that he and Gerald had met with Bollig Inc., an engineering firm, who was interested in helping the City with a feasibility study of the City's needs.

Jeff Merrick, Grant County Facilities Manager, was present to request the City pay a bill the County incurred with the water leak at the County Highway Garage and the cost to repair the concrete that was broken up looking for the leak. It turned out the leak was on the City side of the curb stop. Gerald felt the City should split the expense with the County, the County pay the plumbing bill and the City cover the cost of repairing the concrete. Wevley made a motion to ask the County to pay the Kruize plumbing bill and the City to pay for the concrete repair bill in the spring, seconded by Lang. MCU

Jeff said he would take this proposal back to the County Commissioners.

Jeannie Junker, from the Barrett Care Center, explained the planned addition and improvements at the Barrett Care Center; 6 private apartments will be added with the addition, remodel all rooms to have private bathrooms, and add an outpatient therapy center and exercise facility. Jeannie requested a 15 year tax abatement. The request would average \$8,463 per year for an overall cost of \$126,000. Alvstad made a motion to grant the 15 year abatement, seconded by Tucker; Alvstad withdrew his motion, and Tucker seconded the withdrawal of the motion. Wevley made a motion to give a tax abatement to the Barrett Care Center with the terms to be determined, and to get advice from the City Attorney, and the promise to act on this next month, seconded by Lang. MCU

Wendt made a motion to go forward with a mail ballot for future elections, seconded by Wevley. MCU

Council reviewed a letter from Public Health about the new laws in reference to electronic delivery devices and liquid nicotine sales and display. Our current Tobacco Ordinance does not address these items. Council instructed Marita to get City Attorney the needed information to draw up a new Tobacco Ordinance that addresses the newest laws.

Lang made a motion to approve the 2015 Fire Department Officers as follows: Chief-Dave Lien, Jr., Asst Chief-Jason Puchalski, Training Officer-Travis Fagre, Captains-Kyle Weets & Aaron Fagre, seconded by Wendt. MCU

Wevley made a motion to waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by MN Statute, Section 466.04 to the extent of the limit of the liability coverage obtained from LMCIT, seconded by Tucker. MCU

Tucker made a motion to give Gerald and Marita a 3.5% cost of living increase, and Marita an additional \$.75 per hour merit increase for obtaining 2 Clerk Certifications this last year, seconded by Lang. MCU

Gerald updated the council on the phosphorus levels coming in and going out of our sewer ponds. He explained that the City is in the process of updating our phosphorus plan with the State. Our phosphorus levels are higher the last couple of years than they should be and he is not sure why. He has to come up with a plan to get these levels lower or we may be required to treat for this in the future which can be very costly. He will be doing some customer education flyers in the future to educate residents on how to lower our phosphorus levels as well.

Welvey made a motion to accept a \$1,500 donation from the Fire Relief Association for give to the Barrett Flames/1st Responders, seconded by Alvstad. MCU

Tucker made a motion to pay bills in the amount of \$24,767.11, seconded by Lang. MCU

Tucker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wendt. MCU

Marita Rhude
Clerk/Treasurer