

Mayor Fred Froehlich called the Truth and Taxation Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. on December 9, 2024 in the council chambers.

In addition to Mayor Froehlich; Councilmembers Mary Wels, Matthew Anthony, Phil Radel and Kevin Ostermann were present. Other in attendance included Vanessa Drill, Darin Drill, Jesse Samuelson (LJP), Troy Hewitt, Kent Evans and Mandi Russow and Karen Fluegge (*The New Ulm Journal*).

Members and guests sited the words to the Pledge of Allegiance.

The purpose of the hearing was to hear comments on the 2025 Budget and Tax Levy.

With no public input at 6:06 p.m. the Truth and Taxation Hearing was adjourned and the regular meeting of the City Council was called to order which was approved on a motion made by M. Anthony, which was seconded by M. Wels, and which carried with all voting in favor.

The agenda was approved on a motion which was made M. Wels, which was seconded by P. Radel, and which carried with all voting in favor.

The minutes of the Regular meeting of November 12, 2024 were approved on a motion which was made by P. Radel, which was seconded by K. Ostermann, and which carried with all voting in favor.

The bills totaling \$102,036.49 were approved on a motion which was made by M. Anthony, which was seconded by P. Radel and which carried with all voting in favor.

Jesse Samuelson with LJP Enterprises Waste & Recycling was present to discuss an amendment to the refuse and recycling agreement with the city. The amendment will extend the agreement another 5 years.

Amendment to the agreement for refuse and recycling collection with LJP Enterprises Waste and Recycling, LLC extending the contract for the period of 5 years until December 31, 2029 was approved on a motion made by P. Radel, which was seconded by M. Anthony, and which carried with all voting in favor.

Troy Hewitt and Kent Evans with Hewitt Docks, Lifts & Pontoon Legs, was present and discussed their plans for expansion within the parameter of their footprint. Hewitt explained that their business continues to grow and that they are engineering new products. Councilmembers Wels and Ostermann will meet with Hewitt Docks along with the city engineer to discuss expansion possibilities.

The clerk followed up with council on the nuisance complaint at 312 4th Street that was turned over to the county attorney in July. The council will continue to monitor the property.

The clerk also noted that there was an estimated \$300.00 dollars remaining of the American Rescue Plan funds. Clerk stated this will be applied to the side panel that was purchased for the new snow blower.

Maintenance shared the check valve replacements were completed at the lift station #1 & 2, the old tractor snowblower has sold on an auction and the repairs at the water tower are complete.

Mayor Froehlich provided the Fire Chief's report from his attendance at the joint powers board meeting in November.

The pedestrian crosswalk flasher system on the corner of HWY 111 and 6th Street has been installed. The Mayor advised students and residents to stop and look before crossing.

Mayor also referred to a Notice of Violation the city received from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This violation is regarding the City of Nicollet Wastewater Treatment Facility and the significant industrial user Stickney Hill Ingredients. There will be more information to come.

Procedural change on utility bills mailed out to property owners with tenants, effective January 1, 2025 only 1 bill will be mailed to the property owners for the property instead of 2 which was approved on a motion made by K. Ostermann, which was seconded by P. Radel, and which carried with all voting in favor.

RESOLUTION #12-09-24: ADOPTING THE FINAL 2025 TAX LEVY was approved on a motion made by P. Radel, which was seconded by K. Ostermann, and which carried with all voting in favor.

RESOLUTION #12-09-24A: ADOPTING THE FINAL 2025 BUDGET was approved on a motion made by K. Ostermann, which was seconded by M. Wels, and which carried with all voting in favor.

RESOLUTION #12-09-24AB: DIRECTING DELINQUENT UTILITY CHARGES BE PLACED ON THE PROPERTY TAXES PAYABLE IN 2025 was approved on a motion made by M. Wels, which was seconded by P. Radel, and which carried with all voting in favor.

With no further regular business, the meeting was closed at 6:54 p.m. to conduct employee reviews which was approved on a motion made by M. Anthony, which was seconded by P. Radel, and which carried with all voting in favor.

At 8:09 pm, the closed meeting was reopened which was approved on a motion made by K. Ostermann, which was seconded by M. Anthony, and which carried with all voting in favor.

Effective January 1, 2025 the public works supervisor will receive a 5 percent pay increase per hr., which was approved on a motion made by M. Anthony, which was seconded by K. Ostermann, and which carried with all voting in favor.

Effective January 1, 2025 the city clerk/treasurer will receive a job title change to city administrator along with an hourly wage increase of \$4.27 per hour, which was approved on a motion made by M. Anthony, which was seconded by K. Ostermann, and which carried with all voting in favor.

Reminders of the upcoming, meetings were noted:

- A. Jan. 13, 2025 @ 6:00 pm – Regular Meeting – Monday
- B. Feb. 10, 2025 @ 6:00 pm – Regular Meeting - Monday

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m., which was approved on a motion made by M. Anthony, which was seconded by M. Radel, and which carried with all voting in favor.

Vanessa Drill, City Clerk/Treasurer