

Nowthen City Council
December 13, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pilon called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Pilon, Council Members Blake, Greenberg, Alders, and Rainville
Also present: Administrator Lehner, Deputy Clerk Johnson, Planner Stockman, Lieutenant Jacobson, Chief Schmidt, Assistant Fire Chief Lawrence, Assistant Fire Chief Schrag

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER ALDERS, SECONDED BY BLAKE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED. 5 AYES.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – 2023 Truth & Taxation

No one present. No questions from the City Council.
Public Hearing closed at 7:05pm.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER RAINVILLE, SECONDED BY GREENBERG TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION 2022-XX ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVY AND BUDGET FOR 2023. MOTION CARRIED. 5 AYES.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER ALDERS, SECONDED BY RAINVILLE TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION 2022-XX AMENDING THE 2022 BUDGET. MOTION CARRIED. 5 AYES.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GREENBERG, SECONDED BY BLAKE TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED. 5 AYES.

4. SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff's Deputies responded to 134 calls for service. These calls included 7 calls to Bar None, 6 Alarms, 20 Medicals, 14 Animal Complaints.

Notable calls include a motorcycle crash trying to avoid 3 deer, a road rage incident resulting in the driver being cited for careless driving and leaving the scene of an accident, illegal dumping at the City Recycling Center with suspects identified by cameras and issued citations.

Question asked regarding calls to Bar None: When is the Fire Department called out to assist?
Answer: When there is an "act" or "action" of harm to others or to themselves, meaning when medical attention is needed. If there is a delay, it is possible that the St. Francis Fire Department

- a. Maintenance Supervisor Joe Glaze welded an A-frame for a hose to spray the ice rinks with an even water spray. Thank you to Joe and Eric for setting it up! Also, thank you to all involved in getting the new well installed. It is a great benefit to the park and City buildings.
- b. The new snowblower has been received, installed, and works great! The Maintenance Department will be using it frequently if the snow continues to fall as it has.
Side note: Joe and Eric have new uniforms and look sharp! Also, Deputy Clerk Johnson recognized to the Council that Administrator Lehner has been helping the Maintenance Department with plowing and cleaning up the parking lots & sidewalks.
- c. A&B Welding is proceeding with the temporary building. You may see the crane at work. They provided an escrow and has met every condition the City required.
- d. City Office and Recycling Center will post Holiday Hours based upon the Administrator's recommendations. The Council agrees to reward staff with ½ days on Friday, December 23 and Friday, December 31.
The Recycling Attendant position has 5 applications received. Administrator Lehner is hoping to get interviews and background checks in before the end of the year and narrow the candidates to 2 to present to the hiring committee so the City may hire an attendant as soon as possible.
- e. A Border-to-Border grant funds update. Administrator Lehner deferred this update to Mayor Pilon as he was instrumental in working with Arvig. In July, the City applied for the grant along with Arvig. Nowthen has been granted \$800,000 with City matching \$230,000. Work will not begin until 2024. Note: Anoka County did not receive their requested grant for fixed wireless. Arvig is putting together for the City of Nowthen a grant for the "middle mile" in addition to requesting additional B2B grants. Elk River also received grants to start on the east side of Elk River. Since Arvig will be starting there, the mayor is hoping to have Arvig begin sooner than 2024 on the west side of Nowthen. Starlink lost its opportunity in Nowthen which opens up for other competitors.
- f. Administrator Lehner formally invited the City Council and City partners to join the City Office in a Christmas Party Potluck on December 20th 3:00pm - 5:00pm. He reminded everyone that the City is a team, and it is good to work together and get to know each other.

7. PLANNING AND ZONING

- a. Amended CUP Cell Tower – 5606 Verde Valley Road
City Attorney Ruppe, Administrator Lehner, and Planner Stockman got together to go through the CUP and came up with a plan for this amended CUP. The tower was 202 feet high. The FCC requires the towers to be less than 200 feet; anything higher needs a light on top. The amended CUP requires the tower to be 197 feet high and add security fencing.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER RAINVILLE, SECONDED BY BLAKE TO APPROVE THE AMENDED CUP SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS AS OUTLINED IN THE ATTACHED FINDINGS OF FACT AND COMPLIANCE WITH EACH AND EVERY CONDITION WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE DATE OF

7. Prior to the meeting's beginning, Council Member Blake gave thanks in song to the City, Council, and staff. Here is her poem:

Lynda Blake's Council Farewell Poem

Thank you for the four years on the Council I have spent
It's hard for me to say what this journey has all meant
Thank you, Mayor Pilon, for the extra hours you give
Thank you, friends, oh thank you friends in the town where I now live.

Thank you, Mary Rainville, for the rules you make us keep
Thank you, dear sweet Liz, for your patience with no peep
Thank you to bituminous, variances and legal things
This is our town where we all shout our country model rings.

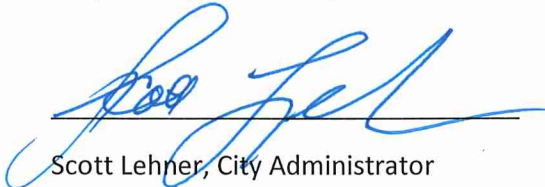
Thank you, Jason Alders, for your wise intelligent brevity
Thank you, Joel Greenberg, for your art and creativity
Thank you staff and friends within our office space
That's where our citizens' questions can always find a place.

Thank you, Joe and Eric, for the city you keep repaired
Thank you fire and police for the safety job you share.
Thank you to the people who support us during ups and downs
Thank you, friends, oh thank you friends my term is over now.

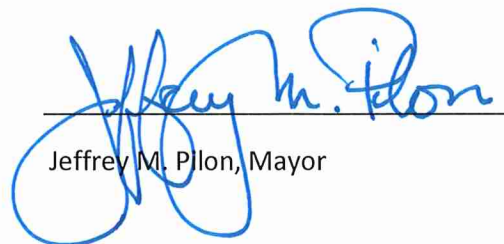
9. **MOTION TO ADJOURN BY COUNCIL MEMBER RAINVILLE, SECONDED BY BLAKE. MOTION CARRIED. 5 AYES.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott Lehner, City Administrator



Jeffrey M. Pilon, Mayor