

A regular meeting of the City Council for the City of Fairfax, Minnesota was held on December 8th, 2020 at 7:00pm in the Community Center at 300 Park Street South.

Members: Brad Augustin, John Schaefer, Steve Schmidt, Josh Bunkers, Brad Bastian

Absent: None

Visitors: Nicholas Johnson, City Administrator
Joel Grejtak, Utilities Superintendent
Scott Froehlich, Chief of Police
Denny Adamski, Police Officer
Aaron Walton, City Attorney
Denise Bonsack, Standard Gazette & Messenger
Derek Carlson

The meeting was called to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The agenda was reviewed. Staff requested the addition of two items; the first, consider approval to revert to the original DOT drug and alcohol testing policy with contact updates and, the second, consider approval of 2021 Delta Dental policy rates. A motion was made by Bunkers and seconded by Schaefer to approve the agenda with the additions. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

The consent agenda was reviewed. A motion was made by Bunkers and seconded by Schaefer to approve the consent agenda. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
2. Consider Approval of Minutes
 - a. November 12th, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes
3. Consider Approval of Claims for Payment
4. Consider Adoption of Resolution Designating Polling Place
5. Consider Adoption of Westberg Eischens Contract for the 2020 Audit
6. Consider Approval of MMUA Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy Update
7. Consider Approval of 2021 Delta Dental Renewal Policy Contract

City of Fairfax

Resolution 2020-23

Resolution Designating the Polling Place for the City of Fairfax, Minnesota

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has amended certain sections of State Statute pertaining to elections and the designation of polling places, and;

WHEREAS, Minnesota State Statute 204B.16 requires a Municipality to designate their polling place by December 31 of each year by resolution or ordinance, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Fairfax, Minnesota, a municipal corporation under the laws of Minnesota, recognizes the requirement to adhere to said law changes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council for the City of Fairfax, Minnesota:

1. The designated polling place for elections by, for, and under the responsibility of the City of Fairfax shall be the Fairfax Community Center located at:

300 Park Street South
Fairfax, Minnesota 55332

Adopted by the City Council on this 8th day of December, 2020.

Attest:

Mayor

City Administrator

A motion was made by Schaefer and seconded by Bunkers to open the public hearing for the Truth-in-Taxation Hearing. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

Nicholas Johnson presented the 2020 Truth-in-Taxation information. There were no questions.

A motion was made by Schaefer and seconded by Schmidt to close the public hearing. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

Derek Carlson with Retro Companies was present to discuss the planned project for the Fairfax Middle School building. Retro Companies is purchasing the property for \$53,000. Their plan is to work with Superior Caregivers out of Tennessee to retrofit the building into a mental health facility. Superior Caregivers has multiple similar facilities in other states. The preliminary timeline is to begin renovations in the spring of 2021 with opening in summer of 2021 of the first wing (approximately 20 to 30 beds). There were questions on the effect of such a facility on City emergency response resources. Derek stated the impact on those resources in the other existing facilities has been minimal to date.

The Council reviewed Ordinance 427, an ordinance repealing City Code 176. A motion was made by Bunkers and seconded by Schaefer to adopt the ordinance. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

City of Fairfax

Ordinance 427

An Ordinance Repealing City Code Chapter 176 Regulating Plumbing Standards

WHEREAS, the City previously adopted ordinances regulating plumbing and local licensing, which are now codified as City Code Chapter 176;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined there is no longer a need to license and regulate plumbers locally due to State of Minnesota oversight and Minnesota Plumbing Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF FAIRFAX ORDAINS:

City Code Chapter 176, Plumbing Standards is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Adopted by the City Council this 8th day of December, 2020.

Attest:

Mayor

City Administrator

The Council reviewed Ordinance 428, an ordinance amending City Code 204 regulating sidewalk repair and maintenance. A motion was made by Bastian and seconded by Schaefer to adopt the ordinance. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

City of Fairfax

Ordinance 428

An Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 204 Regulating Streets and Sidewalks

WHEREAS, the City previously adopted ordinances regulating sidewalk repair and maintenance, which are now codified as City Code Chapter 204, Article 4;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined there is undue hardship to property owners to bear the cost of sidewalk repairs and maintenance.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF FAIRFAX ORDAINS:

City Code Chapter 204, Article 4 – Establishment, Maintenance, and Repair of Sidewalks is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Adopted by the City Council this 8th day of December, 2020.

Attest:

Mayor

City Administrator

A motion was made by Bunkers and seconded by Schmidt to adopt Resolution 2020-22, a resolution adopting the 2021 final levy and 2021 final budget. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

**City of Fairfax
Resolution 2020-22**

State of Minnesota)
County of Renville)
City of Fairfax)

Resolution Adopting the 2021 Final Levy and 2021 Final Budget

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Fairfax, County of Renville, State of Minnesota, that the following sums of money be levied in 2021, upon the taxable property in the City of Fairfax, for the following purposes:

General Fund	\$326,866.00
2015A Bond	\$32,503.00
2018A Bond	\$26,457.00
2019A Bond	\$89,174.00
Total Tax Levy	\$475,000.00

Be it further resolved by the City Council that the final 2021 budget is hereby adopted.

The City Administrator is hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Auditor of Renville County, Minnesota.

Adopted by the City Council for the City of Fairfax, Minnesota this 8th day of December, 2020.

Attest:

Mayor

City Administrator

Staff presented information on purchasing an SEL Control System for the power generation system. The control system would automate processes when the incoming transmission supply

line experiences a power outage. The control system would sense the power loss and automatically transition to internal power generation. Staff would come in and check the systems to ensure proper transition occurred. A quote from CMPAS in the amount of \$12,060.00 was reviewed. A motion was made by Bunkers and seconded by Schmidt to approve the purchase. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

The Council reviewed a quote from West Central Communications in the amount of \$30,386.95 to purchase replacement radios for the Fire-Rescue Department. A motion was made by Schmidt and seconded by Bunkers to approve the purchase. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

Staff discussed a change in service for credit card payment processing. The City currently uses World Pay. Staff researched options to save additional money and discovered Open Edge would yield marginal savings. A motion was made by Bunkers and seconded by Schaefer to approve the change. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

The City Council discussed a draft agreement with the Fairfax Lions Club on usage of the “red shed” building in Lions Park. The consensus of the Council was to allow existing usage until September 30th, 2021.

The Council discussed the existing zoning provision of a maximum of 1,200 square feet allowed for all detached buildings on a residential property. Council would review the subject again at the next Council meeting.

Nicholas Johnson presented information on Rural Service Districts in Fairfax. The recommendation was made to consider adjusting the Benefit Ratio from 50% to 42%. A motion was made by Bunkers and seconded by Bastian to introduce Ordinance 429, an ordinance amending City Code 59 on Rural Service Districts. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Bunkers and seconded by Schmidt to adopt Resolution 2020-24, a resolution setting a public hearing on the amendment of City Code 59. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

City of Fairfax

Resolution 2020-24

A Resolution Setting a Public Hearing on the Amendment of City Code 59 on Rural Service Districts

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute §272.67

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Fairfax, pursuant to Minnesota Statute §272.67, is required to hold a public hearing to consider the amendment of the benefit ratio associated with the Rural Service District.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRFAX, MINNESOTA AS FOLLOWS:

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed amendment of City Code 59, regulating Rural Service Districts and the Benefit Ratio therein, on the 12th day of January, 2021, in the Community Center located at 300 Park Street South at 7:00 p.m., and thereafter the City Council will consider the ordinance amendment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administrator is hereby directed to give notice of such hearing as required by law.

Passed by the City Council of Fairfax, Minnesota this 8th day of December, 2020.

Attest:

Mayor

City Administrator

The Mayor and City Council members evaluated the City Administrator in areas reflecting job knowledge and abilities. Nicholas Johnson was ranked meets expectations in the overall compilation of all categories. Nicholas Johnson was also evaluated on core competencies including City Council relationships, public relations, leadership, fiscal management, personal characteristics and dependability, decision making and problem solving, communication, and organizational management. Nicholas Johnson was ranked meets expectations in the overall compilation of these categories as well.

Nicholas Johnson requested his vacation leave accrual rate be advanced to 3 weeks per year and his vacation bank adjusted to be at 120 hours of vacation. A motion was made by Bastian and seconded by Schaefer to approve the request. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

Staff reports and financial information was received.

A motion was made by Schaefer and seconded by Bastian to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

Attest:

Mayor

City Administrator