

CITY OF VERGAS  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER & ZOOM  
Tuesday, April 9, 2024

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:30 pm, on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at the Vergas Event Center and on Zoom for a hybrid regular council meeting with the following members present: Mayor Julie Bruhn; Council Members: Bruce Albright, Paul Pinke, Dean Haarstick and Natalie Fischer. Absent: none. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers; Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane; Liquor Store Manager Kyle Theisen; Editor Bob Williams of the Frazee-Vergas Forum; Engineer Blaine Green; and Citizens Marcia Huddleson and Carol Albright.

**Call to Order**

Mayor Julie Bruhn called the meeting to order.

**Citizens' Concerns**

A thank you letter was received from the Vergas Arts Club for being their fiscal agent. Marcia Huddleson questioned the interest rate on the general money market account report. There was an error in where the decimal point was on the report.

**Agenda Additions and Deletions**

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Haarstick to approve the agenda with the following item deleted: Ottertail County Shoreline Management Ordinance and Agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Fischer to approve the following consent agenda: with late water and sewer bills removed:

- Council Minutes of the March 26, 2024
- Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills
- Liquor Store bills for March 2024
- 2024 Investment Schedule/Bond Schedule
- General Fund Special Revenue Money Market Account
- 2024 Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances
- American Rescue Plan Funding 2021-2026
- Committee Reports - requiring no Council Action
- EDA/HRA
- Personnel
- Work Request Form

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussed the amount of late water and sewer bills and how high the bills have gotten. Lammers stated certified letters would be going out and bills would be addressed.

**Vergas Community Club**

Motion by Pinke seconded by Albright to allow Main Street to be closed on June 8, 2024 from 3 -11 pm from Billy's to the Vergas State Bank. Motion passed unanimously.

**Otter Tail Lakes Association**

Haarstick reviewed the quarterly meeting held by the Otter Tail Lakes Association.

**Committee Reports**

Planning Commission

Albright reviewed the Planning Commission meeting held March 25, 2024 (minutes available at the Vergas City Clerk's Office). Motion by Pinke, seconded by Albright to accept the resignation of Judy Kvam. Motion passed unanimously.

Event Center Advisory Committee

Pinke reviewed the event center advisory committee meeting held March 26, 2024 (minutes available at the

Vergas City Clerk's Office). Requested a bulletin board to be placed in the entrance hallway for information regarding events in the community. The council did not feel it was necessary for the event center to be a communication hub for the community. The bulletin board could be used for rules for the event center. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Fischer to table the bulletin board until the committee can provide more information.

#### Streets Committee

Albright reviewed the street committee meeting held April 2, 2024 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Albright stated the committee recommends no change in the snow removal policy. Recommended 3 lights in phase 3 of Keilly Shores. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Fischer to purchase 3 of the same lights in the 3rd Addition of Keilly Shores. Motion passed unanimously.

Bruhn recused herself from meeting. Fischer chaired the meeting.

Albright stated Dufrane has located a company to repair the slopes along Diane and Scharf. Discussed quote and Green stated the price is a little higher than expected but with only one quote found in 2 years there is not a lot we can do. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Albright to approve bid from Feldt Plumbing and Excavating for \$18,155.00 and to transfer funds from the General Fund Money Market account. Motion passed unanimously.

Bruhn rejoined the meeting as chair.

Discussed the right-of-way along E Lake Street and N Railway Ave. The engineers have provided documentation and Council asked Attorney Tom Winters to write up an agreement. Motion by Albright, seconded by Haarstick to go ahead with the easements on E Lake Street and Railway Avenue. Motion passed unanimously. DuFrane has received bids for the parking lot at 140 E Linden. We may want to look at drainage in this area to include the alleys and liquor store parking lot. The street committee is looking for guidance on proceeding as this is a large project and we may need to bond for this. Widseth will look at the cost to survey and look at drainage. The street committee will bring back recommendations in May.

#### Park Board

Motion by Haarstick, seconded by Pinke to allow baseball committee one key for the storage shed. Motion passed unanimously. Discussed cameras at the shed. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to get 2 quotes for cameras at the next Council meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Discussed upkeep needs at the baseball field. The Vergas Community Club gave a \$1,500 donation to the baseball field after Hairy Man event. On April 1, 2024 voted to give the baseball field another donation of \$1,500 for these updates. Motion by Albright, seconded by Fischer to approve \$3,000 in updates at the ballfield. Motion passed unanimously. The baseball committee has requested a ball field line item added for the 2025 budget.

#### **Ringdahl Ambulance**

Bruhn invited everyone to attend a meeting on April 24 at 6 pm for an open house at the Ringdahl Ambulance property in Fergus Falls. They will discuss the financial state of the ambulance and the need for funding. Marcia Huddleston asked questions regarding how they produced numbers. Were they provided by the same person who cannot spell Vergas or figure out how many residents or households we have.

#### **Attorney Review**

Lammers reviewed Attorney Tom Winters using the 4 surveys provided by the Mayor and Council Members. Motion by Fischer, seconded by Pinke to continue to work with Winters as the City Attorney. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Staff Reports**

##### Utilities Superintendent

Streets will be swept tomorrow morning.

At the beach, the Glawe family donated a bird house, and the post has shredded off in the wind. There is a monument below the post. DuFrane asked for directions. Bruhn asked if we had made the family aware. The council requested Lammers to make the family aware.

MPCA Compliance Inspection was done today, and a follow up letter will be sent.

DuFrane requested funds for a toolbox for his truck. Requested \$1,100 for side toolbox. Funding will come from streets, parks and wastewater. Motion by Albright, seconded by Fischer to use state bid and purchase toolbox from Berts. Motion passed unanimously.

##### Clerk-Treasurer Report

Written report provided by Lammers.

### Liquor Store Manager

Theisen stated the THC sales are going terrific at the store. There is a slow trend in nonalcoholic sales, which is also a nationwide trend. Theisen requested the Council approve \$750.00 for a wine cooler rack built and installed by Shawn Day. Motion by Albright, seconded by Fischer to approve \$750.00 for wine rack in accordance with the bid. Motion passed unanimously. Theisen is looking into getting quotes for visual improvements in front of the liquor store.

### **Information & Announcements**

#### Trainings:

1. LMC, Loss Control Workshop, April 23, 20234 St Cloud (DuFrane, Lammers)
2. Municipal Beverage Association (MMBA-)April 20-23, 2024 (Theisen) Arrowwood
3. League of MN Cities Annual Conference June 26-28, 2024 in Rochester (Mayor, Council & Lammers)
4. Clerks Advanced Academy- September 19-20, 2024 (Lammers)

#### Events:

1. Local Board of Review, April 10, 2043 Vergas Event Center Council Chambers, 1:00 pm (Mayor, Council and Lammers)
2. 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Emergency Summit Operation: Rubble Rendezvous, Otter Tail County Emergency Management Perham Area Community Center Thursday, April 19, 2024, 9:00 am to 4 pm (Emergency Management-Lammers) (must register)

3. Otter Tail County Work Force Summit, Thumper Pond Otter Tail Mn, 8:30-3:30 (Council and Lammers)  
Wednesday, April 24, 2024

4. Vergas EDA/HRA Annual Meeting, April 30, 2024 Vergas Event Center - Everyone encouraged to attend.
5. Household Hazardous Waste Day, Thursday, June 20, 2024 10:00 - 2:00 (Volunteers Needed)

### **Adjournment**

The business for which the meeting was called having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Vergas Clerk-Treasurer  
Julie Lammers, CMC