

CITY OF VERGAS
COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
Tuesday, March 10, 2020
6:15 pm
Vergas Event Center

Public Hearing regarding Vergas Property Tax Rebate Program

CITY OF VERGAS
COUNCIL AGENDA
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER
6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 10, 2020

(Reminder the Frazee-Vergas Forum is recording this meeting and all information discussed is public information)

(In order to run an efficient meeting, please do not repeat comments and limit them to 3 minutes or less.)

1. Call to order
2. Member Assignment
 - a. Council Member
 - i. Oath of Office
 - ii. Council Orientation
 - b. Planning Commission
3. Citizens' Concerns - *Council will recognize citizens who may have items for the Council. Citizens please state your name and address for the record. Council may ask questions for clarification or explanation, but no council action will be held on these items.*
4. Additions or Deletion to Agenda (*City Council or City Staff Only*)
5. Approval of Consent Agenda. *The following are non-controversial items intended to be approved with one motion, without discussion. If a council member, staff, or member of the public would like to discuss an item(s), please ask that it be removed, and it will be placed elsewhere on the agenda.*
 - a. Council Minutes of the February 11, 2020
 - b. Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills
 - c. Liquor Store bills for February 2020
 - d. Late Water/Sewer bills
6. Veteran's Memorial
7. Vergas Property Tax Rebate
8. Committee Reports
 - a. Event Center Committee
 - i. Bridge Food Shelf
 - ii. Oven
 - b. Economic Development Authority
 - i. Housing Study
 - ii. Annual Meeting
 - c. Planning Commission
 - d. Park Board

- i. Trail Committee
- 9. Staff Reports
 - a. Utilities Superintendent Report
 - i. Parks
 - ii. Water and Sewer
 - iii. Streets
 - b. Liquor Store Manager Report

10. Mayor's Report

11. Information and Announcements

- a. LMC Safety and Loss Control Workshop, Fergus Falls, March 25 (Bruhn, Haarstick, Lammers, DuFrane)
- b. 2020 Local Board of review, April 1, 2020 from 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm
- c. Hazardous Waste Day July 10, 2020 (volunteers needed)

12. Adjournment

**CITY OF VERGAS
PUBLIC HEARING
VERGAS PROPERTY TAX REBATE PROGRAM
Tuesday, March 10, 2020 6:15 P.M.**

The City Council of Vergas met for a public hearing at 6:15 p.m., on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Event Center with the following members present: Mayor Dean Haarstick, Council Members: Logan Dahlgren and Julie Bruhn. Absent: Paul Pinke. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers, Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane, Natalie Fischer, Rebecca Hasse, Sydney Dahlgren, Austin Tegtmeier, Paul Haarstick, Keith Bunkoswke and Barbie Porter of the Frazee-Vergas Forum.

Mayor Dean Haarstick opened public hearing called the meeting to order.

Lammers reviewed Vergas property tax rebate program. There were no public comments regarding the tax rebate program.

Haarstick closed public hearing at 6:25 pm.

**CITY OF VERGAS
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, March 10, 2020 6:30 P.M.**

The City Council of Vergas met in regular session at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Event Center with the following members present: Mayor Dean Haarstick, Council Members: Logan Dahlgren and Julie Bruhn. Absent: Paul Pinke. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers, Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane, Natalie Fischer, Rebecca Hasse, Sydney Dahlgren, Austin Tegtmeier, Paul Haarstick, Keith Bunkoswke and Barbie Porter of the Frazee-Vergas Forum.

Mayor Dean Haarstick called the meeting to order.

Bruhn thanked all 5 applicants for applying to the Vergas City Council and encouraged them to run for office in November. Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Dahlgren to nominate Natalie Fischer to the Vergas City Council from March 10, 2020 to December 31, 2020, based on the short term of this position and experience she has as a planning commission member, Lion's member, Vergas Community Club Board member and business owner. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Julie Lammers administered oath of office to Council Member Natalie Fischer. Lammers reviewed council orientation.

Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Dahlgren to nominate Robert Jacoby to the Vergas Planning Commission from March 10, 2020 to December 31, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.

No citizens' concerns were discussed.

Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Dahlgren to accept agenda with the following additions; council portfolio, construction permit and 2019 street project. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Bruhn, seconded by Dahlgren to approve the following consent agenda with the removal of water and sewer bills and council minutes:

- a. Bills Paid Between Council and Council Bills totaling \$179,533.61.
- b. Liquor Store Bills for February 2020 totaling \$30,705.25.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Dahlgren to change the minutes of January 14 to read: The City of Vergas is responsible for 11% of CDH-Vergas Fire and Rescue funding. The budget increased 5% for 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

Dahlgren questioned when action would be taken on the utility bills as bills were getting quite high. Lammers explained you get a bill, if bill becomes 60 days late a shut off letter is sent, if bill is not paid by due date, we shut off the water. Once water is shut off, they have until the next council meeting to pay bill plus \$30 turn on fee or bill is brought to Council to be put on their property tax. The shut off letters for these accounts were just delivered yesterday.

Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Dahlgren to approve construction permit for 160 Elm St replace doors, windows, siding and soffit on the house. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Bruhn to include all the City limits in the Vergas Property tax rebate program. Motion passed unanimously.

2019 Street project was discussed as there is several cracks in Scharf Ave and what is the warranty on the work for the project. DuFrane has contacted our Engineer and he will follow up on warranty of the project.

Lions and Veterans requested permission to put a Veteran's memorial on the Peterson Park. Council encouraged them to move forward with the plans and to work with the park board regarding the project. Bruhn thanked them for their service.

Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Dahlgren to adopt the following for the 2020 portfolios:

Weed Inspector: Dean Haarstick

Event Center, Recycling Center: Logan Dahlgren and Paul Pinke

Liquor Store, Licenses, Municipal Buildings: Julie Bruhn and Natalie Fischer

Streets, Parks, Recreation and Sidewalk: Dean Haarstick and Paul Pinke

Water, Sewer, Emergency: Logan Dahlgren and Natalie Fischer

Personnel: Julie Bruhn and Dean Haarstick Motion passed unanimously.

Currently we have 3 Council members on planning commission and Council decided to leave three members on the planning commission.

Lammers Event Center Advisory report. Lammers informed the Council the Bridge food shelf would like to use the event center one Tuesday a month for 2-3 months as St Johns is being remodeled. Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Fischer to approve the Bridge using the Event Center for a cost of one hour (\$35.00) but allow them to stay for the three hours they need. Discussed electric stove having a front left burner needing to be replaced and a \$120 part has been ordered. The gas stove is being reviewed.

Lammers reviewed Economic Development Authority/Housing Redevelopment Authority activities. A housing survey being conducted with the City of Vergas. Everyone is encouraged to complete and return to the City Office. Invited everyone to attend the Vergas EDA and Vergas Community Club annual meeting on Wednesday, April 8 at Billy's.

Lammers reviewed planning commission meeting. Motion by Dahlgren seconded by Bruhn to approve parcel split for parcel 82000500037000 establishing 2 lots to East Scharf Avenue. Motion passed unanimously. Lammers informed Keith Bunkowske he needed to file that within 1 year with Otter Tail County.

Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Fischer to approve the nuisance policy presented and asked Lammers to post on Vergas webpage. Motion passed unanimously. Bruhn asked Lammers for citizen concern form to be put on the webpage.

Park Board has not met yet. The trail activity is centered around the boardwalk which is being put at the end of Long Lake.

Utilities Superintendent Report

Parks – DuFrane asked council if he could investigate purchasing new garbage cans for in front of liquor store and event center. Council encouraged DuFrane to get pricing. DuFrane requested permission to give a student one of our spools for a school project.

Water and Sewer- Discussed filtration system. Council requested Lammers put something in newsletter regarding not flushing flushable wipes down the sewer system. 51 water meters have been installed. Discussed the amount of water the water tower holds. DuFrane guessed 25,000 gallons in the winter and 100,000 in the summer. Lammers provided loan papers regarding a loan from MN Rural water for sewer pumps discussed at the last meeting.

Streets-No report.

Lammers reviewed Liquor Store activities. 2 small leaks were repaired in the roof of the building, while Herzog repaired the roof, they unplugged our City cameras and Arvig had to come and plug in for a cost of \$150 which I will request Herzog pay for. The corner of the building is still allowing water in the back of the building and the loon locker had a condenser break and repairs were done by Tweeton Refrigeration.

Mayor Haarstick attended the mayors meeting in Dent and they discussed MN Fishing Opener when Governor Tim Waltz will be in Otter Tail County.

Haarstick reviewed information regarding training and hazardous waste day.

The business for which the meeting was called having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Clerk-Treasurer Julie Lammers, CMC