

CITY OF VERGAS
PUBLIC HEARING

Virtual Meeting-cityofvergas.com
6:15 P.M. on Tuesday, July 14, 2020

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

Property tax abatement for 817 E Scharf Ave

CITY OF VERGAS
COUNCIL AGENDA

Virtual Meeting-cityofvergas.com
6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, July 14, 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. 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.*
3. Additions or Deletion to Agenda (*City Council or City Staff Only*)
4. 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 June 9 and June 25, 2020
 - b. Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills
 - c. Liquor Store bills for June 2020
 - d. General Fund/Special Revenue Money Market Account Report
 - e. COVID19 Spending Report
 - f. 2020 Budget Comparison
 - i. General
 - ii. Water
 - iii. Sewer
 - g. Late water/sewer bills
 - i. COVID19 applications-no one has applied
5. 351 Pelican Ave
6. Grass Ordinance
7. 2019 Audit Report
8. Construction Permits-88 Park View Drive
9. Big Build
10. Looney Daze
 - a. Road closure request
 - b. Electricity in Loon park
11. Road closure request Aug. 29
12. 2019 Street Project
13. Committee Reports

- a. Planning Commission
 - b. Park Board
 - c. Economic Development Authority
 - d. Event Center
14. Staff Reports
- a. COVID-19 City Update
 - b. Utilities Superintendent Report
 - i. Parks
 - ii. Water and Sewer
 - iii. Streets
 - c. Liquor Store Manager Report
15. Mayor's Report
16. August Council Meeting Date (Aug. 11 is primary election)
17. Information and Announcements
18. Adjournment

**CITY OF VERGAS
PUBLIC HEARING**
Virtual Meeting-cityofvergas.com
6:15 P.M. on Tuesday, July 14, 2020

The City Council of Vergas met for a public hearing at 6:15 p.m., on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 in a Zoom virtual meeting with the following members present: Mayor Dean Haarstick, Council Members: Logan Dahlgren, Julie Bruhn, Paul Pinke and Natalie Fischer. Absent: none. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers, Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane, Tom Anderson, Carol Sharp, Amy Baldwin and Barbie Porter of the Frazee-Vergas Forum.

Mayor Dean Haarstick called the hearing to order.

Amy Baldwin, Otter Tail County Community Development Director reviewed the abatement program. Baldwin stated the County has approved the property tax abatement for 817 E Scharf Ave and this hearing needs to take place for the Vergas taxes to be removed.

Mayor Haarstick closed the hearing at 6:25 pm.

**CITY OF VERGAS
REGULAR MEETING**
Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:30 P.M.

The City Council of Vergas met for a public hearing at 6:15 p.m., on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 in a Zoom virtual meeting with the following members present: Mayor Dean Haarstick, Council Members: Logan Dahlgren, Julie Bruhn, Paul Pinke and Natalie Fischer. Absent: none. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers, Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane, Tom Anderson, Carol Sharp, Danielle Lesmann, Vanesa Perry, Shane Poss, Jack Rosenthal, Steve Peloquin, Amy Baldwin and Barbie Porter of the Frazee-Vergas Forum.

Mayor Dean Haarstick called the meeting to order.

No citizens' concerns were discussed.

Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Fischer to accept agenda with the following addition: League of MN Cities annual virtual meeting update. Voting yes: Bruhn, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bruhn, seconded by Pinke to approve the following consent agenda:

- a. Council Minutes of June 9 and June 25, 2020
- b. Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills for a total of \$70,583.10.
- c. Liquor Store bills for June 2020 for a total of \$83,570.14.
- d. General Fund/Special Revenue Money Market Account Report
- e. COVID19 Spending Report
- f. 2020 Budget Comparison
 - i. General
 - ii. Water
 - iii. Sewer
- g. Late water/sewer bills
 - i. COVID-19 applications-no one has applied

Voting yes: Bruhn, Pinke, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Danielle Lesmann, owner of 351 Pelican Ave discussed property line issues she has encountered by putting their home for sale. The property line at Otter Tail County GIS has states their property line goes thru their house and the garage is not on their property. Lesmann has contracted with Jack Rosenthal of Compass Consultants Inc. Rosenthal questioned if they could use the actual layout of the roadway instead of the platted map right away. The City owns the dedicated road and adjustment of the right of way. The City needs to decide what to do about the road right of way of Glen Street. Peloquin requested Rosenthal let us know if the property owner at 341 S Pelican Ave is willing to work with the change of property and how the street would look on the legal map. Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Dahlgren for Lammers to write letter saying the City is looking into the situation of the land property. Voting yes: Bruhn, Pinke, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried. More information will be available to the Council at next months meeting.

Shane Poss questioned the grass ordinance policy and why lawns are not being mowed. Haarstick stated he would check on the properties tomorrow and let the City Office know if a letter needs to be sent. Dahlgren asked if DuFrane has found a contractor to mow when his department does not have time. DuFrane stated his department does not have time to find someone and Dahlgren asked Lammers to have office staff find someone to mow.

Lammers reviewed the 2019 audit report for the City of Vergas. Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Fischer to transfer \$26,000 from the general fund to the money market account into the following accounts: \$2,000 City Shop, \$5,000 to Event Center, \$3,000 to the parks, \$8,000 to sand seal, \$3,000 to sidewalk and \$5,000 Street Improvements/Equipment. Voting yes: Bruhn, Pinke, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried. Discussed updated the procurement policy needing to be updated.

Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Fischer to approve the following construction permits: 88 Park View Drive for a home. Voting yes: Pinke, Bruhn, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Dahlgren to accept Resolution 2020-003, (a complete text of the resolution is part of permanent public record in the City Clerk's office.) The City proposes to approve tax abatements in connection with the construction of a 64 X 28 house (the "Project"). The City proposes to use the abatement for the Project provided for in Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.1812 through 469.1815 (the "Abatement Law"), from the property taxes to be levied by the City on Parcel Identification Number 82000990192000 (the

"Tax Abatement Property"). Voting yes: Bruhn, Pinke, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Discussed closing Main Street for the evening of August 8, 2020 for Billy's to have music outside for Looney Daze. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Dahlgren to allow Billy's to have music and tables in a fenced area from the corner of Main and Railway to the Post Office from 4 pm to 11 pm on August 8, 2020. Voting yes: Bruhn, Pinke, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Bruhn, seconded Fischer to allow the Vergas Community Club to add to the electricity in the park by Zitzow Electric and Otter Tail Power in order to have bands in the park. Voting yes: Bruhn, Pinke, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Discussed closing Main Street for the evening of Saturday, August 29, 2020 for Billy's to have music and food outside for the 10th Annual Ole's Ride. Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Fischer to close Main Street in front of Billy's to have music and tables in a fenced area as late in the day as possible. Only after the Ole's Ride committee speaks with all Main Street businesses and agrees with all COVID regulations. Voting yes: Bruhn, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Abstain: Pinke Motion carried.

Scott Kolbinger of KLJ Engineering was unable to attend the meeting, DuFrane reviewed conversation he had with Kolbinger regarding the 2019 Street Project. Discussed Park View and the curbing around 3rd St. Lammers will ask Kolbinger for a written update on the project.

Planning Commission report was reviewed. Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Pinke to drop the lien on Pelican Avenue if property is cleaned up of trash, weeds are removed, and all fees are paid to the City. Voting yes: Bruhn, Pinke, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried. Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Dahlgren to change the construction permit process to have colored construction permits posted at properties and have property owner call City Hall when project is completed. Voting yes: Bruhn, Pinke, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried. Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Dahlgren to have truck routes in and around Vergas for trucks to stay on County Highways within the City Limits. Haarstick questioned if the streets committee had reviewed this and was told they had not. Only planning commission had reviewed. Voting yes: Bruhn, Pinke, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Park and Trail Advisory Committee reports were reviewed. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Bruhn to approve grant application Percent Based Conservation Practice Assistance Contract with East Otter Tail SWCD. Voting yes: Bruhn, Pinke, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Economic Development Authority report was reviewed. Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Pinke to approve the final draft of the Vergas Housing Study. Voting yes: Bruhn, Pinke, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Event Center Advisory committee report was reviewed.

Lammers reviewed COVID19 procedures for the city.

Utilities Superintendent Report

Water and Sewer- 49% of the meters have been installed. There was an issue with the water tower coming online and it is working again. Ponds are still being overloaded with BOD.

Streets- Scharf was seal coated.

Lammers reviewed Liquor Store activities. Motion by Bruhn, seconded by Dahlgren to update our camera system at the Liquor Store for the cost of \$3,880. Voting yes: Bruhn, Pinke, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Bruhn reviewed the Virtual Annual Conference Business Meeting of the League of MN Cities she attended.

Haarstick reminded citizens to apply for candidacy for Mayor and Council by August 11, 2020. Encouraged citizens to be counted in the 2020 census.

Motion by Dahlgren, seconded by Pinke to move the August 11 Council meeting to August 18, 2020 at 6:30 pm due to the primary elections being held on August 11, 2020. Voting yes: Bruhn, Pinke, Dahlgren and Fischer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

The business for which the meeting was called having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Clerk-Treasurer Julie Lammers, CMC