

CITY OF VERGAS
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER & ZOOM
Tuesday, October 8, 2024

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at the Vergas Event Center and on Zoom for a hybrid public hearing of the council with the following members present: Mayor Julie Bruhn; Council Members: Dean Haarstick, Bruce Albright, Paul Pinke and Natalie Fischer. Absent: None. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers; Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane; and Citizens: Alex Ohman, Harrison Ohman, James Stenger, Rosemary Sandua, Dwight Lundgren, .

Call to Order

Mayor Julie Bruhn opened the public hearing at 6:00 pm.

Bruhn read public hearing notice:

Current Ordinance:

91.04 FARM ANIMALS.

Farm animals shall only be kept in an agricultural district of the city, or on a residential lot of at least ten acres in size provided that no animal shelter shall be within 300 feet of an adjoining piece of property. An exception shall be made to this section for those animals brought into the city as part of an operating zoo, veterinarian clinic, scientific research laboratory, or a licensed show or exhibition.

Proposed Ordinance:

91.04 FARM ANIMALS.

Farm animals shall only be kept in an agricultural district of the city, or on a residential lot of at least ten acres in size provided that no animal shelter shall be within 300 feet of an adjoining piece of property. An exception shall be made to this section for those animals brought into the city as part of an operating zoo, veterinarian clinic, scientific research laboratory, or a licensed show or exhibition.

An exception shall be made for chickens when the following requirements shall be met:

1. No more than four (4) chickens shall be kept on the premises (parcel);
2. Chickens shall be kept in a coop or attached coop run/enclosed at all times;
3. No roosters shall be kept on the premises;
4. The premises must be located in a Single and Two-Family Residential (R-1) or Limited Multiple-Family Residential (R-2) zoning district; and
5. The premises must have a lot area of at least five thousand (5,000) square feet.
6. A license is purchased at the city office.

Bruhn closed the public hearing at 6:07 pm.

CITY OF VERGAS
COUNCIL MINUTES
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER & ZOOM
Tuesday, October 8, 2024

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:30 pm, on Tuesday, October 8, 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: Dean Haarstick, Paul Pinke, Bruce Albright and Natalie Fischer. Absent: none. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers; Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane; Editor Bob Williams of the Frazee-Vergas Forum; Attorney Tom Winters; and Citizens: Cal Miller, James Stenger, Jeanette Lee Carrell, Rosemary Sandua, Dwight Lundgren, Paul Sonnenberg, Jeff Laney, Carol Sharp and Liz Simmon.

Call to Order

Mayor Julie Bruhn called the meeting to order.

Citizens' Concerns

None.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Albright to approve the agenda with the deletions: of Park Trail Vehicle Request and Liquor Store Manager Report and the following additions to the consent agenda; Park Advisory Board. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Fischer to approve the following consent agenda:

- A. Council Minutes of the September 10, 2024
- B. Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills totaling \$77,635.53.
- C. Liquor Store bills for September 2024 totaling \$58,466.08.
- D. Late water/sewer bills.
- E. 2024 Investment Schedule/Bond Schedule
- F. General Fund Special Revenue Money Market Account
- G. 2024 Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances
- H. TIP-Ottertail Chapter - LG230 Application to Conduct Off-site Gambling
- I. Vergas Energy Grant Update
- J. Committee Reports: Park Advisory Board, Planning Commission and Liquor Store/Municipal Building/License Committee.
- K. 3rd Quarter Fund Reports: General Fund, Sewer Fund and Water Fund

Motion passed unanimously.

Lake Runners Trail Assn Request

The council reviewed both Townline/Scharf route and County Road 4 route. Albright asked Lammers to follow up with the county to see how they feel about snowmobiles riding on the county road. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to table this issue pending review of agreement (contract), County thoughts and if needed we could have a special meeting if urgency does come up. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 91.04 Farm Animals

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to adopt the ordinance with a \$10.00 fee for the permit. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Event Center

Fischer reviewed minutes of Event Center Advisory Board held on September 24, 2024 and October 1, 2024 (minutes available at the Vergas City Clerk's Office). Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve resignation of Jay Norby and to accept Jake Jacoby as a member. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve resolution accepting donation (complete copy of resolution located at the city office) of \$15,000 for T.I.P. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to purchase equipment (stovetop, stand and convection oven) from Culinex and to hire Loren Menz to do the repairs of the dishwasher wall for \$10,223. Motion passed unanimously. Lammers explained the railings which were prior approved are not ADA compliant and ADA compliant railings will cost an extra \$200. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Fischer to approve extra \$200 for railings to be ADA compliant. Motion passed unanimously.

EDA/HRA

Albright reviewed Street/Sidewalk/yard waste meeting minutes of September 17, September 23, October 2 and October 7 2024 (minutes available at the Vergas City Clerk's Office) . Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve ending the tax abatement rebate program as of December 31, 2024. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to hold a public hearing on November 12th at 6:15 for the housing tax rebate application of 1015 E Scharf Ave. Motion passed unanimously.

Streets/Sidewalk/Yard Waste

Albright reviewed Street/Sidewalk/yard waste meeting minutes of October 2, 2024(minutes available at the Vergas City Clerk's Office) . Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve resolution accepting the extension of Glenn St and Oak Circle (complete copy of resolution located at the city office) with the

following completed: Landowners responsible for road right of way and the silk fence left on City Lot and needs to be removed. Motion passed unanimously. Discussed snow policy needing to match the personnel committee's policy. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to hold a council workshop. Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Utilities Superintendent

A written report provided by DuFrane. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to approve resolution 2024-010 Winter Maintenance Agreement with Otter Tail County. (complete copy of resolution located at the city office). Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

The written report provided by Lammers. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Fischer to approve PTO plan provided by Lammers. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The business for which the meeting was called having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Vergas Clerk-Treasurer
Julie Lammers, CMC