

ERHARD CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024  
5:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL, 506 MAIN STREET

Call to Order 5:30pm

Roll Call

Councilmen present: Richard Bratlien, Gene Nygaard, Chad Ravenscraft  
Absent: Marty Dee Carlson

Pledge of Allegiance was said

**Approvals:**

Agenda – Motion to approve was made by Gene and seconded by Chad – motion carried.

Minutes – Motion to approve was made by Richard and seconded by Chad – motion carried.

Accounts Payable – Motion to approve was made by Chad and seconded by Gene – motion carried.

Treasurers report – Motion to approved was made by Gene and seconded by Chad – motion carried.

**Notices and Communications:** Letter from Ringdahl Ambulance. Letter from competing investment company. LMC invitation to make a nomination to City of Excellence award.

**Old Business:**

Cannabis update – An article in the Fargo Forum was mentioned as having good information on the topic. Richard will keep in eye on developments.

After discussion, Chad made a motion to grant an off-sale liquor license (for beer only) to Hillbillies Restaurant and Bar, Gene seconded and the motion carried. Motion is contingent on completion of necessary forms and payment of the fee required by ordinance.

Pickleball Courts – Two things are left to complete the pickleball courts. There was significant discussion concerning the funding of the project. It will cost more than what is currently budgeted for park improvements. We expect to receive additional funds from the township and the 4th of July committee, as well as draw some from the savings set aside for the purpose in previous years. Chad made a motion to approve the completion of the pickleball courts. Richard seconded and the motion was carried. Mayor Gary Stadium can look for and accept additional bids so long as they are lower than the presented costs: \$23,189.00 for surfacing and \$15,125.00 for fencing.

**New Business:**

Ringdahl EMS payment: Kim Perpich, the general manager for Ringdahl, was present and later joined by Bjorn Ringdahl. We were told that the EMS system has been in crisis for quite some time, but the need has become critical. The reimbursement rate from Medicare and Medicaid is below cost. Volunteerism has also decreased. He expressed frustration with the county in that they believed a solution might be coming on a county-wide level. Just now at the time of budget finalization, they were sent directly to the townships and cities to request the additional funding required to remain solvent.

The state is working to provide funding, but the bill failed to pass. The task force has also failed due to internal disagreements (no consensus). Ringdahl has taken out loans just to make payroll. They asked for a subsidy of \$20.00 per resident in each jurisdiction. We are slightly below that amount. However, many jurisdictions have been paying significantly less or not at all. Chad made a motion to accept the increase in our contract. Richard seconded and the motion carried. The contract is an increase of \$729.00 for a total of 2,379.00 for the year.

Fire expense payment to City of Pelican was also approved with no significant change from last year.

Softball fence protection—Chad moved to proceed with the purchase of a Poly Cap Fence Topper, application tool, and zip-ties to protect the softball fence. Richard seconded, and the motion carried. We will install the topper ourselves. The cost will be approximately \$2500.00. This will be paid for by the money received from the sale of concession last year. It will cover the outfield and sides of both softball fields.

Any Other business

Dog ordinance – Chad spoke to one of the vet services to find out what they do in Pelican. This vet would charge the customer for the tag and send us an email rather than having to go through the city for licensing. The council discussed how to improve compliance within our city limits.

Adjourn – motion was made by Chad, seconded by Richard, motion carried. 7:10pm

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Sarah Ehlers  
City Clerk