

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE DAVENPORT CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 22, 2023**

ROLL CALL

Mayor Brad Sweet called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council Members present were Jonathan Chapman, Cory Hollis, Patrick Katz, and Lance Strite.

Absent: Heath Becker, Robert Jenkins, and Chris Ruiz. Lance Strite made a motion to excuse Heath Becker, Robert Jenkins, and Chris Ruiz from the meeting. The motion was seconded by Cory Hollis. The motion carried.

Also, attending were Steve Goemmel, Todd Hargreaves, Drew Lawson, David Leath, Matt Schneider, and Mike Wilkerson.

***The meeting was available by remote access on digital media. The City Council met in person.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lance Strite made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2023, meeting. The motion was seconded by Cory Hollis. The motion carried.

POLICE REPORT

No Report.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Final Public Hearing for the 2024 Budget at 7:05 p.m. - Mayor Sweet opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. The mayor asked for questions or comments from the city council. Cory Hollis wondered if all the public works employees were at the top step of the salary schedule. City Administrator Steve Goemmel told the city council that he always budgets the highest step in every job description. He said, "none of the public works employees were at the highest step of the salary schedule."

Mayor Sweet asked for questions or comments from the public. There were none. The mayor closed the public hearing for the 2024 budget at 7:10 p.m.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

No Changes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

COMMENT / SIGN IN

Todd Hargreaves signed in as a representative of the FBLA. Todd asked the city council to allow him to sell Christmas trees in the Plaza. Selling Christmas trees is a fundraising activity for the FBLA kids at the high school.

Cory Hollis made a motion to allow the FBLA kids to sell Christmas trees at the Plaza with the stipulation that they don't block traffic and they clean up after themselves. The motion was seconded by John Chapman.

Matt Schneider signed in to address the city council. Matt farms the land at the city crop circles. Matt gave an update on the north circle, south circle, and the dryland acres. He told the city council that he needs to

put gypsum in the fields to reduce the sodium content in the soil. He expects the land to be in full production by next year.

Mayor Sweet suggested a Water, Sewer, Garbage Committee meeting on December 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss hay prices with Matt Schneider. The city council agreed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lance Strite reported one application for aid from the Neighbors Helping Neighbors fund. He said, "the application is DVP23-02 and the past due amount is \$213.21.

Lance Strite made a motion to approve DVP23-02 in the amount of \$213.21. The motion was seconded by Patrick Katz. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sweet read a letter of refusal from J.J. Kowalkowski, Jr. who was the winner of the mayor's race in the November 7, 2023, election. Mayor Sweet outlined the process for the city council to pick a replacement for J.J. He told the city council that the city will advertise the position for two weeks and take letters of interest until December 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. The best suited candidates will be interviewed by the city council and a new mayor will be chosen by a majority vote of the city council.

The mayor suggested that the city council members attend an elected official's essentials course offered by AWC. Registration opens on October 11, 2023. He told the council that the course is available in Spokane or on-line.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading of Ordinance 1194 Granting a Nonexclusive Telecommunications Franchise to Lincoln County and Other Matters Properly Relating Thereto. Mayor Sweet told the city council that both he and Lincoln County Commissioner Scott Hutsell have signed the agreement and it's ready for approval by ordinance.

Lance Strite made a motion to approve Ordinance 1194 at its first and final reading. The motion was seconded by Patrick Katz. The motion carried.

2. First Reading of Ordinance 1195 Adopting the Annual Budget for 2024. City Administrator Steve Goemmel told the city council that all the adjustments to the budget have been made so it's ready for adoption.

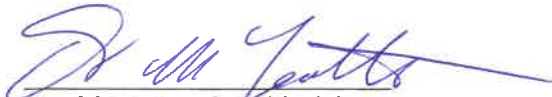
Lance Strite made a motion to pass Ordinance 1195 at its first and final reading. The motion was seconded by Cory Hollis. The motion carried.

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS

John Chapman made a motion to pay Claims/Vouchers #19902 - #19923 in the Amount of \$45,628.32 The motion was seconded by Lance Strite. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Lance Strite made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by John Chapman. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.



David M. Leath – Clerk/Treasurer



Mayor Brad Sweet