

City of Wendell
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2023

Mayor Rebecca Vipperman called the regular meeting of the Wendell City Council to order at 6:32 PM. Council members present were Council President BJ Marshall; Councilman Shaun Spencer; Councilman Juan Gonzales and Councilman Donald Dunn. City Attorney Tim Stover was also present.

Councilman Spencer made a motion to approve the **Amended Agenda** for December 7th, 2023. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye** and **Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Spencer made a motion to approve the November 16, 2023, regular council meeting minutes as presented. **Councilwoman Marshall** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye** and **Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

BILLS

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$56,503.97. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye** and **Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Resolution 205-2023- Fees & Rates Regarding the Adoption of Right of Way Application Fee
Mayor Vipperman opened the Public Hearing at 6:35 PM and read the rules for public hearings.

Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis presented the addition of the Right of Way application fee approved by the council on November 16, 2023 to the city's Fees & Rates. The added fee can be found on page 8 of Resolution 205-2023- Fees & Rates.

Mayor Vipperman asked **City Clerk/Treasurer Karri French** if any comments, written or oral, had been received by the Clerk's Office. The Clerk responded that there were none.

Mayor Vipperman stated that public comment was now open:

In Favor:

None

Neutral:

None

Against:

None

Mayor Vipperman asked the council if they had any questions, comments, or anything to discuss. There was no discussion.

Mayor Vipperman closed the public hearing at 6:42 PM.

NEW BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

County Commissioner Ron Buhler- Broadband Grant Update

County Commissioner Ron Buhler was present to update the city council on the Broadband Grant they applied for. He stated that Gooding County has been awarded \$7.5 million for the project. This project will take approximately 2 years to complete. Gooding County will continue to update all cities involved with the broadband improvement.

Consideration of W-2/1099 Payroll Services Proposal- Caselle

City Clerk/Treasurer Karri French presented the council with a quote for W-2/1099 services for 2023 for approval. After discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to accept the quote for W-2/1099 Payroll Services in the amount of \$1625.00. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Quote to Replace Recorder- Pinnacle

City Clerk/ Treasurer Karri French presented the council with a quote from Pinnacle to replace the aging video recorder in the Clerk's office. After discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to accept the quote from Pinnacle to replace the video recorder in the Clerk's office in the amount of \$1158.40. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Early Closure 12/22/23

Mayor Vipperman presented the council with the option of allowing all of the City of Wendell employees to leave work early at 2 PM on December 22, 2023 while still receiving 8 hours pay for the day. **Councilwoman Marshall** stated that this has been the practice for several years. After discussion, **Councilman Spencer** made a motion to release the City of Wendell employees early at 2 PM on Friday, December 22, 2023 with the employees receiving a full 8 hours pay for the day. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the

motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

Regarding Acceptance of Quit Claim Deed and Grant of Easement from LN Capital Investments, LLC

Councilman Gonzales recused himself due to a conflict of interest. **City Attorney Tim Stover** stated that his opinion is that the documents that were sent to the council for review needed a few adjustments. He outlined the Quit Claim Deed and Grant of Easement proposals along with some minor changes he felt would be in the best interest of the city. After discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to proceed with the suggested changes made by **City Attorney Tim Stover** so that the documents can be brought back before the council for consideration. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Abstain and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Accepting Resolution 205-2023 Regarding Adoption of Right of Way Application Fee

Mayor Vipperman asked the council if they had any further questions or if they had anything to discuss before deciding. There was no discussion. **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to accept Resolution 205-2023- Fees & Rates, regarding the adoption of a \$30.00 Right of Way Application Fee. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Good Neighbor Award

Mayor Vipperman stated that at the council meeting held on November 16, 2023, the council asked for criteria and a form for the proposed Good Neighbor Award. Mayor Vipperman presented a fillable form and criteria suggestions for the council to consider. The council decided to have Mayor Vipperman move forward with a more informal "Mayor's Good Neighbor Award" instead of a formal award presented by Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COUNCIL

Councilwoman Marshall stated that the Tree Lighting Ceremony was nice and there were a lot of people in attendance despite the snow and wind. She stated that it was a good community event and the fire pits, although the weather was not great, were a nice touch.

She also thanked **Councilman Spencer** and Michael Meadows for singing a few Christmas songs for the event.

Councilman Spencer stated that he also felt the Tree Lighting Ceremony was a nice event with the snow. He stated that he loved the old sign that the Fire Department hung. Fire Chief Bob Bailey stated that the sign has been around since the early 1980's.

Councilman Dunn stated that he also loved the Tree Lighting Ceremony, and even though it was cold, a lot of people showed up. **Mayor Vipperman** responded that they expected people to attend but she was pleased that there were over one hundred people in attendance.

Councilman Gonzales stated that watching Public Works in action setting up for and cleaning up after the Tree Lighting Ceremony was impressive. He stated that each stage only took Public Works about 15 minutes to finish.

MAYOR

Mayor Vipperman stated that the Tree Lighting Ceremony went better than expected, despite the weather, and she is already planning ahead for next year. She stated that a good portion of the event appeared live on the city's Facebook page, but the sound quality was not as good as everyone had hoped. A larger speaker will be needed for 2024's Tree Lighting. She also stated that the last of the weatherizing process was nearly complete at the Hub City Park and that in the spring Public Works would be putting the top on the shade structure recently installed at the park. She thanked the employees for all their hard work and stated that everyone is doing a wonderful job.

Adjourn

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 7:19 PM. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Motion passed.


Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer


Rebecca Vipperman, Mayor