

APPROVED CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Carrington was held Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 7:30 PM. Mayor Thomas Erdmann presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

The following members of Council and City Departments were present: Troy Roundy, Neil Fandrich, Jesse Nelson, Doug Smith, Abby Geroux, Melissa Magnuson, Jason Wolsky, Christopher Bittmann, and Jennifer Gast.

Absent: Councilmen Tyler Hoggarth and Trygg Olson.

Also present: Ken Wangen, Linda Schuster, Leasa Lura, Lanelle and Randy Stedman, Janelle Helm, Jenna Helseth, Joel Lemer, Tonia Erickson, Grant Stangeland, and Travis Dillman.

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Fandrich, to approve minutes of the regular council meeting held October 14, 2024. All voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Fandrich, seconded by Roundy, to approve consent agenda items:
a. To ratify the following game of chance permits issued by the City Auditor: #1041 to CHS Student Council for a sports pool, #1042 to Friends of Shanna Barone for a raffle, #1043 to Carrington Park Board for a raffle, #1044 to Friends of Shanna Barone for a sports pool, #1045 to Friends of Carrington City Library for a raffle, and #1046 to Carrington Ministerial Association for a raffle.

All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Erdmann provided Council with an update on the Uniting for Ukraine Sponsorship program. City Council has approved expenditures of \$36,800 in reimbursement for individuals sponsoring individuals and families from Ukraine from Economic Development funds for humanitarian reasons and to help the business sector. 20 family members have been sponsored with 8 employed within city or extraterritorial, 7 are students, 2 in daycare, and 4 farm workers not covered under the program. Questions arose as to what impacts this program is having on the school, thus the Mayor has invited school representatives to attend this meeting.

Janelle Helm, Carrington Public School Superintendent, addressed Council on the system at the public school to provide all students with equal access to learning opportunities, they do not discriminate, and their doors are always open. They are aware of the challenges surrounding ELL students and the support of teachers; however, the school district has established various services and resources designed to support teachers. Janelle would like to see the Uniting for Ukraine program continue as it bring great things for our school and community.

Randy and Lanelle Stedman addressed Council with a question on what the problem with denying the Ukrainian woman sponsoring under the program and commended Council on the Uniting for Ukraine program.

Grant Stangeland addressed Council in support of the Uniting for Ukraine program.

A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Fandrich, to reinstate the Uniting for Ukraine Sponsorship program with recommended changes that the business/employer and the employment must be located within the city limits and/or extraterritorial limits of the city of Carrington and

provide proof of employment signed by the employer and initial reimbursement of 50% of costs to be made upon receipt of actual paid expenses, which will be limited to the program's reimbursement schedule or actual costs. The final 50% reimbursement will be made after nine months. The following voted in favor: Roundy, Smith, Fandrich, and Nelson. Against: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Roundy, to appoint Blaine Schatz to the Tree Board Committee. All voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Fandrich, to authorize Auditor Gast to sign the project initiation & acceptance form for the water loop project with Bohlman Trenching and the city of Carrington. All voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Roundy, to approve final payment/closeout #4 to Bohlman Trenching for \$12,200 on the water loop project to be paid from the Capital Project Fund. The following voted in favor: Nelson, Roundy, Fandrich, and Smith. Against: None. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FIRE DEPT:

Chief Wangen reported 4 calls since the last report, the department decided to go with Motorola radios from MidStates of Fargo, started receiving equipment from the railroad donation, 1 SCBA tank failed recertification and will be replaced, all 3 bay furnaces will be serviced, and reminder to the public to change batteries in smoke detectors.

FINANCE & LEGAL:

Mayor Erdmann reported the committee received the final summary of the proposed wage scale with a 20-year step program with a 2.5% COLA for 2025 and the committee will hold a special meeting, a resolution will be prepared to enroll in the NDPERS safety plan, Harold Rotunda, CPA, provided 2022 and 2023 financial statements, the 1% sales tax is \$92,000 ahead of this time last year, and 3 unpaid utility liens have been placed on property.

A motion was made by Fandrich, seconded by Nelson, to transfer the city's ND Insurance Reserve Fund agency designation to Bravera Insurance. The following voted in favor: Smith, Fandrich, and Nelson. *Councilman Roundy abstained from voting.

A motion was made by Roundy, seconded by Smith, to authorize Auditor Gast to sign the Blue Cross Blue Shield 2025 Renewal documents. The following voted in favor: Nelson, Roundy, Fandrich, and Smith. Against: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Roundy, seconded by Fandrich, to designate the annual Waste Management community donation of \$1,500 to the Carrington Community Endowment Foundation. All voted aye. Motion carried.

CCEDC:

Mayor Erdmann reported Dean Hafner paid 2021 taxes and special assessments on the housing development and reimbursement of \$480.00 per unsold lots is listed in the bills and the CCEDC board is looking for 3 new members as 1 member is moving away and 2 members have fulfilled their terms.

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Nelson, to approve the 2nd phase reimbursement for the building improvement grant for Carrington Gymnastics in the amount of \$4,780.67 as per grant guidelines. The following voted in favor: Roundy, Fandrich, Nelson, and Smith. Against: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Roundy, seconded by Fandrich, to approve the BND Flex Pace Interest Buy down application from Darin Esser for \$13,999.66 for 5 years to be paid back and to authorize Mayor Erdmann to sign documents on behalf of the city. The following voted in favor: Fandrich, Smith, Nelson, and Roundy. Against: None. Motion carried.

AIRPORT:

Councilman Fandrich reported they had met November 7th and Interstate Engineering gave detailed scope of services for design on airfield lighting project.

POLICE:

Councilmen Nelson reported they had met and there were 327 calls for service in October including 4 DUI's, terrorizing, simple assault, escape, and the junk ordinance is done until spring.

TREE BOARD:

Councilmen Smith reported they have a new member, Blaine Schatz, and a bid opening was held for the 10 trees to be removed with Sherman excavating being awarded the bid.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Councilmen Roundy reported they met and Jason will be sending out letter update on the notification process as to what type of water lines in your house, summer meters have been pulled for winter, the Hwy 200 railroad crossing is a federal mandate, sewer/lagoon discharge monitoring report was submitted and discharge permit issued current through September 2029, tree boxes have been pulled for winter, and they received a request for Boy Scouts to utilize the upstairs office at the armory, city buildings have been winterized, maintenance is needed on the armory boiler, and Jason will be reaching out to a contact at Stutsman Rural water about the meter not working.

BUILDING OFFICIAL:

Public Works Director Wolsky reported 9 building permits were issued in October.

A motion was made by Roundy, seconded by Nelson, to approve the committee reports as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Fandrich, to approve the bills as previously submitted and listed on agenda. The following voted in favor: Smith, Nelson, Roundy, and Fandrich. Against: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the council a motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Fandrich, to adjourn. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Jennifer Gast, Auditor

Thomas Erdmann, Mayor