

CITY OF GHENT
APPROVED MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL/EDA MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH, 2024

The regularly scheduled City Council/EDA meeting for the City of Ghent was held on Tuesday, January 9th at 6:30 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Doug Anderson, Adam DeRoode, Tim VanKeulen, Zac Boerboom, & Ross Williams Administrator/Clerk, Dawn Vlaminc - Public Works Director, Jesse Christianson

OPEN MEETING: Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order @ 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by VanKeulen and seconded by Boerboom to approve the minutes of the December meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A motion was made by DeRoode and seconded by Williams to approve the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: No comments were heard.

LYON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT: The council members were given year end reports of all calls.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEW MEMBER: A motion was made by Williams and seconded by DeRoode to approve Reynieri David Anariba as a new fire department member. All in favor, motion carried.

FIRE TRUCK PURCHASE: A motion was made by VanKeulen and seconded by Boerboom to approve the purchase of a 2005 Freightliner M2 Truck for \$100,000. The purchase will be funded from the truck fund, MAHA gambling rents, & relief association donations. All in favor, motion carried.

FIRE RELEIF ASSOCIATION RAFFLE PERMIT: A motion was made by Williams and seconded by Boerboom to approve the raffle permit for the event on March 9th, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

2024 APPOINTMENTS:

- Depository: Bremer Bank of Marshall: A motion was made by DeRoode and seconded by Williams to approve Bremer Bank as our official depository. DeRoode, Williams, Boerboom voted yes, VanKeulen abstained.

A motion was made by Boerboom and seconded by VanKeulen to approve the remaining 2024 appointments. All in favor, motion carried.

- Official Newspaper: Minneota Mascot
- Mayor Pro Tem: Ross Williams
- City Attorney: Engels & Larson
- City Engineer: Bolton & Menk
- Official Animal Pound: City of Marshall
- Auto-pay vendors:
 - Frontier: Land Line for City Office, includes email
 - MN Valley Cooperative: lift station pump alert
 - Zoom Video Meeting Communications

RESOLUTION: 01-09-24-01: 2024 FEE SCHEDULE: A motion was made by Boerboom and seconded by Williams to approved resolution as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

EARNED SICK & SAFE TIME: This policy went into effect on January 1st, 2024. Our sick time policy meets the time requirements. Dawn changed the terminology regarding what leave can be used for and what is considered a family member to our personnel policy to meet the new requirements.

PUBLIC HEARING: TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATIONS: A motion was made by Boerboom and seconded by DeRoode to open the public hearing to hear comment on one tax abatement application from Doug Anderson. All in favor, motion carried. No comments were heard from the community. Dawn reminded the council that this application was heard previously. We are holding a second hearing to correct the past Resolution #12-13-22-03 that was prepared incorrectly. A motion was made by VanKeulen and seconded by Williams to close the public hearing. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #01-09-24-02 AUTHORIZING A TAX ABATEMENT ON PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF GHENT FOR DOUG AND PEGGY ANDERSON: A motion was made by DeRoode and seconded by Boerboom to approve resolution as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

YEAR END EXPENSE REPORT REVIEW: Council reviewed the year end balances.

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITS: The City holds \$500,000 of CD's that mature on 1/17/24. After reviewing the year-end balances, Dawn suggested that the city can roll these over for an additional 13 months as well as an additional 500,000 at an interest rate of 5%. These are funds that are being held in anticipation of our upcoming water/sewer rehab project and capital improvement funds that we do not anticipate spending in the next 13 months. A motion was made by Williams and seconded by Boerboom to increase that amount and purchase 1,000,000 of CD's in the following configuration. All in favor, motion carried.

500,000 original CD – contains mixed funds

200,000 additional capital improvement funds – contains mixed funds

200,000 TIF funds

100,000 Water funds

AWAIR & EMPLOYEE RIGHT TO KNOW POLICY: Dawn Vlaminck is the safety officer for the City of Ghent. Dawn & Jesse have reviewed the policy.

NUISANCE ENFORCEMENT: Enforcement for this month includes 10 letters for unlicensed vehicles and accumulated items. Jesse would like to enforce sidewalk cleaning right away to get residents used to following that ordinance.

CITY HALL RENOVATIONS: Renovations are expected to begin the first week of February. Council asked to be better informed of the breakdown of expenses and where the funding was coming from for this project. Dawn will be receiving final updated quotes in the next couple of days to send to the council. If expenses have increased to over the budgeted amount, a special meeting will be called to discuss an alternative plan. Contractors have suggested that the prices will hold or go down from last year's quotes. If this is the case, the project will proceed as originally planned with no further action necessary from council.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Williams and seconded by DeRoode to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Vlaminck,
Administrator/Clerk