

City of Menahga
Special Meeting City Council Minutes
Tuesday, August 27, 2019

A. Call to Order

The Menahga City Council held a Special Meeting Tuesday, August 27, 2019. Mayor Liimatta called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

B. Roll Call

Comprising a quorum of the council, the following members were present:

Tim Ellingson	Robyn Keranen	Art Huebner
Karol Andreasen	Joanie Liimatta	

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Work Session Items - Budget

- Liquor Store Manager – Renata Parks
 - Air conditioning unit on roof needs to be replaced
 - Cooler doors need to be replaced
 - New rails needed in off-sale cooler
 - All new tables and chairs in on-sale
- Public Works Director – Ronald Yliniemi
 - Sweeper
 - Repair
 - Replace
 - Outsource
 - MnDOT and Wadena County not showing up to sweep streets – Mayor will look into
 - Mayor asked for equipment list and maintenance logs
 - Loader – working on maintenance plan with Tonka
 - Split salaries equally between Water, Sewer, and Streets
 - Councilmember Ellingson asked for daily work logs
 - Cemetery - \$20,000 for plotting northwest portion
 - Mayor in favor of subbing out street sweeping
 - Councilmember Andreasen wants to compare both costs
 - Councilmember Huebner wants to keep it local
- Police Department – Chief Adam Gunderson
 - Uniform allowance
 - New vests
 - Do not lease squads – on a 3 year purchase rotation
 - One coming due in 2020 – new car only - \$35,000
 - Waiting on quotes for equipment and computer
 - New computers for office

- Mayor asked how many miles on squad to replace
 - Gunderson responded just shy of 100,000
- Councilmember Andreasen asked about selling old squads
 - Gunderson – online auction, K-bid, sealed bid
- Councilmember Andreasen asked if our officers carry Narcan
 - Gunderson – responded no, he does not believe we have a policy on Narcan
- Chief Gunderson asked where is the money coming from and where is it going because everything was coming from unallocated
- Councilmember Ellingson asked if they keep a weekly or monthly mileage log with their squads
 - Gunderson replied when they use their WEX gas cards to fuel up they have to enter their mileage along with their code
- Councilmember Ellingson asked where he plans to monitor the school when school starts? Stating after school kids race all over town as the police sit at the intersection.
 - Gunderson said since he hasn't been here for a school year yet he would talk with the school and possibly bring back the crossing guard program
- Fire Department – Chief Dave Kicker
 - Chief Kicker questioned salaries - \$16,000 have been paid out already this year
 - All of the numbers are off in the current budget
 - Over budget by \$32,000 from last year
 - Administrator Kreklau said roughly half of that was actually for the building
 - Chief Kicker brought up the need for a committee especially for budget time
 - Chief Kicker asked if we would be having another meeting for budget
 - Mayor said we are having another meeting – could be held September 24th
 - Administrator Kreklau – suggested September 17th and if necessary September 24th
 - Councilmember Andreasen cannot make September 17th
 - Mayor asked about 16th or 18th
 - Councilmember Huebner – 16th and 18th will not work for him
 - Mayor asked about 19th – all agreed no conflict – set for September 19, 2019 at 6 pm
 - Chief Kicker asked if future Work Sessions can be held after 6pm so he wouldn't have to take vacation time to come
 - Chief Kicker passed out info on new truck the Fire Department wants to purchase
 - Total for truck is \$540,722 through Sourcewell
 - We can receive a \$10,000 discount if paid when chase goes in
 - Fire Department will be applying for a \$50,000 grant
 - Will take 14 – 16 months to get
 - Will hold 2,000 gallons of water
 - Will be selling 2005 pumper truck – hopefully for between \$100,000 - \$150,000
 - We have \$274,000 in the Fire Department Equipment Fund
 - Mayor asked for equipment list and maintenance logs for Fire Department
 - Chief Kicker invited councilmembers to come tour the Fire Department and see all of the equipment.

- Chief Kicker stated the trucks are inspected during every meeting, when something needs to be repaired it is done immediately, oil is changed every year
- Administrator – Curt Kreklau Jr
 - Local Government Aid for 2020 will be \$399,477.00
 - Kreklau asked council to consider a 4% Cost of Living Increase
 - Kreklau asked to take health care costs out of General Fund instead of out of each individual Department
 - Mayor asked if Union would affect health care budget
 - Councilmember Keranen liked it to come out of General Fund
 - Councilmember Andreasen likes it coming out of General Fund
 - Mayor wants to do a little more homework first
 - Kreklau asked to put more money in attorney fees for union
 - Mayor wants large chunk of money set aside (basing it off former attorney) does not want to be blind-sided by the whole process

E. Notice of Status Quo Order Teamsters Local 320

F. Notice of Status Quo Order Teamsters Local 346

- Mayor read Status Quo Orders from both 320 and 326 out loud
- Mayor and Councilmember Ellingson were both concerned about councilmembers talking to staff and potentially violating the Status Quo Orders to Councilmember Ellingson made a motion to have all communications between council and staff stop and everything go through the Mayor or Vice-Mayor (Councilmember Ellingson) to Administrator Kreklau

Main Motion: As of 5:54 pm on Tuesday, Aug 27, 2019 no council member may make have contact in any form with City Staff, with the exception of Mayor or Vice-Mayor creating a future-meeting agenda or signing checks

Moved by:	Ellingson
Seconded by:	
Action:	After Council discussion Ellingson rescinded this motion & hopes for the best
In favor:	
Opposed:	

- Chief Gunderson pointed out Councilmember Keranen is a member of the Menahga First Responders and a motion for Council and staff to not communicate could hinder someone getting the medical help they need on a call
- Mayor Liimatta asked the council for permission to contact a labor attorney
 - No motions were made in favor, discussion was dropped

G. Organizational Chart

- Councilmember Ellingson supports the full council giving reviews for all employees
- Mayor Liimatta wants Administrator over Deputy Clerk and Administrative Secretary
- Administrator Kreklau stated due to the Status Quo Order restructuring currently cannot be discussed

H. Job Descriptions

- Administrator Kreklau stated due to the Status Quo Order Job Descriptions currently cannot be discussed
- Mayor Liimatta wants Job Descriptions tabled until the next Regular Meeting


I. Reviews

- Administrator Kreklau stated due to the Status Quo Order employee reviews currently cannot be held
- Mayor Liimatta wanted to ask the City Attorney if we could extend the probation of the employees currently on it due to the Status Quo Order

J. Adjournment

Main Motion: To adjourn at 6:16 pm

Moved by:	Huebner
Seconded by:	Andreasen
Action:	Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote
In favor:	Ellingson, Andreasen, Liimatta, Huebner, Keranen
Opposed:	None



 Curtis Kreklau Jr, City Administrator



 Joanie Liimatta, Mayor