

City of Menahga
City Council Special Meeting/Work Session Minutes
Monday, November 29, 2021 at 6:00 pm

A. Call to Order

The Menahga City Council held a Special Meeting/Work Session on Monday, November 29, 2021.

Mayor Liz Olson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

B. Roll Call

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

Mayor Elizabeth Olson	Durwin Tomperi	Dan Warmbold
Art Huebner	Robyn Keranen	

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Staff/Departmental Reports

Mayor Olson stated that she was removing the ongoing items section of the Police Department Report

a. Northbound Spirits – Renata Parks

Manager Renata Parks presented her monthly report to the council. Parks agreed to work with Deputy Clerk Tanya Edwards in preparing a profit and loss report for the city council. The subject of late payments to liquor suppliers was discussed and Council Member Warmbold asked Parks if she will work with Edwards, so that the late payments do not occur.

b. Public Works Director – Ronald Yliniemi

Yliniemi reported that the water tower project was moving forward and that Brian Hiles from Ulteig would be present for the December 13th Regular Council Meeting. When asked if any of the city's upcoming infrastructure projects could receive funds from the Federal Government spending bill, Yliniemi felt that they would. Yliniemi reported that the burn pile had been burnt and the individual who had dumped their

garbage there, had been identified and spoken with. The noise ordinance signs would be ordered and installed in the Spring of 2022. Yliniemi told the council that there still is around 50 resident water meters that are not reading correctly, and those accounts are just paying the monthly fee and estimated usage.

c. Police Department – Adam Gunderson

Total calls of 105 for October was reported. Mayor Olson reminded Gunderson that the council wants to see the actual report and not just the number of calls. Olson reminded Gunderson that the council had not received the report for the September calls, as well. Gunderson then questioned why the Police Department could not do the background checks, claiming that in the City's Personnel Policy it states that he preforms them. He read the section on page 10 of the policy which stated it was the City Administrator who decides. Mayor Olson agreed it is the City Administrator, not the Police Chief that makes that decision. Gunderson proceeded to try and ask questions of Council Member Warmbold, as to why he felt he should not conduct the background checks. Mayor Olson reminded Gunderson that the decision was made by the council and was not debatable. Council Member Huebner stated that Gunderson should be allowed to speak. Mayor Olson said that the purpose of the work session was to bring concerns to the council, not asking questions of council members. Gunderson wants to place on a future agenda, that he be reinstated to do the background checks. Mayor Olson reminded Gunderson that the council had voted on it, and she was not sure that it will be discussed again.

d. Fire Department – Dave Kicker

Kicker reported that the department had 4 Fire Calls for the month and 50 calls year-to-date (a written report was presented). Kicker reported that he was going to be meeting with Betty Thomsen on December 2nd at 4:30 pm, to go over the figures for the Fire Contracts. Council Member Tomperi asked if they would be working on getting answers as to the expenses, as there had been a lot of questions during earlier meetings. Mayor Olson asked Kicker if they were going to reschedule the Fire Relief Assn. Meeting that could not be held due to the lack of a quorum in October. Durwin Tomperi stated that he felt the new Fire Department financial numbers should be run by the Fire Contract Committee.

e. Administration – Betty Thomsen

Thomsen confirmed that the next Special Meeting/Work Session will be held on January 3, 2022 (due to Christmas Holiday plans of council members) at 6 pm. Thomsen then handed out new budget figures to the council for their review. Thomsen noted that the administrative expense of each department should be more accurately reflected by the actual time spent by administrative staff. Thomsen handed out new budget sheets. The new budget was lowered 17% from the original budget increase of 42.7%. The council set a date for another budget meeting to go over the figures on December 9, 2021 at 6 pm.

E. Discussion Items:

1. MnDot Snow Removal with Municipalities:

Public Works Director Ron Yliniemi and Betty Thomsen will decide which option is best and sign the letter and return to MnDot.

2. Jake Brake Resolution.

It was decided that the resolution will be approved during the December 13, 2021 Regular Meeting.

3. GPS capability on city-owned vehicles:

Jensine Kurtti reported the contact information that she had received from Wadena County was outdated and she will follow-up with Council Member Tomperi, as to what company they use and bring back at a later meeting.

16. Consideration of Bills

a. Approval of Bills – Batch # 112621 for a total of \$152,667.35.

Main Motion: To approve batch # 112621 in the amount of \$152,667.35

Moved by:	Tomperi
Seconded by:	Keranen
Action:	Motion carried by a 4-1 voice vote
In favor:	Tomperi, Warmbold, Olson, Keranen
Opposed:	Huebner

b. Fire Department Compensation

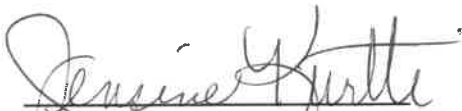
Main Motion: To approve the yearly payment to the members of the Fire Department in the amount of \$15,370.00

Moved by:	Warmbold
Seconded by:	Tomperi
Action:	Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote
In favor:	Tomperi, Warmbold, Olson, Keranen, Huebner
Opposed:	None

17. Adjournment

Main Motion: To adjourn at 6:47 p.m.

Moved by:	Keranen
Seconded by:	Huebner
Action:	Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote
In favor:	Tomperi, Warmbold, Olson, Keranen, Huebner
Opposed:	None.



Acting Clerk, Jensine Kurtti

Temporary Administrative Support Tech.



Mayor Elizabeth Olson