

# City of Zumbrota

## Work Session Minutes

Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, Acting Mayor Sara Durhman called the Zumbrota City Council to order at 5:30 PM. PRESENT: Mayor Todd Hammel (remote); Council members Sara Durhman, Joan Bucher, and Kevin Amundson. Others present, City Administrator Brian Grudem, Finance Director Kim Simonson, Police Chief Pat Callahan, Public Works Director Mike Olson.

### **2024 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Simonson asked the Council about philosophy and whether they would consider equipment certificates and bonding for the future. She spoke about the hit the budget and expenses would be taking from tree removal due to Emerald Ash Borer and was directed to see how it would play out with the budget and be defrayed by some monies from the ARPA fund. The council will see the budget at many upcoming meetings.

### **TREE FUND DISCUSSION**

Staff asked for directions on how the Council would like to proceed with increasing the funding for the Tree Fund. Some ARPA monies may be used to defray the costs.

### **LONG TERM DISABILITY DISCUSSION**

Grudem presented a long-term disability proposal to the Council. This proposal would have the City pay for long-term disability for full-time employees. In return the short-term disability policy would be dropped. Staff were asked to run the numbers.

### **MARIJUANA ORDINANCE – PROHIBITION PRIOR TO 2025**

With legalization of marijuana cities are working to understand how to regulate sales in the community. Staff were directed to investigate a moratorium until things can be assessed.

### **JEFF MEYER CLASS “A” OPERATOR**

Jeff Meyer obtained his class A wastewater operator’s license. That position is in high demand within the state. He would like to remain with the City of Zumbrota but would like to be paid at the senior wastewater operator scale, step 7.

### **SANITARY DISTRICT JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT DISCUSSION**

A joint powers agreement was presented to the Council. As part of the agreement each community will appoint one executive director and one alternate director.

### **9<sup>TH</sup> STREET CURB/GUTTER/PAVING DISCUSSION**

Grudem spoke about the improvements on 9<sup>th</sup> Street which are proposed in conjunction with the building of the Christ Lutheran Ministry Center. This will be a project with some special assessments. A professional services agreement with WHKS will be presented at the Council meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **WATER METER UPGRADE PROJECT DISCUSSION**

Earlier in the year Council had a presentation on the replacement of the water meters. The project is large enough to require competitive bidding but incredibly specialized so a case could be made to go with the current vendor.

**ABSENTEE/EARLY VOTING DELEGATION**

Local cities met with the County to discuss the expanded absentee voting process. The increase in the hours plus the addition of other polling duties will put more stress on staff. Staff are requesting the Council allow absentee voting to be managed by Goodhue County.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.

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Brian Grudem, City Administrator