

**MCGREGOR CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 21, 2018 6:30 P.M.**

The MCGREGOR CITY COUNCIL met in Regular Session at 6:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, November 21, 2018** at City Hall with Mayor Lyle Troester presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Troester led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present: Echard, Muehlbauer, Carroll, and Hallberg. Halvorson was absent. Halvorson arrived at 6:37 p.m.

Carroll moved, seconded by Echard to approve the Consent Agenda by one motion a) Agenda as listed b) Regular Meeting minutes October 17, 2018 c) Bills and Claims as presented for period October 18, 2018 through November 21, 2018 City- \$76,621.72, Library - \$3,244.22, October 2018 Revenues - \$314,121.18 October 2018 Expenses - \$129,594.81 d) Treasurer's Report for October, 2018 e) Liquor License Renewal – Latino's and Josie's River Queen. Roll call vote: Ayes – All. Motion carried.

Hearing of Delegations: Council person Hallberg passed along a comment she had received from a resident expressing his appreciation of the snow plow crew and the good job they had done.

Police report – Mayor Troester welcomed the new Chief of Police, Robert Millin. His first month of duty has been busy settling into the office and getting outstanding issues addressed. New citation software and MACH installations are in process. STEP program incentives will be used for updating of department gear.

Operations report – Ren Pape, Public Works Director, informed the council that the sewer valve replacement should be completed within the next two weeks. Municipal Pipe Tool has promised they will be here to jet and televise lines this week. They have not been showing up as promised which may lead to termination of the contract they have with the city.

Echard moved, seconded by Halvorson to approve a donation of \$200 to the MFL MarMac After Prom Party. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried. Heidi Kuhl, Northland Securities, was present to provide the council with details of the sewer rate study she had completed for the city. The request was made by city administrator to ensure compliance with net revenue requirements of the sewer revenue bond. The current ordinance provides for annual rate increases based on the CPI. Ms. Kuhl provided analysis with both a 2% and 3% annual rate increase. Use of the CPI isn't as reliable for use during budget planning and thereby her recommendation would be to use a straight percentage rate increase annually to be able to address future maintenance needs and borrowing for the sewer system. Council directed the city administrator to have the ordinance revisions available for the first reading at the December meeting.

Eric and Jim Willis were present to discuss the health insurance renewal for city employees. The current plan renewal shows a 1.2% decrease in cost to the city. Carroll moved, seconded by Echard to renew the United Health Systems policy Gold – CIA08. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried. They will continue shopping for better plan options for the Life and AD/D policy.

Duane Boelman, Economic Development Lead, gave the council an update on the status of the remaining funds in the Restore McGregor fund. The initial grant period provided assistance of up to \$1,000 to a total of 42 businesses and residents for costs associated with damages resulting from the 2017 tornado. The board for the fund met recently to determine how to use the remaining funds. \$10,000 has been placed in an endowment fund, The Alexander McGregor endowment, which will provide an opportunity for future charitable donations to be made which will be invested and the interest be granted to the city or other non-profits for public purpose projects in the city of McGregor. An informational meeting will be planned in the next couple of months to provide details on how to invest in the fund and how projects will be selected. The remaining funds in the Restore McGregor fund will be distributed for expenses related to a proposed “pocket park” on the lot next to the library which will recognize the donation made by Fred Petrie and Melani San Fillippo and also as a memorial to Roger Witter. A large share of the funding in the Restore Fund was from memorials made in his name. The park would have planters, a few benches, a stage, pergola, and room for people to bring their own chairs for outdoor movies and other activities. Structures would all be movable to another location should the community center concept be put into motion. Stairs and a gate would provide access to Artesian Park across the covered storm sewer. Hallberg moved, seconded by Halvorson to authorize use of the lot adjacent to the library for the pocket park, city to pay for leveling the lot, putting in steps and any fencing to connect to Artesian Park, and in lieu of music in the park contribute towards the license for movies \$800. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried.

Bonnie and Bob Pruett were present to once again request assistance for plumbing costs to address sewer backup into the art center basement. Echard expressed his concern that if the city pays once this will become an ongoing problem. Already it was brought to the public works director’s attention that another owner had told the plumber to bill jetting his line to the city. Echard also questioned why the owner of the art center building has not addressed maintenance issues related to both sewer and storm water concerns. Bob Pruett suggested they wait until the results of jetting and televising come back to determine how to proceed. A request made by David Strutt for an assignment of the Old Man River Rebate and extension of terms was considered by the council. Council agreed to accept the assignment with the current terms. The new owners may renegotiate the terms in the future. The city administrator was directed to have any necessary documents available for approval at a future meeting.

Council reviewed possible projects for an urban renewal amendment. Proposed additions are the pedestrian bridge and mitigation activities on 2<sup>nd</sup> street adjacent to the bridge and public art projects. No amendment will be done yet until more info is available about the pedestrian bridge. Muehlbauer moved, seconded by Hallberg to approve Resolution 01-11-2018 Authorizing Internal Advance for Funding of Urban Renewal Projects – Small Business Improvement and Redevelopment Support Program. Roll call vote: Ayes – All. Motion carried. Echard moved, seconded by Carroll to approve Resolution 02-11-2018 Authorizing Internal Advances of Funds for Payment of Urban Renewal Projects – Various. Roll call vote: Ayes- all. Motion carried. Carroll moved, seconded by Hallberg to approve Resolution 03-11-2018 Certification of TIF Debt to county auditor. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried. Halvorson moved, seconded by Muehlbauer to approve Resolution 04-11-2018 Authorizing Transfer of Funds Park Board Savings. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried. Hallberg moved, seconded by Echard to approve Resolution 05-11-2018 Authorizing Mayor and Clerk to

Accept Offers to Purchase Lots in RWW Second and Ohmer Ridge Subdivisions with revised incentives. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried. The clerk is still awaiting follow-up from FEMA regarding the pedestrian bridge project. Muehlbauer moved, seconded by Carroll to table Resolution 06-11-2018 Awarding Contract for Pedestrian Bridge. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. Motion carried. Muehlbauer moved, seconded by Halvorson to approve Pay Request #1 Loan #1 – Owner Occupied Housing Program – Meuser Lumber - \$12,123.00. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried. Hallberg moved, seconded by Echard to approve Release of Mortgage – John and Kathleen Keenan – Owner Occupied Housing. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried. Postal route revisions will be addressed in the upcoming months. The postmaster will be sending additional info on how many customers will be affected and how many boxes will be put up. Muehlbauer moved, seconded by Echard to approve sponsorship of a tree and the cost of decorations for the festival of trees and the tree be auctioned. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried.

With business concluded, Echard moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Halvorson. Ayes – All. Meeting adjourned.

Lyle J. Troester,  
Mayor

Attest:

Lynette L. Sander  
City Administrator