

Sandstone City Council Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Peter Spartz, Val Palmer, Cassie Gaede, Julena Rahier

Members absent: Randy Riley

Staff present: Community Service Partner Sirena Samuelson; Fire Chief Chaz Mann

Others present: Rick Puissegur, Deputies Chuck Anderson and Mark Anderson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion Gaede, second Rahier to approve the Agenda with the addition of Lawful Gambling Premises Permit. Motion carried 4-0.

PETITIONS, COMPLAINTS, OR COMMENTS BY RESIDENTS AND/OR COUNCIL

MEMBERS: Concern was noted about the lack of a street sign on the corner of Division and TH 123 and a fallen stop sign on Minnesota Street behind Chris' Food Center. Staff addressed complaints regarding dogs running loose and a noise complaint.

PUBLIC HEARING/ PRESENTATIONS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion Gaede, second Palmer to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 20240320-01 Accepting Donation

Motion Gaede, second Palmer to adopt Resolution No. 20240320-01 accepting a donation of \$5,000 from Wisconsin Public Service Foundation (Minnesota Energy) for Robinson Quarry Park. Motion carried 4-0.

Resolutions Approving USDA-RD Loans

Motion Spartz, second Rahier to set a Special Council Meeting for 5:30 p.m. on March 27th to discuss and approve resolutions accepting USDA-RD Loans regarding the Sandstone Public Library project. Motion carried 4-0.

Special Event Permit: East Central Class of 2014

Jacob Seibert submitted a Special Event Permit Application to hold a class reunion party at Panther Park on Saturday, July 27th from 12:00 – 9:00 p.m. The event will involve Gathering, Cooking, Eating, Yard Games, Bounce House for Kids. They would like to have a Special Permit to allow participants to bring their own alcohol to the event. **Motion Spartz, second Gaede to approve a Special Permit to allow participants to bring their own alcohol to the Class of 2014 reunion to be held in Panther Park on July 27th. Motion carried 4-0.**

Agreement for Prosecution Services

County Attorney Reese Frederickson submitted a contract for prosecution services for 2024 and 2025 at the same rate of \$20,000 per year. **Motion Gaede, second Palmer to approve the Agreement for Prosecution Services with the Pine County Attorney for 2024 and 2025 in the amount of \$20,000 each year. Motion carried 4-0.**

Lawful Gambling Premises Permit

The Sandstone Lions Club submitted a request for approval of a new Lawful Gambling Premises Permit to conduct lawful gambling at Woody's Bar & Off-Sale. **Motion Palmer, second Gaede to approve the Lawful Gambling Premises Permit for the Sandstone Lions Club to conduct lawful gambling activities at Woody's Bar & Off-Sale. Motion carried 3-0, with Mayor Spartz abstaining because he is a member of the Sandstone Lions Club.**

OLD & CONTINUING BUSINESS: None

REPORTS:

Community Service Partner

CSP Sirena Samuelson reported on the following:

- There are currently 66 rental property owners; paperwork and fees are needed from 12; 12 inspections are due this year; 4 inspections have violations; two continuing violations are currently in the court process
- Three refuse issues have been addressed; one RV has been taken care of
- Letters have been sent out regarding dogs - habitual barking and running at large
- 422 Court was inspected via a search warrant on March 7th and determined to be not habitable; following attorney instructions regarding next steps
- Attended Naloxone training
- Finished first Building Inspector class; started second class; spending time with Building Official, tagging along on inspections, etc.
- Is currently painting the office, new carpet will be coming next week, followed by new (used) furniture; the Building Official has moved upstairs into one of the vacant offices

Sheriff's Deputy Report – February 2024

The Sheriff's Department logged 263 calls in Sandstone during the month. Deputy Chuck Anderson was present and reported the following:

- Assisted with domestic calls
- Unwanted people – trespassing
- Trespassing and stolen packages at Sandy Pines
- Search Warrant issued at 605 Commercial; Drug Task Force participated; small amount of narcotics was found
- Welfare checks
- Harassment calls
- Drones dropping items onto the Prison property
- Participated in the City's search warrant at 422 Court
- One suicidal threat
- 3 animal bites at the hospital within 5 days
- Vehicle pursuit

Deputy Anderson will continue with the Sandstone car for the next six months.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Chaz Mann reported on the following:

- The Department has had 40 calls since his last report in January; many medical calls with several structure and grass fire calls in the past few weeks
- Training included studying new hose lays and reviewing wildland firefighting and water tender operations
- A mock drill at the prison was conducted March 19th which was very successful; Mann was relieved to find that they were able to fit the truck through the gated areas
- FEMA Grant – a desk review regarding the SCBA grant is currently being conducted; once this is complete, the funds should be released
- Extractor/Dryer Grant – the space has been cleaned out to make way for this new equipment; a plumber and electrician will install the proper breaker and duct work; the machines are at the warehouse, ready for installation; hopefully, the project will be complete in mid-April
- He is working on a policy for the Rescue unit and hopes to submit it to Council next month
- The Department is working on a capital savings plan
- There are currently 18 firefighters in the department

Fire Service Contract – Danforth Township

On February 5th, the City Council held the annual meeting with Townships to discuss providing fire response services. The current contract with Danforth Township covers 2023, 2024 and 2025. The annual fee for each year included a 3% cost of living adjustment. At the February 5th meeting, Danforth Township representative Jeff Shute indicated that the 3% cost of living adjustment was acceptable for the next three-year contract, which Danforth Township representatives have now signed.

Motion Palmer, second Rahier to approve the 2026, 2027 and 2028 Fire Service Contract with Danforth Township. Motion carried 4-0.

EDA Meeting – February 28, 2024

The EDA approved proposals regarding the Historic Sandstone School redevelopment: Dust Monitoring Services, Environmental Cleanup Services, and Special Inspection and Testing Services. A resolution was adopted supporting the use of the auditorium by the Sandstone History and Art Center. The EDA learned about a potential business interested in the Sandstone Business Park. Updates were provided regarding the Downtown Redevelopment Plan and the Pine County Transportation & Logistics Analysis. A closed session was held to discuss the potential purchase of property.

Library Report – February 2024

Librarian Josh Menter submitted his monthly report. A reported 1,365 visits were made to the library in February, with 486 reference questions answered. DND continues strong. The Women's History Month contest is underway, along with a bookmark contest. Trivia nights will begin next month.

Building Inspection Report – February 2024

Permits issued: 2 building and 1 right-of-way. Currently, there are 7 ongoing building and 2 ongoing right-of-way projects in town.

Public Works Director Report – February 2024

Public Works Director Hiler reported that, in addition to routine tasks, a refurbished and painted picnic table was placed in Panther Park, a new door was installed in the DMV office at City Hall, progress is being made on the new bathroom for the John Wright Community Center. Currently working on cleaning the water and wastewater plants and equipment and addressing many concerns and issues that were not

resolved under the PeopleService contract. Nine new water meters have been installed. Hiler is working with Itron so that the City can read meters for billing purposes. One sewer backup was reported, which was the result of tree roots in the private service line. Working with Total Control to resolve issues with Lift Stations #1 and #3. Nelson Sanitation cleaned and televised 3,700 feet of sewer lines. Employee Curl completed wastewater classes. The NPDES permit renewal application was submitted.

Streets & Parks Maintenance Worker

The City advertised to fill the Streets & Parks Maintenance Position in the *North Pine County News*, *The Evergreen*, *Moose Lake Gazette*, *Pine City Pioneer*, and *Kanabec County Times* newspapers for four weeks. Nineteen applications were received. The Personnel Committee interviewed eleven candidates on February 16th and 23rd. Two candidates rose to the top of the list. References were checked on both and it was decided not to pursue either. Another candidate was then discussed and an agreement was reached to offer the position to Keith Rolston.

The starting wage for this position is \$26.70. The union contract allows for a 6-month probation, after which a \$0.50 raise is required. After completing one year, the union wage will take effect. In 2024, the union wage for this position is \$27.70.

**Motion Gaede, second Palmer to approve hiring Keith Rolston for the Streets & Parks Maintenance Worker position pending the results of the background check and physical.
Motion carried 4-0.**

Financial Reports

Motion Palmer, second Rahier to approve the February financial reports: Cash Balance, Revenue & Expenditure Report; the Total Residual Income/Loss Report; and A/P Clerk Claims in the total amount of \$334,546.68. Motion carried 4-0.

WRITTEN NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:

WIPFLI Engagement Letter – 2023 Audit

League of MN Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) No-Fault Sewer Backup Coverage

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

City Hall Building - Bathroom

- Ty Johnson will work on the construction aspect of the project; then the plumber will come back and install the fixtures

John Wright Building - Bathroom

- The sprinkler was capped off and will be re-run once the new room is framed – scheduled for 3/18
- An electrician is relocating outlets & plug ins – scheduled for 3/18

MN Power – Lighting Requests

- Minnesota Power is working on fulfilling our requests:
 - Additional lighting outside El Mexico – one is done; there may be more in the parking lots
 - Lighting in 3 locations for Panther Park – two are done; two more will be added
 - Lighting in 2 locations for the new Library – one existing pole will be removed (by the alley) and a new pole will be installed about 40 feet west of that pole; a floodlight will be added to another existing pole as well
- Work is expected to occur any time now

City Hall – old Library Space

- Councilors Gaede and Palmer met with George to discuss converting this space for the Council Chambers and community meetings
- Most of the existing furniture and shelving will be put on the public surplus auction

- Miscellaneous supplies will be offered to local non-profits
- One column needs to be removed; with two others strengthened to bear the weight
- New carpeting throughout – carpet squares are desired
- Dividers to create three different spaces
- Paint the wallpaper – or strip it off and paint the walls
- New chairs for the “audience” are needed – perhaps like the ones at the new library
- Existing Council Chambers furniture (tables/chairs) can be reused
- Audio/Visual/IT capabilities will be explored
- Add a sink in the office to make a refreshment station/kitchenette
- Existing entry door is not handicap accessible – options will be explored
- Perhaps the History Center would like to create a display using the built-in magazine area
- A \$10,000 grant has been applied for from the Initiative Foundation

2024 Election Dates

- July 30 – August 13 – Candidate Filing Period
 - Cassie, Pete & Randy – terms end 2024
- August 13 – Primary Election
- November 5 – General Election

Public Surplus Auction Results – auction ended 3/14

- Booths; Sold for \$102.00
- Table & Stools; Sold for \$26.00
- Message & Dry Erase Boards; Sold for \$31.00
- Hutch; Sold for \$20.50
- Couch; Sold for \$152.50
- Basket of Yoga Mats; Sold for \$14.50
- Reception Desk; Sold for \$137.50
- Ricoh MP C3003 Copy Machine; Sold for \$251.50
- Office Desk; Sold for \$107.50
- Desk & Cabinet Set; Sold for \$1.50
- 2-drawer File Cabinet; Sold for \$76.00
- 5-foot Bookshelf; Sold for \$15.50
- Antique Display Case; Sold for \$61.00
- 8-foot Table & Eight (8) Chairs; Sold for \$51.25
- Shredder; Sold for \$1.00
- VersaTables desks; 1 of 3 sold for \$1.00
- White Board Calendar; Sold for \$15.50
- Hutch; Sold for \$33.00
- 51” Phillips TV; Sold for \$91.00
- Conference Table & Chairs; Sold for \$20.50
- Buffet Serving Unit; Sold for \$46.00
- Antique Desk; Sold for \$5.50
- Omn 51” TVs; Sold for \$103.00
- Electric Fireplace; Sold for \$132.00
- Storage Cabinet; Sold for \$255.00
- Sony 37” TV; Sold for \$2.25
- TCL 33” TV; Sold for \$6.00
- Entryway Bench; Sold for \$27.00
- Leather Swivel Chairs; Sold for \$5.50
- Office Desk; Sold for \$355.00
- Large Mirrors; Sold for \$10.50
- Pastry Display; Sold for \$25.00
- Buffet Serving Unit; Sold for \$26.00
- Buffet Serving Table with Soup Warmers; Sold for \$71.00
- Emerson 35” TV on Stand; Sold for \$5.50
- Display Cases; Sold for \$3.00
- HP Printer DesignJet 510; Sold for \$102.50
- Shelf Display case; Did not sell

- Cherry Bookshelf; Sold for \$26.00
- Desk with Adjustable Keyboard Tray; Sold for \$1.00

Total net sales from auction: \$2,494.00

Small Cities Development Program Rehab Grant – Update 3/15/2024

HOUSING PROJECTS

Date Application Received	Status Date	Status of Application	Property Address
10/10/2023	3/18/24	Inspected- Write up sent the Homeowner	423 Court Ave N
10/19/2023	3/18/24	Waiting for Lead Results	218 1st Street
10/12/2023	3/18/24	2/16/24 - Bids Due 3/15/24	406 Hwy 23 S
10/20/2023	3/18/24	Waiting for Lead Results	310 Minnesota St
11/1/2023	3/18/24	Ready for LRA	514 Park Ave
11/13/2023	3/18/24	Waiting for Lead Results	402 Pine Ave S
11/8/2023	3/18/24	Waiting for Lead Results	125 Commercial Ave N

COMMERICAL PROJECTS

Date Application Received	Status Date	Status of Project	Address
10/10/23	3/18/24	Sent for Asbestos Testing 2/16	114 4th Street Kettle River Graphics
10/19/23	3/18/24	Sent for Asbestos Testing 2/16	202 Main St H&R Block Bldg
10/17/23	3/18/24	Sent for Asbestos Testing 2/16	1409 Hwy 23 N 61 Motel
11/15/23	3/18/24	Sent for Asbestos Testing 2/16	1038 MN 23 North Woody’s Bar
10/12/23	3/18/24	Waiting for the write up	420 Main St Whitney’s Country Cafe

Waitlist - 1	Jon Lang 103 Commercial Ave
Complete: x1 (Date completed: 10/10/2023)	414 Main Ave N; North Pine Ins Bldg

ADJOURN

Motion Gaede, second Rahier to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Peter Spartz, Mayor

Kathy George, Administrator