

The regular meeting of the Greenbush City Council was held on December 21, 2020, at 5:30 pm. This meeting was conducted via electronic methods due to the Governor's Emergency Declaration concerning the COVID Pandemic.

Council Present in Person: None

Council Present via Electronic Methods: Brenda Sather, Dennis Filer, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Shawn Walsh

Others Present in Person: Anita Locken

Other Present via Electronic Methods: Dustin Fanfulik, Steve Emery, Josh Kern, Shaun Jevne, Ryan Bergeron

Paving of Old Hwy 11 Between MN Ave W and Hwy

In 2021 the county is going to be completing a mill and overlay on Old Hwy 11 from CSAH 4 to MN Ave W. The county engineers would like to know if the city would like to participate in this project by completing a mill and overlay on the city portion of Old Hwy 11. The city portion extends from MN Ave W to HWY 11. The cost of this work would be \$15,000.00. The county would complete the project, and the city would pay them for the work. These two blocks of street are structurally sound and need a mill and overlay. If the city does not participate, it would cost the city an extra \$8,000-\$10,000. The cost savings come from not having to hire an engineer for the project. The last time this section of the street was repaved was at least 17 years ago.

M/S/P Eric Shawn Walsh/Dennis Filer to participate with the county on the repaving of Old Hwy 11 from MN Ave W to Hwy 11.

Roll Call responses in favor: Shawn Walsh, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Dennis Filer, Brenda Sather

Assessment of Delinquent Utilities

With the executive orders in place for COVID-19, the city has been unable to shut off water services for non-payment this year. That has resulted in a larger than normal number of accounts that can be assessed to taxes. Individuals on this list have 30 days from approval of the assessment to pay them before the assessment is sent to the county.

M/S/P Christine Foss/Eric Etherington to approve Resolution 2020-18 Unpaid Charges.

Roll Call responses in favor: Shawn Walsh, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Dennis Filer, Brenda Sather

One of the delinquent accounts is an interesting situation in which the account holder has a trailer house on a parcel in which they rent the space for said trailer. These individuals must property pay taxes on the trailer, but there is no way to enforce the collection of taxes through traditional methods. These individuals are not currently paying their property taxes. The city could collect their utilities through MN Revenue Recapture. To do this Council will need to approve the use of MN Revenue Recapture.

M/S/P Eric Etherington/Christine Foss to approve using MN Revenue Recapture for utility accounts that can't be assessed.

Roll Call responses in favor: Shawn Walsh, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Dennis Filer, Brenda Sather

6:00 pm

M/S/P Shawn Walsh/Dennis Filer to convene the regular meeting so the Truth in Taxation meeting can be held. The regular meeting will reconvene after the Truth in Taxation Meeting.

Roll Call responses in favor: Shawn Walsh, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Dennis Filer, Brenda Sather

Truth in Taxation Meeting

Council Present in Person: None

Council Present via Electronic Methods: Brenda Sather, Dennis Filer, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Shawn Walsh

Others Present in Person: Anita Locken

Other Present via Electronic Methods: Josh Kern, Shaun Jevne, Ryan Bergeron

The preliminary 2021 overall levy was set at \$314,150.00. This is an increase of \$9,130.67 or 3%. This is due to ordinary inflation expenses to operate the city. The most significant increases in the budget are wages, costs associated with wages, and general expense increases.

No one with questions attended this portion of the meeting.

M/S/P Dennis Filer/Christine Foss to adjourn the Truth in Taxation meeting.

Roll Call responses in favor: Shawn Walsh, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Dennis Filer, Brenda Sather

M/S/P Christine Foss/Dennis Filer to reconvene the regular meeting.

Roll Call responses in favor: Shawn Walsh, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Dennis Filer, Brenda Sather

The regular council meeting reconvened at 6:04 pm

2021 Rates and Fees

Clerk-Treasurer Locken is proposing not to raise any rates for 2021.

M/S/P Eric Etherington/Dennis Filer to approve Resolution 2020-19 for 2021 Rates.

Roll Call responses in favor: Shawn Walsh, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Dennis Filer, Brenda Sather

Council will need to decide if they want to reinstate late fees. Council agreed not to reinstate them for another three months.

2021 Wages

M/S/P Shawn Walsh/Eric Etherington to approve wage increases of 3% for full-time employees and a 25¢ raise for Geraldine Nubson.

Roll Call responses in favor: Shawn Walsh, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Dennis Filer, Brenda Sather

Performance Awards

M/S/P Dennis Filer/Eric Etherington to approve performance awards of \$250.00 for full-time employees and \$100.00 for the part-time employee.

Roll Call responses in favor: Shawn Walsh, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Dennis Filer, Brenda Sather

Zoning Question for a Garage

Council Member Walsh had been approached by a resident concerning obtaining a zoning permit for a garage. Garages do need a zoning permit, just like any other building. The individual with these questions should call the city office, so the zoning district's correct information can be relayed to the resident.

Main St Water Project

MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has approved removing the Main St project's bump-outs. Removing the bump-outs will only reduce the project cost by \$5,000. The project entails the total street reconstruction, new streetlights, and main water replacement on Main St from Hwy 11 to MN Ave W. Main St N from MN Ave W to CSAH #4 includes main water replacement, full depth mill and overlay, and some curb repairs. CSAH #4 to Oak Street includes water main replacement and installation. The Council needs to decide whether to have diagonal parking on the West side of Main St from Hwy 11 to MN Ave W. The purpose of this parking is to add parking spaces. Many businesses, during the planning stages, asked for more parking. Council wants to check with the businesses again to see if they are in favor of it. Mayor-Elect Etherington is going to conduct this research. The Council needs to approve removing the bump-outs and the engineers to start the plans and specifications.

M/S/P Shawn Walsh/Eric Etherington to approve the Resolution 2020-15 Accepting Feasibility Report, Ordering Improvement and Preparation of Plans.

Roll Call responses in favor: Shawn Walsh, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Dennis Filer, Brenda Sather

Servline

At this time, very few survey responses for Servline have been returned to the city. Thirty-five individuals have responded no, and ten have responded yes. This program takes approximately ten weeks to implement.

M/S/P Eric Etherington/Dennis Filer to not implement the Servline program at this time.

Roll Call responses in favor: Shawn Walsh, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Dennis Filer, Brenda Sather

COVID-19

The MN legislature has approved grant money for small businesses affected by COVID. Those funds will be sent directly to affected businesses. The legislature also approved money that will be sent to counties. This money will also be used to help small businesses.

City/County Shop

A meeting was held with the city attorney. She is working on updating the agreement. The agreement will not allow for wedding receptions etc., to be held at the city shop.

FY 2021 Proposed Budgets

The proposed levy increase for 2021 is 3%. The water fund is over budget on expenses. These expenses arise from the installation of the water tower mixer and engineering fees. In the future, if Council plans on spending reserve funds on a project, that should be noted in the motion approving the expense.

M/S/P Eric Etherington/Dennis Filer to approve Resolution 2020-20 Approving Final 2021 Budgets for the General Fund and other Miscellaneous Funds.

Roll Call responses in favor: Shawn Walsh, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Dennis Filer, Brenda Sather

M/S/P Eric Etherington/Shawn Walsh to approve Resolution 20-21 Approving Final 2020 tax Levy, Collectible in 2021. General Fund \$314,150, 2006 Sewer Bonds Levy \$13,984.00, total levy \$328,134.00.

Roll Call responses in favor: Shawn Walsh, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Dennis Filer, Brenda Sather

Blight/Nuisance Ordinance

Tabled

Public Works Update

Public Works Director Jevne provided an MPCA annual compliance review summary. There were two issues with samples. One sample was missing a number, and the 2nd sample had a high PH level. He had to update the phosphorus plan. MPCA is working on updating the city's wastewater pond permit. Jevne had three weeks to respond to the compliance report once he received it. He forgot the iWorq report on his desk. He is having problems saving it as a PDF. The new snowplow from MN DOT is ready to be picked up. The city must pay for it with a cashier's check. That check will be prepared tomorrow.

Consent Agenda

M/S/P Shawn Walsh/Dennis Filer approve the consent agenda items with revised bills and minutes (Minutes/Bills-Revised/Receipts).

Roll Call responses in favor: Shawn Walsh, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Dennis Filer, Brenda Sather

Upcoming Meetings:

- Regular Council Meetings: at 5:30 pm, Tuesday, Jan 19th, Tuesday, Feb 16th, and March 15th

Clerk-Treasurer Locken thanked Mayor Sather for all her years of service to the city. She served as a council member from 2011-2016 and served as Mayor 2017-2020. She served the city for a total of 10 years.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Eric Etherington

Mayor

Anita Locken

Clerk-Treasurer