

The Clear Lake City Council met in regular session on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building with Mayor Lisa Lundberg presiding. Those present were Alderwomen Ramona Drake and Amy Bjerke, Aldermen Rod Pauli, Jamie Hintz, Harry Mewherter and Jonas Reppe. Also present were Mary Krueger, Todd Boyd, Elliott Furman, Chris Kropuenske, Clint Hay, Daryl Root, Heather Estey, Warren Stroschein, Roni Nerud, and Darren Barondeau. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and then called to order by Mayor Lundberg.

Motion by Pauli, seconded by Bjerke, to approve the agenda as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Drake, seconded Hintz to approve the consent agenda as follows: Minutes – Regular Meeting December 9, 2024, and Special Meeting December 30, 2024; Monthly Financial Statements for the Month Ending December 31, 2024; Delinquent Water Bills. Approval of Warrants. Temporary Liquor License Applications: January 11 – Fire Department/CLAD Event and February 15 – Maynard’s Chili Cook-Off – both events Lundy’s Bar & Grill. Temporary one-day permits are subject to all paperwork being signed and submitted to the Finance Officer and that the applicants provide the city with proof of liability insurance for the event. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

Warrants Approved: PAYROLL: Council 1370.00; Mayor 420.00; Finance 4818.75; Gen Gov’t Building 338.00; Streets 7777.89; Snow 3040.05; Rubble Site 100.33; Library 2985.27; Community Center 172.00; Water 4681.69; Sewer 4786.21; Aflac 114.79; SD Retirement 2989.02; Optilegra 46.51; Health Pool of SD 6752.44; Delta Dental of SD 315.00; Sioux Valley FCU 200.00; Dnb-Fica/Wh 6820.37. EXPENSES: Appeara 132.25 Janitorial Maintenance, Banner Associates, Inc 8864.00 Water And Sewer Projects, Bjerke Sanitation 7364.65 Sanitation Services, Brookings-Deuel Rws 7355.20 Tap Fee And Water Purchase, Alayna Carlson 146.03 1st Half Lifeguard Reimb, Clear Lake City Library 513.79 Books And Supplies, City Of Clear Lake 410.31 City Utilities, Clear Lake Area Dev. Inc. 17500.00 Clad Quarterly Support, Dc Register Of Deeds 60.00 Annual Deeds Printout, Deuel County Sheriff 6357.16 Law Enforcement Contract, Deuel County Farmers Union Oil 1073.57 General Supplies, Dcn Insurance 1830.00 Ambulance Accident Policy, Gracyn Gohring 266.25 Lifeguard Reimbursement, H-D Electric Coop, Inc 148.38 Electric Energy, Caden Hourigan 146.03 1st Half Lifeguard Reimb, Interlakes Community Action 500.00 Annual Support, Itc Telecom 505.21 Telephone And Internet, Menards 63.55 General Supplies, Northwestern Energy 1483.72 Natural Gas Energy, Ottertail Power Co 5137.65 Electric Energy, Roelofsen Implement Inc 7640.00 Mower, Preston Rounds 266.25 Lifeguard Reimbursement, Sd State Treasurer (Sd Dor) 529.62 Excise Tax, Sd Unemployment Insurance 11.58 Unemployment Insurance, Sd Public Assurance Alliance 32306.08 Liability And Property Ins, Eda Timmons 266.25 Lifeguard Reimbursement, Upframe Creative 375.00 Website Maintenance Contract, Us Bank Trust-Spa Lkbox Cm9695 11716.19 Sewer Srf Loan, United States Dept Of Ag 6107.00 Sewer Usda Loan.

No one present at the meeting was for public voice.

In unfinished business, Finance Officer Krueger secured the cost of Ponderosa pine trees from Deuel County Conservation District. Alderman Mewherter was present for discussion and reminded Council that there is a volunteer to plant and maintain the trees if Council would be interested in purchasing them for spring.

Motion by Pauli, seconded by Hintz to approve the purchase of 5 bareroot bundles of Ponderosa Pines for a cost of \$70/bundle upon a volunteer performing the planting and maintenance of the trees. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

Clint Hay and Chris Kropuenske presented to the Council a water meter reading system, new meters and software. The City's current system is outdated to the point where replacement parts are getting hard to find and an upgrade is needed. The City currently uses Sensus meters with radios on a drive-by reading system which only gives monthly alerts on potential leaks. Clint and Chris introduced a new user-friendly, web-based system with alerts in real time. They also introduced different digital meters to replace mechanical meters which they say loses their accuracy over time – especially after 20 years. They explained the Sensus 15/5 year warranties on their new meters. The meter reading system would need a tower placement and new software. There is add-on software options available. They went over the meters, software, propagational study, and installation requirements. They answered many questions about options, water loss recovery, and hacking. They recommend this new technology system and meters. The Council will take all the information into consideration when they put out requests for proposals. Mayor Lundberg and the Council thanked Clint and Chris for their time and their presentation.

Heather Mahon, Clear Lake Library Director approached the Council with concerns about the legislative budget cuts at the State level. The South Dakota State Library (SDSL) will be experiencing massive budget cuts that will trickle down to local communities. The Clear Lake City Library will be affected in many ways. Mahon wanted to share with the Council the details of the cuts. The Atrium System, which is their book check-out tracking system will be eliminated. Mahon is looking into other replacement systems. Online reading availability will be eliminated, there are possible alternatives. Certain programs will now have to rely on fundraising and grants. The Library's website will disappear and access to digitized historical records will be eliminated. Legislation is complete for this. Mahon has been researching and working with other libraries for solutions. She has spoken to legislators and has left messages for the Governor's Office. The Library Board is also working to find solutions for the upcoming changes. Mahon expressed gratitude for the donations and support.

Veronica Nerud of 812 5th Street W approached the Council and thanked them for the replacement fence she didn't ask for. She thanked them for Elliott Furman whom she stated was the only one who kept up communication with the Neruds during the fence replacement. She further said it was her understanding the fence would be at no cost to them and gave City Attorney Todd Boyd their cost of lost wages on paper.

Motion by Bjerke, seconded by Hintz to approve the Salary Resolution 2025-1. Upon roll call, all voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Drake, seconded by Hintz to approve and sign the MOU between the City of Gary, SD and the City of Clear Lake, SD Regarding Water Distribution/Wastewater Treatment Certified Operator at the rate of \$100.00/hr. for a minimum of 1 hour per month for the period of 1 year or until the City of Gary Operator has obtained the required certificate. Upon roll call, all voted aye. Motion carried.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 643, an Ordinance Supplementing Appropriations for the City of Clear Lake for the year ending 12/31/2025 was held.

Motion by Pauli, seconded by Drake to declare the following water meters as surplus property, having no value or value less than \$2500 and authorize disposal of the same: 1" meter 57162215, ¾" meter 75271777 Sensus Iperl, and Sensus Brass 58413700. Upon roll call, all voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Works Superintendent Furman approached the Council with his focus on what the City needs regarding water meters and a new system. There are other options available through vendors he and Finance Officer Krueger have researched. It is imperative that a prop study is performed to see what is needed for collectors and repeaters for a radio read. He has this study already started with Milbank WinWater at no cost. Furman wants the Council to consider his department adjust their hours for meter replacement due to home accessibility. His department performing all the replacements would certainly save on costs. He stated non-working curb stops would need to be replaced at the same time. This would average \$1100/curb stop and 42 are currently non-operable. He is looking into systems with crossover compatibility of the existing system so they can stretch out installation time. He wants the Council to be aware of costs, repairs, maintenance, and insurance of a tower system. He believes a drive-by system with upgraded software and future seamless upgrades to advanced technology would be the best route to consider. The Council agreed the request for proposals should be expected in April. Furman and his department will work on specifications. Furman had no further updates on his department.

City Attorney Todd Boyd had no comments.

Finance Officer Krueger gave updates to the Council on the Phase 1 Water and Storm Sewer Project. There will be a project kick-off meeting next week regarding the Water/Storm Main System. Krueger invited the Planning Committee or any Council members that could attend short of a quorum. The City Finance Office has been getting questions after a flyer regarding the projects went out to residents in the most recent newsletter. Banner Engineering has been fielding some specific questions of those residents in the Phase 1 area. There are plans to have a public informational meeting regarding Phase 1 prior to project construction.

Alderman Reppe asked if the Sheriff's Office had been contacted about enforcing fines. A personal meeting is to be scheduled soon.

There were no comments from the Mayor or any of the Council members.

Motion by Pauli, seconded by Reppe to move into Executive Session at 8:16pm for personnel matters. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Lundberg declared the Council out of Executive Session at 8:20pm.

Motion by Pauli, seconded by Hintz to hire the Personnel Committee's recommendation for a part-time Library Associate at \$11.50/hr. to begin as soon as available upon acceptance of the position. Upon roll call, all voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Pauli, seconded by Reppe to approve advertising for a part-time Rubble Site Attendant to be open until filled. Acceptance based on employee making application and filing with the City Finance Officer and recommendation of Public Works Superintendent to the City Council. Upon roll call, all voted aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business, motion by Bjerke, seconded by Pauli to adjourn at 8:21 PM. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mary Krueger

Finance Officer

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

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