

MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting

The Small Town with a Big Heart

Badger Minnesota

5:00 PM - Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Badger Community Center 111 North Main St.

The City of Badger Council met in Regular Council on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 5:00 PM in the Badger Community Center 111 North Main St. .

1 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rinde called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members present: A. Gregerson, J. Rinde, C. Christianson . G. Lee

Also present: A. Swenson, Z. Tillberg, K. Tillberg, T. Dann

Absent: R. Dostal

a) Swearing in of newly elected officials 2025

Clerk Swenson swore in Angela Gregerson newly elected council person, James Rinde newly elected Mayor. Absent was Robert Dostal, newly elected council person. Clerk Swenson will swear council person Dostal in at the February meeting

2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood to recite the pledge of allegiance

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Rinde added 7.9 Wideth Annual Agreement 2025 to the agenda. Council member C. Christianson made a motion to approve the agenda with adding 7.9 Council member A. Gregerson seconded, U.C.

4 CONSENT AGENDA

Council member C. Christianson stated the he believes Mayor Rinde opposed to voting at the December Special meeting seeking quotes/bids on the Fire Hall for upgrades. Clerk Swenson stated that she will amend the minutes form the Special meeting before they are formal. Motion was made by council member A. Gregerson to approve the consent agenda seconded by council member G. Lee, U.C.

5 PUBLIC FORUM/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Individuals may address the Council about any item not contained on the regular agenda. A maximum of 15 minutes is allotted for the Forum. If the full 15 minutes are not needed for the Forum, the City Council will continue with the agenda. The City Council will not take official action on items discussed at the Forum, with the exception of referral to staff or Committee for future report.

6 NEW BUSINESS

a) Code of Ethics 2025

Clerk Swenson had all council members, Mayor and City employees sign the Code of Ethics. Council member B. Dostal will sign this at the February meeting.

b) Annual Audit Engagement Letter Hoffman Philipp Martell

Clerk Swenson presented the audit engagement letter from Hoffman, Phillip, Martell, with the 2024 audit to be completed in the Spring.

c) Fee Schedule 2025

Council went into lengthy discussion on some rates that need to be looked at and increased going into 2025. Council member A. Gregerson had stated she did some figuring with the fee on water and sewer with the upcoming bond payments. Z. Tillberg presented the council the rate study that was completed. Mayor Rinde asked the council what their thought on the fees pertaining to water and sewer are after reviewing the rate study. A Gregerson stated she wasn't sure what the bond payment is, she stated she thought it was \$71,000 just for the water side of it, and of course with this water project there needs to be an asset reserve account, and she believes that was \$8,500. A Gregerson went on to explain to council in order to make the mark and of course that could come down a little bit, with connections, the current water rate is \$39.00 in order to cover the expenses, of the minimum of \$150,000 the water rate would have to be \$70.27. A. Gregerson stated that would bring a revenue of \$150,096. Council member C. Christianson stated that in order for the City to achieve grant money from the USDA, we need to be in the positive, and he believes the city has been operating on the positive side so far. Council member A. Gregerson stated that with the upcoming bond payment the potential to raise water rates, this is what is driving this discussion, A. Gregerson also stated that she is unsure of what is coming back in taxes also. Council member C. Christianson stated that he was under the impression that assessments would take care of the bond payment and it would not affect user fees. Council member A. Gregerson stated that if everything was 100% assessed, but the City took on 60% of the cost. Council member Christianson stated that Greenbush adds on a \$10.00 fee to the utility bill monthly for Water Infrastructure Fee. Council member A. Gregerson stated that the City should take in roughly \$30,000 a year in special assessments after looking at some numbers. Council member C, Christianson stated that he would rather see a straight fee of \$10.00 added onto the monthly billing rather than tying it to water usage. Council member G. Lee asked when this fee, if raised, would take affect, council member A. Gregerson stated immediately, as there is a bond payment coming due in February, A. Gregerson went on to say, if this fee is approved on and if adjustments need to be made throughout the year, council can take action on that if the issue arises. Mayor Rinde stated that hopefully in

the Spring when all the new meters are completed, the City will have a accurate reading of water usage. Council member A. Gregerson stated this fee should be added onto all account's even the snow birds when they leave for the winter as they still pay for mosquito spaying all year round. Council came to a decision to add a \$10.00 fee labeled as infrastructure fee, to all residents that receive water and have the rate for resident sewer \$47.00 as A. Gregerson stated that there is also a payment coming due for that. Council member A. Gregerson stated that in 6 months the council will have to reevaluate these changes. Council member A. Gregerson made a motion to implement the City of Badger rate changes for 2025 council member G. Lee seconded, U.C.

d) **Reorganization of Council 2025**

City of Badger 2025 Council Origination are as follows:

New 2025 IRS rate for mileage reimbursement is \$.70/mile

Official Depository : Border Bank

Park Commissioner : C. Christianson

Solid Waste Commissioner: R. Dostal

Weed Inspector: J. Rinde

Acting Mayor: G. Lee

Official Newspaper: Tribune

Street Commissioner: C. Christianson

Police Commissioner: A. Gregerson

Fire Commissioner: R. Dostal

Cemetery Sexton: C. Walsh

City of Badger Insurance agent: Mark Thune

Motion was made by council member A. Gregerson to implement the 2025

Council Origination seconded by council member G. Lee, U.C

e) **Northwest Regional Nomination**

Council looked over the information that was presented to see if they would like to nominate anyone form Council/Mayor to be on the NW Regional Board.

Discussion was had and no one at this time would like to be nominated.

f) **Motion to accept internal transfer to Fire Department \$30,238.00**

Motion was made by council member C. Christianson to accept and approve the internal transfer from the general account in the amount of \$30,238.00 into the Fire Department fund council member A. Gregerson seconded, U.C.

g) **Spruce Valley Pay App #3 Final**

Motion was made by council member A. Gregerson to approve the final pay app to Spruce Valley in the amount of \$27,939.80 seconded by council member G. Lee, U.C.

7 OLD BUSINESS

a) Tommy Dann

T. Dann asked the council if there was anything they could do about the special assessment cost to his property. T. Dann stated that the cost associated with the special assessment is outrageous to his property. Council informed T. Dann that they once again have reached out to ask Widseth T. Dann's questions and Widseth stated that the calculations are correct.

b) Doug Dollahan

Council discussed the option of Dollahan's request to be grandfathered in to his property, as he was at his property before the city ordinance was introduced. Council agreed that Dollahan was in fact there before the ordinance was introduced, therefore the Council will present Dollahan with an agreement between the City and Dollahan which this agreement will be non transferrable to any one else if Dollahan decides to vacate. Motion was made by Council member A. Gregerson and seconded by council member G. Lee to grandfather Dollahan on to his property contingent on the agreement between the City of Badger and D. Dollahan, U.C

c) CHS Building

Mayor Rinde stated to the council that the CHS building in Badger is no longer in the sale process. The individual that was interested in purchasing the building has no longer showed interest. Mayor Rinde stated that CHS has discussed that they will take initiative and take care of that building and property.

8 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND CITY STAFF

a) Maint Department

Zach gave council an update on his duties he has been working on and has completed since the last council meeting. Zach stated that he will need to seek another PT Snow Removal employee as the current one will no longer be able to help. Mayor Rinde asked Zach to reach out to Bob Sys to coordinate with the snow removal.

b) Clerk/Treasurer

A. Swenson gave council an update on all her duties. A. Swenson been working on year end reports that were due by January 31st. A. Swenson had Kassi in the office to help with some reports. A. Gregerson was also in the office to go over some things with A. Swenson. A. Swenson will now be working on reports and information for the audit along with the daily duties that need to be completed.

c) Fire Department

Nothing at this time

d) **Vets Park**

Mayor Rinde gave an update to the council they the vets committee is still working on fundraising and seeking donations to improve the Veterans' Memorial Park. The Vets committee will hold a pancake breakfast on February 16th 2025 from 9 am-1 pm at the Badger Community Center.

e) **Planning Commission**

Council member C. Christianson stated that they only had 2 people participating in the Empowering Small Minnesota Cities engagement letter that was shared. The University of Minnesota is looking for community involvement from committees going into the spring and summer months, as this is a collaboration between the City of Badger and the University of Minnesota to support small communities in becoming well-positioned to benefit from federal, state and local investments.

f) **Town and Country**

Nothing at this time

g) **City Cemetery**

Nothing at this time

h) **Heritage Wall**

Nothing at this time

i) **Badger Area Community Fund**

Nothing at this time

9 ORDINANCES

Nothing at this time

10 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing at this time

11 ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made at 7:45pm by council member A. Gregerson to adjourn the meeting seconded by council member G. Lee, U.C.

Mayor

Clerk Treasurer