

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR ST. MICHAEL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 28, 2023**

**St. Michael City Center**

**7:00 p.m.**

Present: Mayor Keith Wettschreck; Joe Hagerty, Tom Hamilton, and Scott Pedersen; City Administrator/Public Works Director Steve Bot; Finance Director Sue Ferbuyt; Assessor John Denney; City Attorney David Lenhardt; and Deputy Clerk Amy Woitalla. Council Member Ryan Gleason was excused. Mayor Wettschreck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. declaring a quorum present and the pledge of allegiance was said.

Mayor Wettschreck started by wishing City Attorney Dave Lenhardt a Happy Birthday.

**Set Agenda.** City Administrator Steve Bot shared a copy of the upcoming newsletter that is going to the printer this week. He also added discussion regarding the December 26<sup>th</sup> meeting under the City Administrator Report. Council Members Pedersen/Hamilton **moved** to approve the agenda as amended. All voted aye.

**Citizen Input.** No one asked to be recognized under citizen input.

**Consent Agenda.** Council Members Hagerty/Pedersen **moved** to approve the Consent Agenda Items a) through k). All voted aye.

- a) Resolution #11-28-23-01 Approving Minutes of the November 14<sup>th</sup> work session, November 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, and November 21 work session
- b) Resolution #11-28-23-02 Approving October Finance Report
- c) Resolution #11-28-23-03 Approving Change Order #1 and Pay Estimate #5 for MacIver Avenue Improvements
- d) Resolution #11-28-23-04 Approving Security Reduction for Foxtail Meadows 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition
- e) Resolution #11-28-23-05 Approving Security Release for Creekside Estates 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition
- f) Resolution #11-28-23-06 Approving Budgeted One Ton Dump Truck Purchase
- g) Resolution #11-28-23-07 Approving Used State of Minnesota Surplus Patch Trailer Purchase
- h) Resolution #11-28-23-08 Approving Pay Estimate #3 for Naber Business Park
- i) Resolution #11-28-23-09 Awarding WWTF Materials Testing Contract and Change Order #1
- j) Resolution #11-28-23-10 Approving a Two Day Liquor License
- k) Resolution #11-28-23-11 Approving Liquor Licenses for Home Grown Eats & Greens

**Truth In Taxation Hearing.** City Administrator Steve Bot explained the purpose of the Truth in Taxation hearing and reviewed the process involved in preparing the 2024 levy and budget. He reviewed several goals the Council had set the beginning of the year and how most of the goals had been achieved. He explained how the Property Tax System works leading up to the board of review and said property is not taxed on the actual value, but rather on tax capacity. Per the State, in the past Homestead Exclusion was exhausted at a value of \$413,800., but that is proposed to increase next year to \$517,000. Assessor John Denney said the New Construction Value increase for 2024 was \$126,334,100, and the existing value increase for 2024 was \$390,956,100. Bot then reviewed the City services residents receive for their tax dollars and the nine factors that influence the total tax levy. He reviewed the proposed 2024 City Tax Rates in order showing St. Michael has the lowest tax rate and per capita taxes in Wright County. St. Michael continues to meet our goal to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible price through Culture, Collaboration, and Continuity. Bot went on to explain the proposed 2024 tax levy of \$8,857,242 is \$693,466 (8.49%) greater than the

2023 levy of \$8,163,776. and said the biggest challenge to the 2024 budget was increased staffing costs and market rate increases. This included a 24% increase in the Fire Department Budget for equipment and hiring a new Fire Chief. There was also a 36.7% increase in the Police budget for increased hours of service and due to the difficulty hiring and retaining officers. Bot ended by saying St. Michael strives to provide high value services at the lowest possible cost while making sure the needs of the City are met and has a great story to tell. Wettschreck thanked Bot for the presentation and opened the meeting for public comment. There being none, the hearing was closed at 7:30 p.m. The final levy and budget will be approved at the December 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

**Sheriff's Office Report.** Deputy Joel Miller reported recently there were two St. Michael residents who took their lives and explained as the days get shorter and the nights get longer, we all need to be aware. He encouraged anyone who may know someone struggling with depression to contact the Wright County Sheriff's Office as they have a new Co Responder Program this year geared towards helping people struggling with mental health. Miller added in the past two weeks there were 507 calls for service and gave a breakdown of the different types of calls. He added Deputies have been issuing warnings for seasonal parking, and when the snow starts to fall citations will be issued. He ended by saying the majority of St. Michael Deputies will be returning in 2024 and he is looking forward to a great next year.

**Community Development Report.** There was no Community Development Report.

**City Administrator Report.** Bot explained Wettschreck and Hagerty would not be attending the December 26<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and asked if everyone else would be attending to confirm we would have a quorum. After brief discussion, it was determined staff should add a resolution to the December 12<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda authorizing staff to pay outstanding invoices prior to the end of the year and notice the cancellation of the December 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**City Attorney Report.** Attorney Dave Lenhardt had nothing to report.

**Approval of Claims.** Council Members Hagerty/Pedersen **moved** to approve checks #48868-48915, credit card and ACH transactions in the total amount of \$988,977.61. All voted aye.

**Adjourn.** Council Members Pedersen/Hagerty **moved** to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. All voted aye.

Attest:

---

Deputy Clerk

---

Mayor