

City of Mantorville  
Regular City Council Minutes  
February 13, 2023



1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Bradford called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Chuck Bradford

Councilmembers:

Jessica Bradford  
Lyle Hoaglund  
Jeffrey Ingalls  
Greg Rud

Absent: None

Others Present: City Clerk-Treasurer Shirley Buecksler  
Public Works Lead Joe Adams  
Public Works Wade Schroeder  
Fire Chief Duke Harbaugh  
Truck Captain Curt Kramer  
Sheriff Scott Rose  
Deputy Tyler Vermeersch

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Changes to the Agenda**

Council approved the agenda, as presented.

4. **Consent Agenda**

Motion was made by Councilmember Ingalls and seconded by Councilmember Hoaglund to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented:

- A. Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2023
- B. Accounts Payable Claims List
- C. Dodge County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2023
- D. Rental License Renewal for 715 7<sup>th</sup> Street West
- E. Updated 2023 City Meetings Calendar
- F. Joint Ventures Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2022

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays

**5. Proclamations, Presentations and Recognitions**

None.

**6. Public Concerns**

None.

**7. Public Safety Update**

**A. Update from Fire Chief Harbaugh**

**1) Purchase of a Used Tanker**

Chief Harbaugh discussed purchasing a used tanker and requested approval to purchase from Simon Fire Equipment and paint it red.

Councilmember Hoaglund asked if it would justify a second axle on the chassis? Curt Kramer said it's not needed. The framework for the tank is aluminum and the tank is plastic.

Mayor Bradford asked the cost of the complete package? Curt Kramer said it is \$186,362.80 plus \$5,950.00 to paint it to red. Chief Harbaugh said it's approximately five months out.

Chief Harbaugh said when the new vehicle arrives, he will come back to discuss options for getting rid of the old tanker. Curt Kramer said \$10,000.00 may be a good price on it.

Councilmember Ingalls asked if there is a warranty on the chassis? Chief Harbaugh said he will talk with Dave Syverson Auto to see what can be done. However, the Fire Department doesn't expect to put a lot of miles on it. The 1990 tanker has only 11,000 miles.

Mayor Bradford asked what other needs you foresee in the near future? Chief Harbaugh said they need radios. The entire County needs them. Every Department countywide is struggling. We could order a few at a time, as they are \$6,000.00 each. Sheriff Rose added that they started replacing their radios by about five radios every year. They budget about \$36,000.00 a year for them. Chief Harbaugh said we will try to get another grant but we haven't been successful. It may work better after the tanker purchase because we assume they see the unspent funds and wonder why we need a grant. The next equipment purchase would be to replace the grass rig. It still serves its purpose but it's getting old. Mayor Bradford said looking out the same number of years and we spent this much on a tanker truck, what's that do for our future planning? Are we sitting pretty good? Are we going to need those funds for something else? Chief Harbaugh said the tanker is a very important piece that we need. Inflation is hitting everyone hard. After this investment, he would prefer to see a better reserve account. This truck will serve the community a long time, possibly 30 to 40 years or longer.

Curt Kramer added that the city is growing faster than the fire hydrants can serve. We have a lot of areas that don't have hydrants and are heavily populated. A large fire it's possible to go through 800 to 1,000 gallons per minute. With two tankers plus mutual aid, we'll have a couple more tankers. Getting away from hydrants is serious during a fire. Seeing a lot of urban expansion, especially in the township.

Mayor Bradford said there was talk at the Dodge Center Ambulance meeting about creating a Fire Rescue District and moving away from Kasson and Mantorville Fire Departments. What happens to those assets? What are you hearing? Feasibility? Logistics? Chief Harbaugh said heard from a project developer or manager with questions but, to his knowledge, it has only been rumored and never discussed in a public meeting. I don't know that Kasson's direction and Mantorville's direction really see eye to eye. We are here to support our community. When we looked at our fee schedules and everything, we receive tax money from our citizens to support the Fire Department, whether township or city, we all pay by address. To send someone a \$6,000.00 fire bill after their house burns down, personally, I don't think that's fair but that's what some other neighboring Departments are doing. Right now it's probably off the table but if it ever came to the table it should be discussed with everybody.

Councilmember Hoaglund inquired as to how the Fire Department saved these funds. Chief Harbaugh said by being frugal in their spending. Mayor Bradford added that the City puts the difference from any unused Fire Department funds into their account at the end of the year.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rud and seconded by Councilmember Bradford to approve purchase of a 2021 Freightliner from Simon Fire Equipment in the amount estimated at \$186,362.80 plus \$5,950.00 for painting.

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays.

2) Donation to Fire Department; Resolution No. 2023-09

Motion was made by Councilmember Hoaglund and seconded by Councilmember Rud to adopt the following resolution that will become part of the official records:

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09  
A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATION  
TO MANTORVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays.

Motion was made by Councilmember Ingalls and seconded by Councilmember Hoaglund to approve the purchase of a grain rescue tool using donated funds from Claremont Chamber of Commerce.

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays.



3) Request for Use of Training Funds

Chief Harbaugh said the Fire Department budgets \$6,000.00 annually for training but some members have not been paid for training since 2020, including five members and one additional member who needs to pass a test to complete.

The cost is under \$2,600.00 for these six members. Chief Harbaugh is suggesting that the Fire Department budget for training in 2024 to cover this. Payment would be out of the training fund, not from points, which is their pay. Mayor Bradford agreed that this falls under the training budget.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rud and seconded by Councilmember Ingalls to approve payment to six members for training.

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays.

4) Mantorville Fire and Rescue General Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2023

Chief Harbaugh provided the following:

- The General Members Meeting will move to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. This change was by membership vote and majority rule.
- Annabelle Hardwick and Chief Harbaugh will work on a job description for EMR.
- Deputy Chief Williams and Chief Harbaugh are the only members who have keys to the Fire Chief and City Clerk's office.
- The Fire Department received a donation of \$500.00 from Kent & Carol Keller.
- The Fire Department also received a \$500.00 donation from the Kasson Lions Club.

**B. Update from Sheriff Rose**

1) Mantorville Report for January 2023

Sheriff Rose provided the following:

- A rescue sled was added on the Ranger, which will also help the Fire Department.
- The Sheriff's Office will have a camera surveillance system for Marigold Days, the Dodge County Fair, and any time camera surveillance is needed. Cameras are on two trailers with four cameras on each tower. The tower can be used to monitor, the park, midway area, and other areas. Includes both video and audio.
- Drones are available for any search issues. There were 18 calls last year, so they were busy. Drones give us another way to cover more ground and keep our Deputies and First Responders safe. They will have another demonstration this year at the fair.

Deputy Vermeersch said he saw the City's post of snowmobile damage to the ice rink. This is now on their radar.

Councilmember Bradford thanked Sheriff Rose for doing the Polar Plunge. Sheriff Rose said they raised almost \$5,500.00 for Special Olympics.

**8. Public Hearings**

None.

**9. Old Business/New Business**

**A. New Business**

- 1) Amending Chapters 70 and 95 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mantorville Regarding Motorized Golf Carts, All-Terrain Vehicles, and Utility Task Vehicles; Ordinance No. 2023-05 and Resolution No. 2023-10

Mayor Bradford said this item should be kept on the Council's agenda for three readings.

Councilmember Ingalls commented on one year licenses versus three years. Minnesota licenses are issued for three years. Sheriff Rose said licenses could be done annually if the City picks a day on the calendar. Or start with three years and change to one year if it doesn't work.

Councilmember Ingalls said the draft ordinance states that the sticker goes on the windshield, but ATV stickers go on the back. Sheriff Rose said it could be on the driver's side fenders, front or back.

Councilmember Rud said, as an ATV owner, he is struggling with the fact that we already pay a state fee and receive a state sticker. He showed the sticker that he received. Snowmobiles do not pay anything. He is opposed to having to get stickers from all cities and towns. Why do UTV's and ATV's need a sticker when they have a state sticker?

Councilmember Hoaglund asked Sheriff Rose what kind of violations they are seeing. Sheriff Rose said it's mostly underage individuals on golf carts, that's our biggest problem.

Councilmember Ingalls recommended changing this ordinance to apply to golf carts only.

Councilmember Rud said there will be a side-by-side class at the VFW for only \$5.00 on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Councilmember Bradford agreed that if you're already paying a fee, you shouldn't be charged a second fee.

Councilmember Rud would like to see Council talk with Legislature for state passes. He agreed with Sheriff Rose regarding kids on golf carts. This is where we

need to focus. He also stated that no one wants to ride in Kasson and have to buy a permit. Instead, they bypass Kasson.

Councilmember Ingalls asked if signage is needed. Sheriff Rose said it's the driver's responsibility to know the laws.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rud and seconded by Councilmember Ingalls to table this item.

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays.

## **B. Old Business**

### **1) Intersection Control of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Clay Street**

Currently, there is only one yield sign at the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Clay Street. This item was also discussed at the Council's January 23, 2023 regular meeting. Council directed Staff to keep this item on the February 13, February 27, and March 13 agendas for discussion and public comment. The City posted this topic on social media along with a drawing showing placement of two stop signs and removal of the yield sign. Comments were received in agreement; no comments received against. Councilmember Bradford spoke with the neighboring property owners and they were also in agreement with the stop signs. The drawing showing placement of the stop signs was provided to Council for review. It is also on the City's website at <https://www.mantorville.com/City/alerts-notices/>.

Discussion included:

- This is a designated truck route by ordinance. Not opposed to the signs but it may be bad in 2024 when Highway 57 is torn up and traffic is rerouted. The liquor store and restaurant delivery trucks come down 5<sup>th</sup> Street. 4<sup>th</sup> Street is definitely a truck route, which is the only opposition I can see.
- Some of the Facebook comments are from people who don't all live in that area. One is at the end of town.
- The truck route is an interesting caveat.
- Construction of Highway 57 will push regular work traffic to use 5<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Both streets will get very busy in 2024.
- We don't need trucks coming by the park. For safety, we want them to stop.
- Signs may be needed on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, as well.
- The biggest complaint is cars going too fast up the hill.
- On Clay, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets, late afternoon and evening – everyone is walking by the river.
- Temporary signs will be needed in 2024.
- What streets will we want the weight on?
- Clay Street is a county road 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>. It was built for the traffic. We would have to talk with the County before pushing them there.



Motion was made by Councilmember Ingalls and seconded by Councilmember Bradford to table this item.

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays.

#### **10. Tabled Items**

##### **A. Designation of City Consultants for 2023 – tabled to February 2023**

- 1) Approving City Designations for Consultants for 2023; Resolution No. 2023-11
- 2) Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for City Attorney

No discussion. These items remain on the table.

#### **11. Reports**

##### **A. Public Works Report**

- 1) Snow emergency signs have been put up.
- 2) The well house door was installed last Monday and looks good. Payment will be covered by ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.
- 3) Ride for Wyatt raised over \$25,000.00. Matt Coy passed along his thanks for supporting the event.
- 4) Purchase of pole saw was \$750.00. Mayor Bradford wanted Council to know that Joe Adams contacted him on items needed urgently that were over \$250.00.
- 5) Wade Schroeder passed his Class B Water License. Council congratulated Wade on passing the test.
- 6) Joe Adams would like to move forward on sewer cleaning and televising. Council approved.

##### **B. City Clerk Report**

- 1) Update on Water Usage at 505 Walnut Street

Discussion included:

- It seems like a lot of water usage but it's only 2.8 gallons per hour, which is equivalent to a toilet, faucet, or other small item running. It's not a big leak or broken pipe and not a hose running. If it was 16 gallons per hour, that would be different.
- Water usage going up and coming back down could be from getting ready for a trip. We have a plausible explanation but not the answer.
- If we do something for this homeowner, do we have to do it for everyone else? It's not large enough to say it was the water meter and the usage returned to normal.
- It's odd that it started after they left and fixed itself before they got back. Councilmember Bradford said she checked the house while they were gone but there was nothing running.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hoaglund and seconded by Councilmember Bradford to keep the account at the average and clear off the leftover amount.

Motion did not pass.

Council Discussion:

- The homeowner was told to have a professional check it. We're setting a precedent otherwise.
- What can we point to as the City's responsibility? What is the liability to the City?
- I don't like burdening other residents with the cost.
- It's not the money we forgive, it's the precedence we set.
- Something may have been running, which is an honest mistake.
- Bill Reding commented that the fair thing is to allow her to pay the difference in monthly installments.

Motion was made by Councilmember Ingalls and seconded by Councilmember Rud to table this item until we receive an invoice from a plumber.

Motion did not pass: 2 ayes / 3 nays – Councilmember Hoaglund, Councilmember Bradford, and Mayor Bradford voted nay. This item will remain on the agenda for next month.

- 2) Reminder that the City Attorney will provide training for Council at 5:00 pm prior to the Regular City Council Meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will be provided for Council.

C. Consultant Report  
No report.

D. Committee Reports

- 1) Chamber – talked about the trolley. Will charge \$20.00 per passenger. When they arrive, they will get a stamp on their hand to show they paid and will receive \$20.00 in Mantorville coins to spend at local businesses. The Dodge County Expo is scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> at Triton High School. The Chamber will have a booth.
- 2) Economic Development Authority
- 3) Finance/Budget
- 4) Fire Department
- 5) Infrastructure
- 6) Kasson Mantorville Joint Powers – Joe Adams and Wade Schroeder attended the meeting. Talked about picnic tables for ballfields and portable pitching mounds, about \$3,000.00. Budgeted money for hockey/basketball. We need to get established. Joint Ventures is excited to have it done. Portable hockey boards for winter. Looking at making a batting cage by 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Next meeting is May 4<sup>th</sup>. Applied for some smaller grants to increase funds.
- 7) Mantorville Restoration Association – they meet tomorrow night to go over financials. Meetings are open to the public. The MRA newsletter was provided to Council. Mulligan Stew is March 16<sup>th</sup> and it's the biggest fundraiser. It's a fun event, check the MRA's Facebook page for the newsletter.
- 8) Park Board
- 9) Personnel



- 10) Fire Relief
- 11) Township

E. Councilmember Reports

- Councilmember Rud said that he and Councilmember Hoaglund went to the Fire Board meeting. Councilmember Rud said he won't be able to attend the Chamber meetings.
- Councilmember Hoaglund said Fire Chief Harbaugh did a great job explaining what's happening. Moving their General Members Meeting to Wednesdays is good. We have a great team.

F. Mayor's Report  
No report.

**12. Adjourn**

Motion was made by Councilmember Ingalls and seconded by Councilmember Rud to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: February 27, 2023.



Shirley R. Buecksler  
City Clerk-Treasurer