Summary Minutes Regular Meeting - August 13, 2018

The City Council of the City of Rushmore met in regular session on August 13, 2018 in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Gregg Harberts called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll call indicated the following members present: Gregg Harberts, Bruce Boltjes (left meeting at 8:30), Mark Schutte and Shirley Vis. Carol Hieronimus arrived at the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

City Staff Members Present: City Clerk Coleen Gruis, Maintenance - Jason Harberts and Larry Lupkes. Guests: Dennis Rick, Tom Johnson, Val Ruesch, Nobles County Deputy.

Mayor Gregg Harberts asked Dennis Rick to present the City of Rushmore 2017 financial audit prepared by his firm to Council. Mr. Rick explained the different parts of the 45 page audit and gave an overview of where information could be found. Mr. Rick stated that the City of Rushmore was in good financial condition. In 2017 the City's net position from operations increased by $72,066.00.   The governmental activities increased the City's net position by $46,816.00. The City's business-type activities increased the net position by $25,250.00.   Council had a question about paying off existing debt. Dennis Rick suggested if Council does decide to pay down debt, that they take money from the electric fund, not the general fund. A motion was made to accept the 2017 financial audit as prepared by the firm of Dennis L. Rick LTD. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

Council spoke with Nobles County Deputy regarding the vacant property at 127 N. Thompson Ave. Discussion was held with Nobles County Administrator Tom Johnson regarding ownership of the property, Ownership may have gone back to Nobles County for nonpayment of taxes. Mr. Johnson will follow up on ownership. Council and Mr. Johnson discussed the rail coming through Rushmore and the new railroad management.

Nobles County Assessor Val Ruesch updated Council on the anticipated independent assessor shortage in Nobles County. A few independent assessor's are choosing not to do the continuing education needed to keep their credentials up to date. Rushmore uses Wally Schultz. Wally is planning to keep current on classes and continue to be our assessor. Due to the expected shortage, Nobles County is researching taking over all assessing responsibility. This would be decided by the County Commissioners and there would be a two year transition until Nobles County is totally responsible for assessing all properties.

A motion was made to approve the regular meeting minutes of the July 9, 2018 City Council meeting as presented. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

 Council was given an updated list of accounts payable. A motion was made to pass the following resolution: Mayor Harberts and Clerk Gruis are instructed to make payment of all regular accounts payable. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the June & July 2018 Pledged Securities with First State Bank Southwest. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried. A motion was made to renew the Fire Department certificate of deposit with First State Bank SW. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Harberts reported that Daniel Folkers is moving forward with his Eagle Scout Project. Daniel is raising funds for his project, a Welcome to Rushmore wooden sign.

The four panel Aztec climber from Summit Supply arrived. Maintenance plans to finish the installation of the climber in the next week in order to make the Lyon County Riverboat Foundation Grant deadline of August 30th. Pea rock will be ordered from Dean Hokeness Trucking to complete the project. Discussion was held about putting a teeter-totter at the Thompson Avenue park.

Discussion was held regarding priorities for preparing the 2019 budget to stay within a 3% tax levy increase. Council suggestions were noted, and a trial budget will be prepared for Council meeting.

Rushmore Booster Club spoke to staff about holding community pot lucks on a monthly basis. They would like to use the park shelter during summer months and the school community room or gym for the rest of the year. Council felt this was a good use of the park shelter and school facilities. The Booster Club will coordinate the pot luck events.

A land use permit for a utility shed at 504 Circle Drive was examined. A motion was made to approve the land use permit request for a 24' X 12' utility shed. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

Maintenance Report

1. Maintenance received a quote from Treatment Resources to replace the media for the pump house water filter. This includes replacing underdrain nozzle and airwash grids. Council asked Jason to get an additional quote.
2. Jeppsen Gravel has been contacted to complete our small digging projects in Rushmore. They will put us on their schedule.
3. Malloy Electric reported that the emergency pump from the old lift station is not repairable. Jason would like to redo the old lift station to use the same style pump throughout both lift stations.
4. Maintenance has completed the extra pond discharges.
5. They have completed flushing all of the fire hydrants.

Clerk Gruis reported to Council regarding the new rushmoremn.com website. Notice will go out with the August 31st utility bills that the City of Rushmore now has a website.

A motion was made to increase the monthly sewer bond transfer from $2,000.00 to $2,150.00. Seconded, all members voted in favor, motion carried.

The Rehab Housing Grant public meeting was scheduled for September 10, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. meeting at the community room in the school. SW Housing Partnership will prepare packets to be handed out and will explain the grant process at that meeting.   Consensus of Council was that the September 10th City Council meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall. Clerk Gruis and some of the Council members will attend both meetings.

Annual employee reviews were held with Larry Lupkes and Coleen Gruis.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor - Gregg Harberts
Clerk - Coleen Gruis