

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof Mayor Jake Mathison called to order the regular meeting of the Mora City Council at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 in the city hall council Chambers.

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: 6:30PM

2. Roll Call: Mayor Mathison, Councilmembers Jody Anderson, Kyle Shepard, Sadie Broekemeier, and Dave Youngquist

Staff Present: Glenn Anderson City Administrator, Natasha Segelstrom Administrative Services Director, Joe Kohlgraf Public Works Director, Kelly Christianson Accountant, Mandi Yoder Human Resources Director, Kirsten Faurie Community Development Director, Jeff Krie Parks and Recreation Coordinator and Julie Krone North Country Bottle Shop Manager.

3. Adopt Agenda: Mathison requested the addition of item 9a Dual Employee FLSA Discussion. MOTION made by Shepard, seconded by Anderson, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as amended.

4. Consent Agenda: MOTION made by Youngquist, seconded by Shepard and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda.

a. Resolution No. 2023-1211 Designate City Hall as a Polling Place

5. Open Forum: No one spoke at the open forum.

6. Special Business

a. There was no special business.

7. Public Hearings:

a. Truth in Taxation Hearing: Segelstrom explained the total tax capacity was estimated to increase 11.18%, based on Kanabec County estimates. The proposed property tax notices showed a 9.85% increase in the city's tax capacity rate which included the preliminary levy of \$1,836,843, which was an increase of \$332,744 or 22.12% over the 2023 levy. Segelstrom and Christianson presented multiple charts which explained the tax timeline and where property tax dollars would be spent in 2024, in addition to providing a breakdown of the proposed city tax levy which comprised of debt service, capital improvements and services provided to the city.

Debt service- 19.5%

capital improvements- 24.1%

Public Works- 22.3%

Public Safety- 11.1%

General Government- 10.4%

Culture and Recreation- 12.7%

Mayor Mathison opened the public hearing.

James Graham of 506 Woodland Avenue spoke to the City Council. He asked whether they had even said no. He expressed concern about the City property taxes being too high and that he is forced to sell his home. Graham was advocating for the next person so they would not feel the impact. Graham further asked the reason behind the Kanabec County Sheriff's Office contract due to the Sheriff's Office already being in town with Mora being the County Seat. He felt as though he was being taxed twice. Once for the City and once by the County. Christianson further explained the services provided to the City and the contract that was in place was much cheaper than when the City had its own police department.

Roland Fredrickson of 225 6th Street spoke to the council asking whether everyone's proposed property tax statement reflected a 25% increase. Segelstrom explained that when calculating the levy increase, the impact to the taxpayer is with the assumption that there is no market value increase to homeowners as the City is not able to determine the exact value of each home in the city and the increase could be due to the increase in market value of his home.

James Osweiler of 720 Fair Oaks Drive asked the City Council whether the City had always budgeted for a balanced budget. It was explained that in the past, the City budgeted for a deficit to minimize the impact to the taxpayers. Councilmember Anderson explained that in the past, the City Council was not presented with as much detail.

There were no further comments or questions from the public and Mayor Mathison thanked the community for bringing forward their concerns and closed the public hearing at 7:19pm.

8. New Business:

- a. **Fire Department Purchase Request:** Fire Chief Brett Anderson requested the purchase of turn out gear in 2023. He explained that in 2013 there was a FEMA grant to purchase 30 full sets of turnout gear for the MAFD. The equipment is scheduled to be replaced in the budget for 2024, however if purchased now, they can secure a free hood and badge strap for each helmet. Due to the increased costs for the full set of turnout gear which increased from \$2500 to \$5500 the MAFD has requested approval to purchase the items now for cost savings. The department has budgeted to purchase three sets of turnout gear each year, as needed, to establish a rotating equipment schedule and budgeted funds to the Future Fire Equipment Fund for these purchases. There is currently \$138,582.79 specific for equipment purchases. Monies would come from the Future Fire equipment Fund (407). MOTION made by Broekemeier, seconded by Anderson, and carried to approve the purchase of approximately \$106,024 for turnout gear.
- b. **Fire Budget Amendment-**The City Council reviewed the 2023 budget amendments as presented. The amendment noted the transfer for fund 407, Future Fire Equipment Fund for expenditures of \$98,525 for turn out gear in 2023, \$95,925 for Helie fire Truck

purchase and \$90,950 for the 2000gal tanker. Budget amendment for fund 225 revenues reflected an increase in \$98,525 for turn out gear in 2023, \$95,925 for Helie fire Truck purchase and \$90,950 for the 2000gal tanker. Expenditures included an increase in full turn out gear purchase for \$98,525 and an increase in expenditures to include Helie Fire Truck purchase \$95,925 and \$90,950 for the 2000gal tanker. MOTION made by Broekemeier, seconded by Anderson, and unanimously carried to approve the budget amendment as presented.

- c. **Fire Calls- Write Off Request-** Christianson brought forward for consideration to write-off fire call invoices. These had been placed with National Recoveries in 2019 and due to National Recoveries no longer in business and collection efforts cease. She explained that staff sent numerous past-due notices without any payments and were unable to locate the individual involved. The total amount of past due fire call invoices is in the amount of \$2,500. MOTION made by Shepard, seconded by Youngquist, and unanimously carried to approve the fire call write off.
- d. **Personnel Policy Amendment – Minnesota Law Earned Sick and Safe Leave.** Mandi Yoder, Human Resources Director presented to the City Council a revision to the personnel policy. This would include the Minnesota Law that was passed in 2023 to provide employees with paid time off sick leave. She provided a high-level overview along with frequently asked questions. She noted the City's current policy and the updates that were included:

The legislative update applies to all employers with one (1) employee or more.

- Earned sick and safe leave must be provided for employees that have worked 80 hours in the [calendar] year, including full-time, part-time, seasonal, and paid-per-call staff.
- The definition of family member was expanded.
- The permitted uses for ESSL were defined.
- There are two different methods an employer may use for employee accrual and the employer may choose either one for different groups of employees.
- Retaliation towards an employee for using ESSL is prohibited.

The City Council asked whether this was a budgeted item, and it was explained that the City's current policy met the minimum requirements for the full-time staff and that there would be adjustments accordingly with the part time liquor store staff, seasonal and paid per call staff. Further discussion on the calculation for seasonal employees took place and the adjustments would be made accordingly.

MOTION made by Shepard, seconded by Youngquist and unanimously carried to approve the Leave of Absence Revision as presented and direct staff to forward the revised policy to the City Attorney for final review.

9. Old Business

- a. There was no old business.

10. Communications:

- a. None.


11. Reports

- a. Councilmember Anderson: Noted the upcoming MnDOT Corridor Study Open House on December 7, 2023.
- b. Councilmember Broekemeier: Brought forward additional information and asked the next steps for city attorney review for cannabis regulations and to schedule another cannabis committee meeting.
- c. Councilmember Shepard: Thanked citizens for coming to the meeting and expressing their concern at the truth in taxation hearing.
- d. Councilmember Youngquist: Nothing new to report.
- e. Mayor Mathison: Thanked staff for their work on the budget and wanted to remind the public that of the property tax refunds and programs in place to assist with taxes.
- f. City Administrator: Nothing new to report.

- 12. Adjournment:** MOTION by Broekemeier, seconded by Shepard, and unanimously carried to adjourn at 8:12pm.



City Clerk



Mayor

Resolution No. 2023-1211

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MORA, MINNESOTA, DESIGNATING THE POLLING PLACE OF THE CITY OF MORA FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 204B.16, Subd. 1, requires the governing body of each municipality to designate, no later than December 31st each year, the polling places for each election precinct; and

WHEREAS, the polling places designated by resolution in December of each year are the polling places to be used for elections in the following calendar year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mora, Minnesota; that the polling place to be used for the municipal precinct the City of Mora for calendar year 2024 is as follows:

PRECINCT: Mora City Hall, 101 Lake Street South, Mora, MN 55051

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the City Council of the City of Mora, Minnesota directs the City Clerk to make all necessary notifications and preparations for elections held in 2024 as required by Minnesota Statutes and Rules.


The foregoing resolution was introduced and moved for adoption by Council Member

Youngquist and seconded by Council Member Shepard.

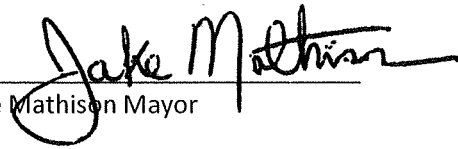
Voting for resolution..... Youngquist, Shepard, Anderson, Broekemeier, Mathison
Voting against resolution..... none
Abstained from voting..... none
Absent..... none

Motion carried and resolution adopted this 5th day of December 2023

ATTEST:



Natasha Segelstrom, City Clerk



Jake Mathison Mayor