

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof Mayor Jake Mathison called to order the regular meeting of the Mora City Council at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 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, and Kelly Christianson Accountant.
3. **Adopt Agenda:** MOTION made by Shepard, seconded by Youngquist, and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda.
4. **Consent Agenda:** There were no items on the consent agenda.
5. **Open Forum:** No one spoke at open forum.
6. **Special Business:** There was no special business.
7. **Public Hearings:** There were no public hearings.
8. **New Business:**
 - a. **East Central Cable Commission Franchise Agreement:** Broekemeier provided an updated contract for the East Central Cable Commission Franchise Agreement. She further explained the service it provides to the community for cable. The franchise agreement is specifically for cable service and the city does receive franchise fees from this. The Council discussed the agreement. MOTION to approve the East Central Cable Commission Franchise Agreement to include the updated language accessible drops to the library, school, and City Hall. MOTION made by Shepard, seconded by Youngquist, and unanimously carried to approve the agreement with the addition of library, school, and City Hall.
 - b. **2024 Preliminary Budget Proposal:** Administrative Services Director Segelstrom presented the 2024 Preliminary Budget. The budget reflected a 24.44% increase over the 2023 tax levy. She explained this was the preliminary budget and the City must certify by the end of September. Significant changes included engineering expenses for the Lake Mora outlet pipe, HRA debt service and principal/interest, mayor and council salary increase. Significant revenues include the HRA Debt levy \$49,599, an increase in Local Government Aid a 17.59%, interest earnings and the upcoming Presidential Elections.

A 5% increase to stormwater rates to cover depreciation and equipment expenses would be an estimated \$0.31 increase for residential customers. Councilmember Anderson asked about the impact on businesses and commercial properties. Staff stated they would follow up with the amount.

Administrator Glenn Anderson discussed the increased credit card processing fees incurred and consideration of a credit card/ payment processing policy update which would allow the city to charge a 5% fee to the customers. This would reduce expenses at the North Country Bottle Shop and generate additional revenue that could be utilized throughout the community for grants, tourism, and advertising. The Council further discussed their reservations on an added fee to customers but recognized this was increased business expense. The Council discussed the fees but did not determine a change in current practice/policy. There was concern that the amount of savings would be spread out on numerous items and not be used for its intended purpose.

The City Council reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan which included:

1. North Country Bottle Shop Exterior Maintenance Re-Stain
2. Fox Run Playground
3. Pickleball Court
4. Library Improvements
5. Depot Building Repairs
6. Medium Duty Dump Truck Replacement
7. Double Drum Ride-on Roller Replacement
8. Cemetery Compact Utility vehicle Replacement
9. Airport Snow Removal (Grants)
10. Library Building Repair and Updates

The Council discussed improvements to the Depot building and the potential impact it may have on the future lease. It was further discussed and decided the pickleball court was not a priority for the upcoming year due to the levy increase. Broekemeier expressed concern with a levy increase five years following COVID-19 pandemic but recognized that it was necessary and suggested 10%. Councilmember Anderson expressed concern with the increase levy and that it was too high. The consensus amongst the City Council was that the preliminary levy be under 24.44% and directed staff and the budget committee to decrease the overall 2024 preliminary budget.

9. Old Business:

- a. **Project updates SEH: K**
- b. Mora TH 65 Bike Trail Extension Proposal and SLA Design:
- c. Mora TH 65 Left Turn lane at 9th Street Proposal and SLA Design:

10. Communications:

The City Council reviewed the monthly communications.

a. Quarterly Financial Report 2nd Quarter 2023

11. Boards and Commission Reports

- a. City Administrator: Nothing new to report
- b. Councilmember Anderson: Nothing new to report.
- c. Councilmember Broekemeier: Nothing new to report.
- d. Councilmember Shepard: Thanked staff for working on the budget and enjoyed the budget committee meetings.
- e. Councilmember Youngquist: Nothing new to report.
- f. Mayor Mathison: Thanked all for their work, even when there may not be an agreement but shared the same goal and would do to the best of their ability to power through.

12. Adjournment: MOTION by Shepard, seconded by Youngquist, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor