



CITY OF TOWER  
**Public Hearing**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
Civic Center  
September 11, 2023

**1. Call to Order / Roll Call**

Mayor David Setterberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Present: Mayor David Setterberg, Councilor Robert Anderson, and Councilor Kevin Norby

Absent: Councilor Josh Zika and Councilor Joe Morin

Staff / Contractors Present: Clerk/Treasurer Michael Schultz, Hoodoo Campground Managers Randy Pratt and Julie Pratt

Others present: Steve Altenburg, Marshall Helmberger, Jo and Don Miller, Rick Swanson, Rose and Butch Davis, Mark and Donna Olson, Lee and Greta Tuominen, Robert Ranisute, John Bassing\*, Orlyn Kringstad\*, Sandra\*, Tammy\*, and one unidentified individual\*

\*E-attendee

**2. Accept Agenda**

Agenda Item 4.3 was amended from the August 14, 2023 Regular Meeting to the August 11, 2023 Special Meeting. Motion by Councilor Anderson to accept the agenda, contingent on the clerk/treasurer's name being updated to the current clerk/treasurer on Agenda Item 4.4.1 Agreement, State of MN Airports Fund Grant Agreement 1054864. Second by Councilor Norby. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Public Input / Correspondence**

None.

**4. Consent Agenda**

**4.1. Reports**

**4.2. Minutes from July 10, 2023 Regular Meeting & Public Hearing**

**4.3. Minutes from ~~August 14, 2023 Regular Meeting~~ August 11, 2023 Special Meeting**

**4.4. Resolution 2023-XXX Execute Airport Grant Agreement 1054864**

**4.4.1. Agreement, State of MN Airports Fund Grant Agreement 1054864**

**4.5. Claims Register**

Motion by Councilor Norby to approve the consent agenda. Second by Councilor Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Old Business**

### **5.1. Hoodoo, Rates & More**

Several Hoodoo Point Seasonal Residents spoke about a variety of issues including lease cost increase, elevated decks, site vacancies, and electrical service. Other residents expressed they are comfortable with the status quo and don't want to cause any issues. Discussion was held with the seasonal residents and the Council.

Motion by Councilor Norby to increase the seasonal camper rates for the 2024 camping season by 10% (\$300), to be reviewed by Council annually. Second by Mayor Setterberg. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Councilor Norby to increase the daily campground rate by \$2/day, to be reviewed by Council annually. Second by Councilor Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Councilor Norby to place a moratorium on all new decks, sheds, and carports until the Council has time to review and clarify the lease agreement which will include definitions for what constitutes a shed/deck/carport/etc., as well as create an ad hoc committee of Councilor Norby and Councilor Anderson to review the lease. Second by Councilor Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

### **5.2. Gundersen Trust, Update**

Clerk/Treasurer Schultz provided an informational update surrounding the next steps for the Gundersen Trust including final payments to attorneys, completing the final accounting of payments since the Court Order, transferring the remaining funds to the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, and creating a new board. No action is needed from Council at this time and updates will continue to be brought to the full Council.

### **5.3. Project, Tower Trailhead Updates**

Clerk/Treasurer Schultz provided an informational update on the status of the Tower Trailhead Project. The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) representatives will be doing a site visit at the end of September. The City continues to work with Benchmark Engineering on the potential DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant. No action is needed from Council at this time.

### **5.4. Project, Depot Roof**

Clerk/Treasurer Schultz provided an informational update explaining construction is completed. Motion by Councilor Anderson to approve the Change Order for the Depot Roof Replacement Project for Norse Valley Construction, LLC. Second by Councilor Norby. Motion passed unanimously.

**5.5. Project, Water Treatment Facility**

Motion by Councilor Anderson to authorize SEH to put the Water Treatment Facility project out for bids. Second by Councilor Norby. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. New Business**

**6.1. Elections, VOTER Account**

Motion by Councilor Norby to accept the Agreement between St. Louis County and the City of Tower concerning the distribution plan for allocating funds from the voter account. Second by Councilor Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

**6.2. Personnel, Firefighter**

Motion by Councilor Anderson to hire Jon Ross as a Tower Fire Department Firefighter, contingent on passing a background check and providing any necessary documentation to verify certifications. Second by Councilor Norby. Motion passed unanimously.

**6.3. Personnel, Seasonal Worker**

Motion by Councilor Anderson to post the seasonal worker position for the winter season, exact start and end date to be determined during hiring, and delegate the process for hiring to Maintenance Foreman Velcheff and Clerk/Treasurer Schultz, subject to City Council approval. Second by Councilor Norby. Motion passed unanimously.

**6.4. General, State of the City**

Mayor Setterberg delivered the State of the City address.

**6.5. Financial, Budget & Preliminary Levy**

Motion by Councilor Anderson to authorize Clerk/Treasurer Schultz to engage with Fryberger Law Firm to discuss and sort out the Tax Increment Financing deficit. Second by Councilor Norby. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Councilor Norby to set the preliminary levy at an increase of 5% for 2024. Second by Councilor Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. Adjourn**

Motion by Councilor Anderson to adjourn at 7:04 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schultz  
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by Council:  
October 9, 2023