

CITY OF WESTWOOD

Council Meeting Minutes

**The regularly scheduled meeting of the Westwood City Council was held on Monday,
August 21, 2023, at the home of Mayor Brant Knudsen**

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

Roll Call Elijah Gnann (present), Monte Knudsen (present), Gary Lane (present), Eric Peterson (present), Darrel Rogers (present)

Agenda Approval A motion was made by Councilman Lane and seconded by Councilman Gnann to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved.

Minutes of Previous Council Meeting The minutes of July 17, 2023, were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Knudsen and was seconded by Councilman Gnann. The minutes were approved.

Authorization of Claims and Financial Report

A motion to authorize the claims and accept the financial report was made by Councilman Gnann and seconded by Councilman Peterson. The motion passed. Review of the Claims generated some discussion regarding water suppliers. It was noted that Rural Water only goes to the Skunk River.

Report of Standing Committees

- **Grounds & Roads** No meeting was held.
- **Building & Ordinance** No meeting was held.
- **Budget & Finance** No meeting was held.

Unfinished Business

- Westwood City Picnic** The Westwood Picnic will be on September 17. Meat, potato and utensils will be provided. Sides and dessert are potluck.
- Discussion regarding the claim against the City of Westwood.** At 6:47 p.m. Councilman Lane made a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilman Rogers seconded the motion and the motion passed. At 7:10 p.m. Councilman Knudsen made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Councilman Gnann seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Mayor will communicate a plan to move forward to the City Attorney.

Old Business

Councilman Lane raised the question of safety issues regarding the playground. He and Eric Peterson have been replacing and repairing parts that have rotted or broken. However, it is the intention of the Council to replace the playground equipment in 2024. It was suggested that we need to know the City responsibility for children using the play area. One suggestion was that if it is not safe it should come down. It was believed that the equipment is being kept safe and it would be better to take it down at the time that it is going to be replaced. Councilman Knudsen will get prices and review design. Councilmen Lane and Peterson will research the best substance for the substrate.

New Business

- Resolution 7-2023 Street Financial Report** The SFR for FY23 was reviewed. Councilman Peterson moved adoption of the resolution and Councilman Lane seconded the motion. The motion was approved by Roll Call vote: Elijah Gnann (aye), Monte Knudsen (aye), Gary Lane (aye), Eric Peterson (aye), Darrel Rogers (aye).
- Review Current Water Rates** The Council carefully reviewed the cost of the current water, sewer and waste collection and disposal. Because every service has increased in price, sometimes substantially, the Council finds it necessary to raise the utility rates by \$5.00 per month. This is still not keeping up with the 8% increase in the Consumer Price Index. Over the last three years the historic coffers have been drained by numerous water leaks that needed repair. This will be discussed at the picnic and the Council will vote on the increase September 18.

Mayor / Council Member Comments

City Utilities Comments The summary was reviewed.

Adjournment A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Gnann and was seconded by Councilman Peterson. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 18, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Home of Mayor Brant Knudsen at 3005 Hickory Lane.

Respectfully submitted

Brant Knudsen, Mayor

Nancy Erickson, Clerk