



Vassar City Council

1/9/2023 - Minutes

1. Call To Order

Mayor Damm called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Pledge Of Allegiance/Invocation

3. Roll Call

Members present: Mayor Damm; Mayor Pro-Tem Fabbro; Councilor McTaggart; and Councilor Mecham.
Councilor Armstrong joined the meeting at 7:05pm.

Members Absent: None

4. Approval/Adjustment To The Agenda

Motion by Fabbro; second by Mecham to approve the agenda with the following additions:

- **Well #6 Updated Repair Invoice**
- **Resolution #2023-01 - Resolution for Charter Commission Compensation**

Motion Carried.

5. Adoption Of Regular Minutes

Motion by Mecham; second by Armstrong to approve the December 5, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

6. Presentation

Vassar Police Department Professional Excellence Award -
Patrick Hammill

Chief Guile Stated that on November 16, 2022 Officer Hammill was covering a Crossing Guard shift at the corner of Division and Athletic streets. During that shift, Officer Hammill noticed a car that was driving too fast for road conditions and acted swiftly to move two students out of harms way. Officer Hammill than sought out the vehicle and issued citations to the driver. Chief Guile is presenting a Professional Excellence Award to Officer Hammill for his bravery and quick thinking.

Oath of Office -

Brian Westphal - Vassar Police Sergeant
Matthew Piazza - Vassar Police Officer

Chief Guile stated that Officer Westphal is being promoted to the rank of Sergeant and Officer Piazza has recently graduated from the Police Academy. He stated that both men are a valuable asset to the Vassar Police Department.

7. Public Comment

Carson Atkins - 133 N Cass Ave, Vassar - Mr. Atkins stated his appreciation for the Vassar Police Department.

8. Consent Agenda Items

Motion by Fabbro; second by Armstrong to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

8.I. Vendor Listing

December 2022 Vendor Listing

8.II. Boards And Commission Minutes

DDA - November 9, 2022
VAAS - December 15, 2022

8.III. Vassar Fire Department Fire Prevention Week Report

9. New Business

9.I. Discussion Of Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Plan

Mayor Damm stated there had been an effort by residents to collect signatures of City residents that are in opposition of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Plan. He stated that if enough signatures were turned in to the City it would have stopped the entire project by requiring a vote of the people to continue with the entire project. Mayor Damm stated that he has had several meetings with the residents in the last few days. During these meetings with residents, the Mayor determined that the mandatory installation of residential water meters was the core issue that this group of residents had. The majority of the group stated that the remainder of the project was critical for Vassar's water system.

Mayor Damm stated that after these meetings with residents he suggests that the City remove the mandate for installation of residential meters so that the remainder of the project can go forward.

There was much discussion by all of Council if removing the meter mandate was the best path for Vassar.

Motion by Damm; second by McTaggart to remove the mandatory requirement of residential meter installation from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project (DWSRF). Yes - Damm; McTaggart; Fabbro; and Armstrong. No - Mecham. Motion carried.

With the passage of the motion to remove the mandate for installation of residential water meters, there was much discussion by all of Council as to the right path forward for the water department. City Manager Niedzinski stated that he had spoken to the City's funding representative and the City would still receive 75% of the total project in loan forgiveness if the Council chose to remove a part of the total

project.

Again there was much discussion by the entire Council as to offering residents the option to have a meter installed as part of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Plan. The cost of these meters and their installation could be considered part of the DWSRF project. City Manager Niedzinski stated that a partial install is a possibility.

Motion by Mecham; second by Fabbro to offer the Residents of Vassar a voluntary program for water meter installation. A roll call vote was taken:

Yes: McTaggart; Damm; Fabbro; Armstrong; and Mecham

No: None

Motion carried.

9.II. Consideration Of Well #6 Repairs

City Manager Niedzinski stated that Council had already considered repairs to Well #6 back in October 2022 and approved an expenditure for \$36,907. As repairs were made, it was found that additional work was needed to secure the well pump. These additional repairs will add \$4137.15 to the project for a total of \$41,044.56.

Motion by Fabbro; second by Armstrong to approve the expense of \$41,044.56 to Peerless Midwest for repairs to Well #6. Motion carried.

9.III. Consideration Of Resolution #2023-01

City Manager Niedzinski stated that the Charter Commission may not operate without a quorum which is five (5) members. Vassar City's Attorney stated that the City Council will need to set the pay for the members of the Commission.

Motion by Fabbro; second by Mecham to approve Resolution #2023-01 - Resolution for Charter Commission Compensation as presented. Motion carried.

10. Council Discussion, Direction To City Manager & Future Agenda Items

The Gleaners will be at the February meeting to present a check for the purchase of new Dog Park equipment.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fabbro thanked the City Manager for sending letters to businesses about their responsibility of snow removal from sidewalks.

11. Public Comment

Carson Atkins - 133 N Cass Ave, Vassar - Mr. Atkins inquired about the timeline of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project. City Manager Niedzinski stated that most of the work will be done in 2024.

12. City Manager Announcements & Statements

City Manager Niedzinski provided an update of the TNorth Pavilion improvements. The new Hockey Boards will be delivered and the DPW will do the installation in Spring of 2023. This is the final part of the improvements to the facility.

13. Adjourn

Motion by Fabbro; second by Mecham to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm. Motion carried.

