The Round Lake City Council met in closed session for employee reviews on December 11, 2019 at 5:30pm.

Councilmembers and City staff present were Paul Cunningham, Jennifer Rehnelt, Walon Habben, Gary Larson and Mayor Douglas Knuth, Bruce Bentele, Derek Nelson and Clerk Elaine Walker.

Motion by Habben, second by Rehnelt to approve a 2.5% increase to wages for all City employees. All ayes: Carried.

Closed meeting was opened at 6:20pm.

The Round Lake City Council met in regular session immediately following this meeting.

Meeting was called to order at 6:21pm.

Councilmembers in attendance were mentioned above and others in attendance were as follows: Deputy Ryan Muehe, Deputy Derek Hillesheim, Larry Yeske & Val Watje, representing the Round Lake American Legion and Chief Mike Smith, representing the Round Lake Fire Department.

Pledge of allegiance.

Additions to the agenda: Cemetery dead tree removal quote from Rosenberg Treescapes.

Motion by Larson, second by Cunningham to approve agenda and additions to the agenda. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Larson, second by Cunningham to approve November 6th, 2019 minutes. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Larson, second by Cunningham to approve paying all bills and receipts as presented. Council told Chief Mike Smith to inform the firefighters that carpooling would be best, if possible, when going to trainings out of town. All ayes: Carried.

Round Lake American Legion - representatives Val Watje and Larry Yeske were present to inform Council that they would like permission to update the section of land located in the Round Lake Cemetery where the former veterans’ memorial was located. The plan is to raise enough funds to remove the rocks and shrubs currently there and install a 24’x49’ concrete slab with three flag poles, one for the American flag, one for the Minnesota flag and one for the POW flag. Possibly some benches or another monument type structure will be installed to honor all branches of the military. They will be fundraising to cover the expenses, hoping to have a budget of around $10,000 to work with. Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to approve this project and to have Clerk Elaine include a flyer, with their plans outlined, in a future newsletter. All ayes: Carried.

Chief Mike Smith was present to share the information about the grant that was received for updating the radios. There were problems with the batteries not holding a charge and the new ones have standard rechargeable batteries, making them easier to get when needed. The grant was a matching grant from The Department of Natural Resources and it was for $1,000 to be matched by the City. Chief Smith asked the Council to approve paying the $1,000 and since they needed more radios than the grant covered, the fire department will contribute the remaining balance to cover the $3,784.75 total. Motion by Habben, second by Rehnelt to approve paying the $1,000 toward the cost of the radios. Clerk Elaine will pay the bill in full, then file the paperwork to get the grant money refunded and Chief Smith will get a check to her for their portion. All ayes: Carried.

Council accepted Al Nickel’s letter of resignation from the Round Lake Fire Department, effective January 2, 2020, after 30 years of service.

Motion by Rehnelt, second by Cunningham to approve the Round Lake Fire Department officers for 2020 as follows: Chief – Mike Smith, Assistant Chief – Cody Dean, Secretary/Treasurer – Desiree Junker, Training Officers – Randy Olson and Kevin Turner. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Larson, second by Cunningham to approve the 2020 liquor licenses for L & M Partners, LLC dba Round Lake Pit Stop, Sport Shots Tavern, On Q BBQ and the Round Lake American Legion. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Larson, second by Habben to approve the City paying 50% of the liability insurance for the Round Lake Senior Center for $685.20. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to approve paying bills as they are presented to the City through the end of the year 2019. All ayes: Carried.

Resolution No. 2019-12-11 – Municipal Support for the Mutual Aid Association’s Effort to Maximize Response Efforts and Ensure Equity with Per-Section Revenue Rates. Motion by Larson, second by Habben to approve. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to approve fire contracts with townships. In year 5 of 5 with an agreed upon 3% increase each year per section. All ayes: Carried.

Resolution No. 2019-12-11(2) – Re-establishing a polling location for the City of Round Lake, Nobles County, Minnesota. Motion by Larson, second by Cunningham to approve polling location. We are no longer combined with Indian Lake Township. All ayes: Carried.

Indian Lake Township voted to go to mail-in ballots and not share our polling location moving forward. Resolution on file in City documents. Council does not want to pursue this for the City at this time.

Motion by Larson, second by Cunningham to approve that the City does NOT waive the Monetary Limits on Municipal Tort Liability established by MN Statute 466.04. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to approve the engagement letter from Jacobson & Bergerson, PLLP, the City auditor for 2019 with Kim Eisfeld as our main contact. All ayes: Carried.

Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water announced a price increase that will go into effect June 1, 2020 of $.08, current price per 1,000 gallons is $2.66 and will be $2.74 per 1,000 gallons.

Bruce’s laptop computer is running Windows 7 and needs to be updated by January 14, 2020. Quote from Computer Lodge is for $499.99 and Microsoft Office is an additional $156.99. Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to upgrade Bruce’s computer with Computer Lodge. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Larson to approve Rosenberg Treescapes bid of $3,650 to remove 14 dead trees from the cemetery and bring them to the burn dump for destruction. All ayes: Carried.

Bethel Lutheran Church built a small shed on their property and the Council reviewed the application. Not permanent structure, so actual permit not required.

New Fashion Pork talked to Bruce about salting their parking lot and a motion was made by Cunningham, second by Rehnelt to approve Bruce using the City salt in New Fashion Pork’s parking lot when he salts the rest of the town and charging $125 per time. All ayes: Carried.

2020 Budget Levy – No changes necessary to preliminary levy. Motion by Habben, second by Rehnelt to confirm 2020 Budget with not changes. All ayes: Carried.

Derek informed the Council that we will need to let the community know if they plan to install a standby generator that will run on natural gas, when the electricity is out, they need to notify City Hall of their plans. Most will need to make changes to their current meter setup.

Motion by Rehnelt, second by Larson to approve City Hall closing early on Christmas Eve, 2:00pm. All ayes: Carried.

City Hall will be closed on Christmas Day, December 25th, 2019.

City Hall will be closed on New Year’s Day, January 1st, 2020.

The next Council meeting will be on January 8th, 2020 at 6:15pm at City Hall.

Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to adjourn. All ayes: Carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.