The Round Lake City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, December 9th, 2020 at 5:15pm at City Hall. Employee reviews were performed in closed session, prior to the open meeting starting at 6:15pm. Councilmembers in attendance were Paul Cunningham, Walon Habben, Gary Larson and Mayor Douglas Knuth. Absent was councilmember Jennifer Rehnelt. Others in attendance were Bruce Bentele, Derek Nelson and Clerk Elaine Walker.

Meeting was closed at 5:20pm to discuss employee performance. Each employee was reviewed individually and the meeting was opened at 6:17pm.

Mayor Douglas Knuth summarized the closed meeting with the decision to give all employees an increase starting January 1, 2021, Bruce and Derek will receive a 3.98% increase and Elaine will receive a 4.73% increase. Motion was made by Habben and second by Larson to approve pay increase. All ayes: Carried.

Open meeting was called to order at 6:18pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to the agenda – Stephen Heimgartner’s resignation from the Round Lake Fire Department.

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

Motion by Larson, second by Cunningham to approve minutes from November 9th regular meeting and November 12th special meeting. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Cunningham, second by Habben to approve paying bills and receipts as presented including check #22176-22234 and payments made online since last meeting totaling $59,309.05. All ayes: Carried.

Building permit – Juan Flores – Deck on front of the house. Motion by Habben, second by Larson to approve as drawn on application, if it is in fact at least 5 feet from the street side of the sidewalk. All ayes: Carried.

2021 Round Lake Fire Department list was presented to the Council. Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to approve the officers for the Round Lake Fire Department for 2021. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Larson, second by Cunningham to approve the 2021 liquor licenses for L & M Partners, LLC dba Round Lake Pit Stop, Sport Shots Tavern, On Q BBQ and Round Lake American Legion Post 461. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Larson, second by Cunningham to pay ½ of the liability insurance for the Round Lake Senior Center’s annual premium of $1,411.53 for a contribution of $705.77. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to allow Clerk Elaine to pay the bills as they come in through the end of the year. All ayes: Carried.

Resolution No. 2020-12-09 – Resolution accepting donations received in November for the 2020 Park Equipment Project. Motion by Habben, second by Larson to accept donations received in November for the 2020 Park Equipment Project. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Larson, second by Cunningham to approve fire contracts with townships. Year 1 of 5-year contract starts in 2021 with 3% increase each year. 2021 fee per section will be $223.00. All ayes: Carried.

Resolution No. 2020-12-09(2) – Re-establishing a polling location for the City of Round Lake, Nobles County, Minnesota. (This is needed annually, in case there is an emergency election.) Motion by Cunningham, second by Habben to approve resolution to re-establish a polling location for the City of Round Lake. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Cunningham, second by Habben to approve that the City DOES NOT waive the Monetary Limits on Municipal Tort Liability established by MN Statute 466.04. (Required annually for the insurance company.) All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Cunningham, second by Larson to approve assigning the legal 911 address to Ray Lascewski’s shed and land it is located on, as 299 Amy Avenue. All ayes: Carried.

Motion to waive late fee for a resident who has never been late and has lived in town over 20 years made by Habben, second by Cunningham. All ayes: Carried.

Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water – price per 1,000 gallons will increase June 1, 2021 $.08 from $2.74 to $2.82 per 1,000 gallons. Council will take this into consideration when they do the City Fee Schedule in January.

Stephen Heimgartner has given his resignation to the Round Lake Fire Department and it will take effect January 4, 2021. Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to accept Stephen’s resignation effective January 4, 2021. All ayes: Carried.

League of Minnesota Cities paid our dividends for Property Casualty Insurance for 2020 in the amount of $3,647.00, amount is higher than last year.

Motion by Cunningham, second by Larson to finalize the 2021 Budget without changes. All ayes: Carried.

Bruce Bentele and Derek Nelson have been working on removing the dead trees out by the City ponds and have the job completed. They are in a pile and will be burned when the weather is cooperative, waiting for snow to make things not so dry.

Derek Nelson talked about the natural gas and the annualization of demand charges from Northern Natural Gas and Clayton Energy. Firm capacity, storage gas and Clayton Energy service fees go into determining the rate of demand, 2021 price will be $2.0148.

Southwest Minnesota Broadband Services has paid the loan back in full. Council directed Clerk Elaine to ask Kim Eisfeld, auditor, what the City can do with those funds. The original investment came from the Water and Gas Funds, the Council would like to invest those dollars if possible.

City Hall will be closed on Friday, December 25th for Christmas and closing at noon on Thursday, December 24th for Christmas Eve. Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to allow employees to close early on Christmas Eve. All ayes: Carried.

City Hall will be closed on Friday, January 1, 2021 for the New Year’s Day holiday.

The next City Council meeting will be on January 13th, 2021 at 6:15pm at City Hall.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm.