The Round Lake City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 6:30pm at City Hall. Councilmembers present were Paul Cunningham, Jennifer Rehnelt, Walon Habben, Randy Rowe and Mayor Timothy Kennedy. Others present were Kristi Robinson from Star Energy Services, Travis Theis from Southwest Minnesota Broadband Services, Nobles County Deputy Malaki Walker, Bruce Bentele, Derek Nelson and Clerk Elaine Walker.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to the agenda: City sign at the Pit Stop, new landlord and utility deposit.

Motion by Habben, second by Rowe to approve the agenda and the additions to the agenda. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Cunningham, second by Rowe to approve the minutes from the June 9th regular council meeting. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to approve the bills and receipts as presented – including check #22486-22531 and online payments made, to avoid late charges, totaling $85,885.37. Receipts for June totaling $47,248.92. (AGCO did not pay in June, billing didn’t get to the right person.) All ayes: Carried.

Kristi Robinson from Star Energy Services explained the Distributed Energy Resources requirements to the Council and gave a presentation of the services offered by Star Energy Services that the City could hire them to do that would help us stay in compliance with the State regulations. Motion by Habben, second by Rowe to approve Star Energy Services Proposal for project #Round Lake-21-01 and hire them to work with Clerk Elaine to get our process in order. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Rowe to approve Star Energy Services Proposal for project #Round Lake-21-02 that would implement the use of the Nova Power Portal where contractors or residents could go to fill out applications and research different types of distributed energy resources, like solar. This portal will make it easier for the City to be compliant with the requirements of the State of Minnesota when it comes to distributed energy resources. All ayes: Carried.

Resolution No. 2021-07-14 – Resolution adopting City of Round Lake’s Policy regarding Distributed Energy Resources and Net Metering and Rules Governing the Interconnection of Cogeneration and Small Power Production Facilities. Prepared for the City by Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association, Bill Black. Motion by Cunningham, second by Habben to approve Resolution No. 2021-07-14. All ayes: Carried.

Travis Theis updated the Council on Southwest Minnesota Broadband Services and what has been happening lately in regards to the remodel project. Travis also explained the loan payoff and how that will help the City and the group as a whole going forward. By paying off the loan early, it was an opportunity to save the group a lot of money in interest and in the long run, it will help the group pay out dividends possibly in the future. He said it would be based on the percentage of the original investment if that should ever become an option, the current loan is set to be paid off in 2030.

There is funding available through the State of Minnesota in the ARPA fund. Motion by Rowe, second by Cunningham to allow Clerk Elaine the ability to apply on behalf of the City of Round Lake. The funds are available to mitigate some of the losses, due to the pandemic, that government entities have experienced. All ayes: Carried.

Building permit – Alida Pineda – to remove current garage structure, build new garage and install driveway from Harrison Street on the north side of the house. Motion by Habben, second by Rehnelt to approve the permit with the understanding that the garage must be 5 feet from the PROPERTY LINE, not the fence. Homeowner is responsible to make sure where the property line is and build 5 feet from that line. All ayes: Carried.

Maguire Iron – Inspection results of the water tower interior shows wear on the inside that requires repair and they submitted a proposal to spread the payments out over three payments and perform the repairs this year. The proposal includes a mixing system that will help avoid having the water freeze and cause problems for the City. The total for the project will be $59,351.25 plus any applicable tax, $19,783.75 per payment. Motion by Habben, second by Rowe to approve the proposal with the mixer. All ayes: Carried.

Resolution No. 2021-07-14(2) – Resolution authorizing past due utilities balances to be written off as bad debts for a total of $2,675.14. These balances have been left by renters who are no longer in the area and a resident who has passed away. As the auditor would prefer these bad debts be written off in the year, motion by Rowe, second by Cunningham to allow for the balances to be written off as bad debts in 2021. All ayes: Carried.

Bruce got a bid to landscape park after new equipment installation and it came back quite high. Other contractors that were contacted are now located at least 60 miles from Round Lake and it is out of their travel range for smaller projects. Council agreed to table the landscaping for now and look for more options in the future.

At the June meeting the Council asked Bruce to get a quote to fix the water treatment plant for worst case scenario source of water, if Lincoln Pipestone refused us water. The quote came back at $5,580.00 to get the pump ready to provide water to the tower for distribution. Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to get those repairs taken care of. All ayes: Carried.

The owners of the Pit Stop asked the City to remove the community sign that had originally been allowed to remain on the property when they purchased it from the City. Bruce relocated the sign, temporarily, to the area behind the fire hall. Electric service needs to be ran to the new location and it will be placed on a gravel area on the block by the fire hall.

The park equipment project is nearing completion. The company that installed the equipment didn’t have enough hangers for the swings and we requested a paint touch up kit, as the zipline was damaged while working with the pea rock. Shipping times are extended because of Covid, so the finishing touches will take place as soon as the items arrive.

The new landlord in town doesn’t agree with the procedures used in Round Lake when someone new purchases a property and is refusing to pay the utility deposit on the house he has purchased. It is standard practice to collect the utility deposit from the new owner and refund after 1 year. There is a renter in the house that has paid the utility deposit, but Clerk Elaine explained that we have a protocol in place that should be the same for all new property owners and he should be no exception. Clerk Elaine will continue to communicate with this property owner.

The next City Council meeting will be on Wednesday, August 11th at 6:30pm at City Hall.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.