The Round Lake City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, January 12th, 2022 at 6:30pm at City Hall. Councilmembers in attendance were Paul Cunningham, Randy Rowe, Jennifer Rehnelt, Walon Habben via telephone on speaker and Mayor Timothy Kennedy. Others in attendance were Bruce Bentele, Eric Joens and Jerry from Schaap Sanitation of Worthington, Nobles County Deputy Malaki Walker and Clerk Elaine Walker. Derek Nelson was absent.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to the agenda – adjustment to the write-off of bad debts.

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

Motion by Rehnelt, second by Rowe to approve the minutes from the December 15th regular meeting. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Rehnelt, second by Cunningham to approve the distributions including checks #22753-22768 and payments made online since the December meeting, totaling $57,203.21 and approve the receipts from December totaling $449,441.80. Including January online payments made totaling $5,019.16. All ayes: Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-01-12 – Motion to write-off 2021 bad debts totaling $1,191.57 (adjustment of $150.00 made, applying the deposit collected for one of the accounts to lower the balance to write off) These are for utility bills that were left unpaid and the renters moved without leaving forwarding addresses. Motion by Rehnelt, second by Cunningham to approve the write-off for 2021 bad debts in the amount of $1,191.57. These debts will be written off effective date of December 31, 2021. All ayes: Carried.

Eric Joens, from Schaap Sanitation, addressed the Council regarding the 5-year contract for garbage/recycling services and outlined the plan to increase the fee 6% effective on the next utility billing for Round Lake. There has not been an increase since 2019. Motion by Habben, second by Rowe to approve the 5-year contract with a term of increasing fees annually at no more than 5% when the Contractor incurs increased expenses. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Cunningham, second by Rowe to approve paying January claims, including checks #22769-22787 and online payments for a total of $82,343.47. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Rowe to approve the following: Official Newspaper – Tri-County News, Depository – United Prairie Bank, City Assessor – Nobles County Assessor, City Attorney – Mark Shepherd, Atty and City Auditor – Jacobson & Bergerson, PLLP – Kim Eisfeld. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Cunningham, second by Rehnelt to approve the following: Josh Miller from United Prairie Insurance Agency as the City’s insurance agent for property/casualty, worker’s comp and liability insurance and Mike Felcyn from United Prairie Insurance Agency for the medical, vision, dental and short/long term disability insurance. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Rowe, second by Cunningham to approve Kelly Meyer, United Prairie Financial Network as the City’s Financial Advisor on select accounts and Terry McEachern from NPN, Inc. as the advisor for select CDs until their maturity. All ayes: Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-01-12(2) – Resolution Accepting Donations Received for the Round Lake Fire Department. Motion by Habben, second by Rehnelt to accept the donation of $1,000.00 on behalf of the Round Lake Fire Department. All ayes: Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-01-12(3) – Resolution for Brehm Group Renewal of the Accident Coverage for the Council. Motion by Rehnelt, second by Rowe to approve the renewal of the Brehm Group policy for the Council. All ayes: Carried.

Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water announced a price increase effective June 1, 2022 of $0.07, making the price per 1,000 gallons increase from $2.82 to $2.89 effective payable July 1, 2022.

Fee Schedule for 2022: After discussion, Habben made motion to increase the fee for Turbine Commercial Gas Meters to $100.00 monthly, to be within the range for this type of meter, as it requires annual testing that is higher than the other commercial meters. Also, when the City has to relocate a gas line for a residential account, the first time it will be the cost of materials (excluding cost of the meter) and equipment rental, subsequent relocates, requested within 5 years, will be cost of materials (excluding cost of the meter) and equipment rental plus an additional fee of $50/person/hour. For commercial gas line relocation, any relocation of the gas line will be the cost of materials (excluding the cost of the meter) and equipment rental plus $50/person/hour. All other fees will remain the same in 2022. Second by Rowe, all ayes: Carried.

2022 mileage reimbursement will be 58.5 cents/mile. Motion by Rehnelt, second by Rowe. All ayes: Carried.

2022 CIP Program – Energy Star appliance rebates sheet for new electric appliances. Motion by Rehnelt, second by Rowe. All ayes: Carried.

Mayor appoint Councilmembers as head of departments – no changes from 2021. See attached sheet. Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham. All ayes: Carried.

Round Lake Fire Department has two new applicants, motion by Habben, second by Rehnelt to approve Clerk Elaine sending information in for background checks. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Rehnelt, second by Rowe to approve the list of officers for the Round Lake Fire Department for 2022. See attached sheet. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Rowe, second by Cunningham to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with Dickinson County for the Round Lake Fire Department for emergency fire and emergency services response during the 2022 fire season. All ayes: Carried.

Two households had extremely high water usage, motion by Rowe, second by Habben to approve Clerk Elaine adjust accounts as procedure allows. All ayes: Carried.

The area fire departments are looking into applying as a group for grants that would purchase new radios. There is a 5% match and partial payment to the grant writer that would be an expense to each department, Round Lake’s portion would be $277.00 to the grant writer and there is a need to update the radios. Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to approve moving forward with the grant application, if that is what is decided as a group. They feel it will be better to apply as a group, rather than individual towns. All ayes: Carried.

Derek Nelson gathered information on the expense to have the topography survey done on Hwy 264 from south of the ditch to 770th St., estimated to be $4,000-5,000. Motion by Habben, second by Rowe to have the topography survey done from south of the ditch to 770th St. and get a quote so that the Council can make an informed decision on the best steps to move forward on the gas line project. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Rehnelt to approve the hiring of Mike Walker in the event Derek needs help with snow removal while Bruce is out of town. All ayes: Carried.

City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 17th for Martin Luther King, Jr Day.

The next Council meeting will be on Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 at 6:30pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.