The Round Lake City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, December 14th, 2022 at 5:45pm at City Hall. Employee reviews were performed in closed session, prior to the open meeting starting at 6:30pm. Councilmembers in attendance were Walon Habben, Randy Rowe, Paul Cunningham, Jennifer Rehnelt and Mayor Timothy Kennedy. Others in attendance were James Adams, Kevin Turner, Bruce Bentele, Derek Nelson and Clerk Elaine Walker. Nobles County Deputy was not in attendance.

Closed meeting was opened at 6:15pm.

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Summary of the employee reviews, the Council feels confident in the abilities and the performance of the employees and voted to approve a cost-of-living increase of 8.7% for the 2023 payroll period. Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham. All ayes: Carried.

Additions to the agenda: Fire Department, Landlords not paying meter deposits update & Elaine needs permission to write 2 additional checks for investment that are not on the Claims to be Approved list.

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

Motion by Rehnelt, second by Cunningham to approve the minutes from the November 9th, Regular Meeting, and the November 15th, 2022 Special Meeting. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Rehnelt to pay claims totaling $64,647.22 as presented including check #23247-23316, and online payments made since the last meeting to avoid late charges totaling $24,081.63. November receipts totaling $116,115.59, November Distributions totaling $159,244.97 and the two checks totaling $249,000.00 to reinvest the matured CD funds into the Water Fund for $223,800.00 and into the Gas Fund for $25,200.00. All ayes: Carried.

Variance Request Public Hearing:

Nate and Jennifer Rehnelt are asking for a 5’ variance to build an addition on the front of their house. The current ordinance states that the front of any structure must be 30’ from the curb/gutter. Roland Thomsen called City Hall to say he would have no problem with them building such and addition. Chad Cauwels informed Councilmember Habben that he would have no problem with this addition. No one from the list of neighbors within 200 feet attended the hearing. Motion by Habben, second by Rowe to allow the 5’ variance for the addition to be built closer to the curb/gutter than the ordinance states. Councilmember Rehnelt abstained from the vote. Councilmember Cunningham voted aye: Carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Rowe to approve the Legal Services Agreement with the Nobles County Attorney’s Office for the term of January 1, 2023- December 31, 2026. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Rehnelt, second by Cunningham to approve the City pays ½ of the Round Lake Senior Center’s Liability Insurance. Full premium will be $1,207.62, so our portion would be $603.81. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Rowe, second by Rehnelt to allow Clerk Elaine to pay the bills as they come in to have all paid by year-end. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to approve fire contracts with townships. We are in year 3 of the 5-year contract with 3% increase each year. Our fee per section covered is $236.58 for the 2023 contract period. All ayes: Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-12-14 – Re-establishing a polling location for the City of Round Lake, Nobles County, Minnesota. (This is needed each year in case of an emergency election.) Motion by Rowe, second by Cunningham to approve re-establishing City Hall as the polling location for the City of Round Lake elections. All ayes: Carried.

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

Clayton Energy Service Fee/Rate Adjustment – Second amendment to contract needs to be signed. Motion by Rowe, second by Cunningham to approve signing the amendment with the fee/rate adjustment. All ayes: Carried.

2023 Tax Levy – Motion by Habben, second by Rehnelt to leave levy amounts as proposed at the September 14th, 2022 meeting for the 2023 Levy. All ayes: Carried.

The Investments Committee met with Kelly Meyer and discussed investing the cash in the Water Fund account in CDs. $200k will go into a 6-month CD at 4.6% and $112k will go into a 9-month CD at 4.75%.

Southwest Minnesota Broadband Services meeting was difficult to attend remotely as Councilmember Habben was unavailable and Councilmember Rehnelt could not get the Zoom access to work. There is no update this month.

Fire Department needs air tanks and breather masks replaced as the current tanks do not coordinate with new design of masks. Motion by Rowe, second by Rehnelt to approve replacing 9 tanks and 9 masks if they can get them for less than $120/each piece. Kevin Turner said they are working on getting quotes. All ayes: Carried.

Clerk Elaine requested permission to purchase a mat to go under her chair at her desk, as it is falling apart. Permission was given by the Council; no formal motion was made.

Update on landlords paying the utility deposits when they buy a new property. There is one landlord that has not paid the deposit and has not paid for the past two months of utilities on his rental. As far as the City knows, there is no one currently living at this property. Committee to update the utility billing process will address this issue as well as the shut off process.

City Hall will be closed for Christmas on Monday, December 26th, 2022.

City Hall will be closed for New Year’s Day on Monday, January 2nd, 2023.

January Council meeting will be on Wednesday, January 11th, 2023 at 6:30pm at City Hall.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.