The Round Lake City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, October 11th, 2023 at City Hall at 6:30pm. Councilmembers in attendance were Paul Cunningham, James Adams, Walon Habben, Randy Rowe and Mayor Timothy Kennedy. Others in attendance were Chief Kevin Turner, Eugene Cleland for the Fire Department, Johnny Smith, Obediah Stafford, Larry Dodgen, Derek Nelson, Joshua Heidebrink, Deputy Dillon Nelson, and Clerk Elaine Walker.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to the agenda:

1. Carr Tree Service quote to trim trees by high voltage around the city.
2. 3 invoices that came after meeting prep, totaling $6,601.80.
3. Heath Auto request.

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

Motion by Cunningham, second by Adams to approve the September 13th, 2023 regular meeting minutes. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Rowe to approve the receipts and disbursements including, September Disbursements of $104, 685.74, September Receipts totaling $76,790.09, Claims for approval checks #23723-23751 for $91,233.62 and Disbursements of $15,594.58 paid online to avoid late fees, for total October Disbursements of $106,828.20 and the $6,601.80 for the 3 additional invoices. All ayes: Carried.

Obediah Stafford would like to have the ordinance changed to allow residents to own/raise chickens in Round Lake city limits. Does the Council want to do this? Tabled for the Council to do more research and discussion.

Deputy Nelson did not have anything pressing to discuss and the Council did not have anything for law enforcement at this time.

The Round Lake Fire Department plans to be out and about during Trick-or-Treating, on Tuesday, October 31st from 6-8pm. A resident had asked if it could be on Saturday night instead and the Council stated that Halloween is on October 31st and that is when Round Lake will continue to have Trick-or-Treating.

The Fire Hall foundation is continuing to deteriorate. Mayor Timothy Kennedy has been in discussions with the company that fixed it last time, Reitmeier Construction and they said it was an easy solution, core filling more of the area with concrete would help.

Resolution 2013-10-11 – Bad Debts Written-Off for 2023, there are no assessments this year as all outstanding debt currently is due from rental properties or the owners are on a payment plan. The amount to be written-off for 2023 is $645.29. Motion by Habben, second by Rowe to write-off $645.29. All ayes: Carried.

Two households had extremely high water usage this month and Clerk Elaine would like permission to adjust for cost and average usage as done in the past. Motion by Rowe, second by Cunningham to allow adjustment to the bill for these accounts. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Adams to allow Josh Heidebrink full use of the city truck during regular business hours, including driving it home for lunch. He would be expected to return to Round Lake if needed during the hour he is off for lunch, so this will make it easier for him to do that. All ayes: Carried.

Signs for the edge of town contest. Council asked Clerk Elaine to come up with a flyer, that can be put in the monthly billing, asking residents to contribute ideas for the sign design. Contest will collect ideas and the winning designer will get a prize. Tabled for now.

New law goes into effect on January 1, 2024 called Earned Sick & Safe Time that requires employers to provide all employees with earned sick and safe time with a minimum of 48 hours, our current sick pay is for 24 hours annually. Motion by Habben, second by Rowe to frontload employees sick time to 48 hours with a maximum carryover of 96 hours. All ayes: Carried.

Nobles County Funding for Infrastructure projects – Derek has some maintenance that needs to be done to the wastewater ponds that he would like to see the $90,909.00 go towards. More quotes will be available at our November meeting. Tabled for now, plan needs to be submitted to Nobles County by December 31, 2023 as to what we plan to use that money for.

Carr Tree Service gave us a quote to trim trees by our high voltage power lines and it is between $10,000 & $15,000. They will know exactly when they are done, as it depends on how long it takes them. This needs to be done every 5 years and this is the year. Motion by Adams, second by Rowe to approve Carr Tree Service’s quote and get the work done. All ayes: Carried.

Derek told Council the City needs a torch to perform maintenance jobs. The quote from Williamson Supply is approximately $1,400 and Mayor Timothy Kennedy feels they can find a cheaper option. Derek has permission to look for cheaper options and purchase if he finds one that is less than the quote. Motion by Habben, second by Adams to find torch to purchase. All ayes: Carried.

Training has been going well for Josh and he’s happy to be part of the public works department for the City.

Southwest Minnesota Broadband Services is continuing to have phone issues. More households are getting drops for fiber and they have hired a subcontractor to do the drops.

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5th, turn clocks back one hour.

Next City Council meeting is on Wednesday, November 8th at 6:30pm at City Hall.

City Hall will be closed on Friday, November 10th to observe Veterans’ Day.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.