The Round Lake City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, January 10th, 2024 at 6:30pm at City Hall. Councilmembers present were Paul Cunningham, James Adams, Walon Habben, Randy Rowe and Mayor Timothy Kennedy. Others present were Fire Chief Kevin Turner, Deputy Brian Steffen, Josh Heidebrink, Derek Nelson and Clerk Elaine Walker.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to the agenda:

1. 3 invoices presented from the Fire Department totaling $3,541.97.

Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to approve the agenda with the addition. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Cunningham, second by Adams to approve the minutes from the December 14th, 2023 regular meeting with no changes. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Rowe, second by Cunningham to approve the disbursements and receipts for 2023, including check #23821-23896 and payments made online to avoid late fees totaling $161,921.78 for invoices received after the December meeting and receipts for December totaling $267,280.49. Including January check #23907 and January online payments made totaling $9,955.82 All ayes: Carried.

Deputy Brian Steffen attended the meeting for Nobles County Sheriff’s Department. The city has no problems currently to involve law enforcement, other than dogs running loose.

Chief Kevin Turner asked the Council to consider signing mutual aid agreement and said there are talks about payment rate for firefighters and first responders being more uniform around the area. There is more research needed to make any changes at this time. John Lee from Walmart will get in touch with Clerk Elaine about their grants that are available, he has not reached out as of this meeting. Plans are in place for January 18th to make room for the washer/dryer to be installed at the fire hall. He is wondering what the $16,366.00 coming from the state will be used for. It is on tonight’s agenda to be discussed with the Council, as there are approved uses for “Public Safety” and we need to be able to report how the funds were spent. The Council asked him to work on options that are needed for equipment to stock the rescue van.

Motion by Habben, second by Rowe to approve the January claims to be paid for checks #23908-23927 totaling $45,501.29, with the addition of the 3 invoices for the fire department totaling $3,541.97. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Cunningham to approve Official Newspaper – Tri-County News, Depository – United Prairie Bank, City Assessor – Nobles County Assessor, City Attorney – Mark Shepherd, Atty. and City Auditor – Katie M. Jacobson, CPA – Kim Eisfeld. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Rowe, second by Cunningham to designate 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, ST/LT disability and dental policies. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Adams, second by Cunningham to designate Kelly Meyer from United Prairie Financial Network as the City’s Financial Advisor on all investment accounts for the City of Round Lake. All ayes: Carried.

Resolution No. 2024-01-10 – for Brehm Group Renewal of the Accident Coverage for the Council. Motion by Habben, second by Rowe to approve Resolution No. 2024-01-10 as written. All ayes: Carried.

Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water will be increasing their pricing from $3.10 per thousand gallons to $3.35 per thousand gallons effective June 1, 2024 and payable on July 1, 2024. The Council will have to keep this in mind when looking at water pricing for Round Lake. Tabled until after 2023 audit is reviewed.

Motion by Habben, second by Rowe to approve the 2024 Fee Schedule with an increase to the Sewer base rate and charges based on water through the sewer. Increase to the electric base rate and the per kwh charges to keep up with the increases we are seeing from Federated Rural Electric and their announcement that the increases will be annually going forward. Mileage reimbursement will be $.67/mile for 2024. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Adams, second by Rowe to approve the 2024 CIP program for energy star appliance rebates sheet for new ELECTRIC appliances. All ayes: Carried.

Mayor appointed Heads of Departments for 2024 – Motion by Habben, second by Adams to leave list as is from 2023. See attached list. All ayes: Carried.

Motion by Adams, second by Rowe to purchase snow pusher for use with the payloader to move snow. Quote for 14’ pusher is $19,700.00 and the 12’ would be $19,000. Council left it up to Derek and Josh as to which one they want to purchase; they will research other towns to see what they use and the pros and cons of each length. All ayes: Carried.

Power poles need updating around town. Council told Derek and Josh to get them replaced as needed since it is maintenance.

Watermain valves quote range from $4,000-5,000 each installed. Council decided to schedule 7 replacements in 2024 and if we have time in the season order a couple more. Price quote guaranteed when we accept and they will store in their warehouse until we need them. When we use the 7 up, they need to get another quote to us. Motion by Rowe, second by Cunningham to get the 7 for 2024 ordered and ready when spring gets here. All ayes: Carried.

Public Safety funds from the state arrived in our bank account and there will be a list coming from the fire department as to the needs for possible equipment to put on the rescue van.

Curb stops are around $600 each to have replaced/installed and there are around 20 that need to be replaced in town. Council told Derek and Josh to go ahead and replace/install the ones that need it, as it is maintenance.

City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 15th, 2024 for Martin Luther King, Jr Day.

The next Council meeting will be on Wednesday, February 14th, 2024 at 6:30pm at City Hall.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.