

KINDRED CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 29, 2023 | 6:30 pm | Kindred City Hall

Present: Mayor Darrell Kersting, CMs Adam Spelhaug, Shad Stoddard, and Ozzie Peraza. Absent: CM Julie Johnson.
Park Board Members Present: President Rob Sahr, PBMs Lydia Ronningen, Kimbra Amerman, and Kevin Mehrer. Absent: PBM Josh Mathis.

Others present: PWS Rich Schock, Auditor Tabitha Arnaud, Parks Director Mike Brown, and Parks Clerk Emily Teberg.

Mayor Kersting called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

POOL

End of Season Report and Financials: Parks Clerk Teberg provided a profit and loss report for 2023 YTD comparison to 2022. She noted 2023 lifeguard expenses were about \$6800.00 greater than last year due to competitive starting wages and additional lifeguards on staff to help provide extra support to instructors during swimming lessons. Concessions expense was also greater than 2022, but the concessions income was greater as well. The Hawkins supplies decreased slightly, while the Repairs & Maintenance increased about \$2K. Parks Director Brown explained this was due to additional work needed with the mechanical room upgrades, like electrical and plumbing services. Overall, pool pass revenues increased \$1501.00 while swimming lesson revenues dropped about \$1780.00, likely due to swimming lessons not being able to be offered in August. Overall, the PB had a loss of \$12,965.13 for 2023. PB Pres. Sahr inquired about the City utility bills for November. Auditor Arnaud reported that the November billing for the Park properties was not to be billed and that the accounts had already been corrected and no additional payments would be processed for 2023. Arnaud also reported the City paid \$1960.61 for propane expenses and \$105.00 for boiler inspection fee, in addition to the annual \$67,707.04 for the pool loan (remaining balance of about \$395K, maturing in Aug 2030).

Status of Condition and Improvements

Mechanical System Repairs: PD Brown reported the pump room filters needed to be reset, but all other upgrades are complete. A new pool heater for the large pool will be needed at some point; will ride it out as long as possible.

Pool Liners: PD Brown said the liners were suppose to be installed this fall so he had drained the pool to prep it, but due to scheduling problems and falling temperatures, the contractors pulled out after only a few days on-site. The materials were delivered and are now safely stored for the winter; the contractor advised we are first on the schedule in the spring. CM Peraza asked about the skimmer replacements that My Aquatic Services said were needed (\$7K each x 9). PD Brown said after talking with another contractor, there is no need to spend that for replacements; they need only small repairs that can be done on our own.

Other Maintenance/Improvements: PD Brown shared he is planning to complete some minor plumbing upgrades next year; new shower heads and sink faucets. PB Pres. Sahr asked is there was more thoughts on changing the depth of the pool (reducing the deep end to 5 ft) so that the full pool area could see maximum use (Shallow end sees majority of use since kids can touch the bottom. Deep end is not deep enough for diving and could potentially be more fully utilized if shallower). CM Peraza thought it may be too late for that consideration with the pool liner already ordered/delivered. PD Brown recalled the cost to reduce the depth with the liner process was about \$75K and that he would view that kind of money being more beneficial to add new items to the pool (splash pad, diving well, etc). Clerk Teberg also shared that if the depth is reduced, then Level 5 and 6 swimming lessons could not be offered.

Pool Management Agreement for 2024: No anticipated changes. Will review again at the spring joint meeting for approval.

CITY PARK

New ADA Playground Equipment: PBM Ronningen shared that a new group is floating around the idea of a new community center and one of the location choices is the current City Park lot on Elm St. CM Spelhaug confirmed he is involved in this group that is in the very early stages of brainstorming. He did advise the group that encompassing the current City Park area would not be the best and encouraged them to look at alternate layouts or properties if needed. Ronningen said she has explored grant options and could research further financing options. CMs felt the current location would be ideal for the improvements. Auditor Arnaud advised the boards that a budget would be helpful to give us a better starting point. The last estimate received was about \$250K. CM Peraza said the City could look at committing up to \$100K if the grants need matching dollars. Discussed options to reuse/retain existing playground equipment. Will continue to research more now with a budget.

Other Updates: PWS Schock and PD Brown will work to remove the flagpole by the pool yet this fall. The trees removed from City Park a couple years ago and sent to Rollag to be made into benches have not yet made their way back to us. Discussed local volunteer organizations to consider for new picnic tables.

OTHER CITY/PARK/SHARED PROPERTY

Linden St (Rustad) Lots: PBM Ronningen shared that a “committee” meeting was attempted but scheduling conflicts did not allow many to attend. Discussed the need or concern for testing the soil before planning use; no underground tanks were on this property; it was primarily used for parking and gravel stockpiling. PWS Schock said the entire south property line and SE corner was excavated to 12 ft and no issues were discovered. CM Spelhaug said the City would address it if something is found with any construction.

Memorial Building: Auditor Arnaud shared that the building could use some extra love and attention, even though the long-term future is unknown for the facility, there are basic needs that can be met to keep the facility in good condition in the interim. Discussed bathroom vanity cabinet, kitchen sink upgrades, utility room and storage room improvements, replacing the stove with a newer-used stove that was donated, tables and chairs. PBM Ronningen mentioned maybe the PB could help contribute some for tables and chairs. Discussed that chairs may not be entirely necessary. Arnaud will work with Schock and Brown to put a list of improvements together.

Shared Use/Bike Path: Both the City and Parks & Rec submitted a letter of support to Cass County for their grant application to upgrade the path from the football field to ND Hwy 46. PB would really like to see the path extended north to the new Norman Acres development and possibly to Braaten Addition. CMs agreed that would be a great addition. Will need to coordinate with the County on that as it is in their ROW, possibly work it into the plans if they move forward with the upgrade on the south side. PD Brown shared that Parks & Rec will handle the maintenance of the path for the Summer of 2024, the winter will be co-op between Parks and City staff.

Storage, Equipment, Insurance: Auditor Arnaud shared that City staff is working with PD Brown to rearrange the City Hall garage creating more storage space for Parks. Once Brown has Parks items rearranged, there will also be additional room for the Community Club to store their items too. Discussed storage of equipment and shared insurance policies; annual insurance increase of \$247.00 to cover Parks new Bobcat Toolcat; an insurance inventory of all property/belongings/liabilities should be completed to be sure policies have enough coverage for both entities.

BEAUTIFICATION

Planters, Banners, etc: Discussed the flower planters (were a really great addition this year!), more ideas for 2024. Discussed a watering container option to make watering the planters easier, need a 200-300 gal tank. CM Spelhaug said he may have an extra; PWS Schock said the FD may be parting out a brush truck soon so we should be able to come up with something. Auditor Arnaud shared that the current winter banners are likely going to need replacing next year. Will upgrade them to the mesh designs used for the new summer/butterfly banners. They had less wind resistance and none of them were damaged. Due to the wooden light poles in the downtown area, the banners cannot be installed on them. Looking for ideas to still brighten the downtown area for the winter. Consider using the American flag brackets?? Arnaud will get some quotes.

Mayor Kersting thanked everyone for another great meeting, for attending and continuing to be invested in Kindred!!

MOTION, passed – To adjourn meeting at 7:38 pm. Stoddard moved, Spelhaug seconded. RCV (Roll Call Vote); MCU (Motion Carried Unanimously).

(Minutes subject to council approval.) (Agenda deadline is noon Wednesday the week before the meeting.)

Darrell Kersting, Mayor

Tabitha Arnaud, City Auditor

Date approved