

Regular Meeting  
February 4, 2015  
7:00 p.m.

With due call and notice thereof, the February 4, 2015 regular meeting of the Eden Valley City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Center meeting room. Present were Mayor Bengtson, Councilors Sheets, Bradshaw, Thielen and Kern, and Clerk Haag. Also present Public Works Director Rademacher, Chief Junker, and others. Mayor Bengtson presided.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Thielen, seconded by Bradshaw.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Kern. Items on the consent agenda included Approve Minutes of January 7, 2015 regular meeting, and Approve Donation Resolution #2015-4. Motion to approve consent agenda was seconded by Bradshaw and carried unanimously.

The next item (#2) on the Agenda was John Bradshaw, regarding Tax Forfeiture Property Purchase, but Mr. Bradshaw was not in attendance and the Council moved on to item #3, Mark Eckerly – Policy on Preventing Water Line Freeze-up. Mr. Eckerly and his wife Renee were present and Mr. Eckerly addressed the Council regarding his concerns with the article in the *Eden Valley-Watkins Voice* notifying City utility customers the City would no longer pay the cost of thawing water service lines, or adjust utility bills for those customers running their water in order to prevent their service lines from freezing. Eckerly suggested the Council's responsibility was to protect their constituents and give them what they want, and felt the potential cost of up to \$120/month to run water to prevent freeze-ups was more than most people could afford. He reported his wife is the City Administrator for the City of Paynesville and she had conducted a survey of cities in the State of Minnesota and determined 68% of the cities in the State pay the costs of customers running water to prevent freeze-ups. He noted he agrees with the Council's position on customers paying to thaw their service lines, but does not agree with them having to pay the cost of running their water to prevent freeze-ups. He explained the City of Paynesville has adopted a policy of issuing credit based on previous usage if customers notify the City they are running water to prevent freeze-up and suggested the Council adopt Paynesville's policy. Councilor Kern questioned if Eckerly had copies of any other city's policies, and he responded that he did not, but that his wife had completed a survey and 74 cities in the State had responded, and 68% of those cities that responded did cover the cost of running the water. Mayor Bengtson reported that last year the City had covered the cost, and adjusted utility billings based on previous usage and it had cost the City a considerable amount of money and created a loss in the water fund. Eckerly suggested the Council should be increasing water rates and the tax levy on a yearly basis in order to cover these costs. Eckerly noted the standing motion by the City Council, according to February 5, 2014 city council minutes, was the motion saying the City would cover the cost of thawing lines and adjust for water usage to prevent freeze-ups. Discussion followed, with Public Works Director Rademacher reporting previous to last year, the last time he remembered having issues with freezing water lines was in the 1980's, and suggested looking at it on a year-by-year basis. Clerk Haag reported last winter

approximately 2.9 million gallons of water had been used but not billed because of the adjustments made, which amounted to \$18,000 of lost revenue in the water fund, plus \$9000 paid to the Treatment fund because of our joint water plant agreement with Watkins. Because of the joint treatment plant with Watkins, she had contacted them to see what they were doing this year, and they had adopted a policy at a recent meeting. She did not have a copy of the policy, but was told the policy gave the Council discretion to make adjustments in the event the City ordered the running of water to prevent freeze-ups, but did not allow for adjustment if the customer made the decision to run water on their own. Eckerly encouraged the Council to consider adopting a policy similar to Paynesville's and said he would leave a copy for them to review. He suggested if there was concern over excessive adjustment costs to cap the monthly adjustment amount at \$130/water service. He also said he would go door to door with a petition and bring a crowd of people to the next Council meeting to show support for adopting Paynesville's policy. He also reminded the Council their current motion pays for thawing lines as well as running water, and suggested they may want to change that, as he did agree thawing service lines should be the responsibility of the owner. The Council thanked Mr. Eckerly for his presentation, and he and his wife left the meeting. The Council discussed the issue further, with Councilor Kern indicating he liked the concept of the policy from the City of Watkins. Chief Junker asked to offer his view on the issue and questioned if the Council viewed water and sewer as a utility, which they agreed they did. He further noted if it's a colder winter than usual and he needs to use more electricity or natural gas to heat his home the utility companies do not make any adjustment in the price because of the cold, and thought the same should apply to the City utility, since those residents who do not have issues with freezing lines would be subsidizing those who do if adjustments were made. Council consensus was a policy should be considered, they wished to have more information before adopting one, but there was concern over the standing motion Mr. Eckerly had noted. A motion was made by Bengtson to amend that motion to remove the City's responsibility for the cost of thawing water service lines, but retain, on a case by case basis, that the Council would look at adjusting the water usage and rate for that period. Motion was seconded by Bradshaw and carried unanimously. Clerk Haag is to obtain a copy of Watkins' policy for Council consideration at the next regular meeting.

John Bradshaw was present regarding tax forfeiture property located at 278 Stearns Avenue West, which he has purchased. The property was formerly owned by Michael Opatz, who had passed away and his heirs had abandoned the property leaving taxes and assessments unpaid which led to forfeiture. The unpaid special assessments that were to be re-assessed after tax forfeiture sale consisted of \$3307.00 from the 1996 Street Improvement Project, \$1000.00 for water connection fee, \$203 for delinquent water/sewer bills, \$670 for weed control, and \$117 for delinquent garbage bills. Mr. Bradshaw explained he had purchased the property to be fixed up and resold as a residential property and get it back on the tax rolls. He also reported during the time it had been abandoned he and a neighbor had taken over maintaining the yard after the city had done some initial weed control there which alleviated any further need for weed control by the City through the years. Mr. Bradshaw proposed he would pay the \$3307 Street Improvement Assessment, and the \$1000 water connection fee, but did not care to pay a dead man's bills for water, garbage, and weed control, and offered to present a check for \$4307 to the City immediately as settlement for the total assessments against the property. After

discussion, a motion was made by Kern to accept the offer of \$4307 as settlement for any unpaid special assessments against the property. Motion was seconded by Thielen, and carried, with Jeff Bradshaw abstaining from voting since he is Mr. Bradshaw's son.

The annual meeting with Townships to discuss Fire Protection issues needs to be scheduled, and fire service contracts are due to be renewed. After discussion, the meeting date was scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., in the Fire Hall, and there will be no change in the service contracts proposed for renewal with the Townships. Haag informed the Council the 25-year lease agreement with Eden Lake Township for a meeting room and office space will be expiring in October and she will notify them of that before their annual meeting. Information on current rental rates will be obtained and the Council can discuss proposals for a new lease after more information is available.

Mayor Bengtson opened the Public Forum. There were no comments

The Clerk presented the bills.

Total Expense: \$ 101,123.83

A motion to approve the bills was made by Kern, seconded by Bradshaw, and carried unanimously.

Clerk Haag reported she had checked into the costs of direct deposit payroll and discovered the City would need to obtain additional software that would cost \$595, plus the annual costs for processing would run approximately \$115. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to use the existing supply of payroll check blanks for now and look at the issue again in the future.

Haag provided cash & investments report for January 2015, plus Budget to Actual report for 2014 to the Council for their review, and also reported she has been preparing for the annual audit which is to begin on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Haag requested and received permission to attend the annual Clerks & Finance Officers Conference March 17<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup>.

The City Council tour and orientation was begun, but not completed on January 28<sup>th</sup>, and the Council scheduled Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. in the Civic Center for the completion.

Bids were received to separate the lighting in the Event Center to allow switches to control the library lighting as well as the event center lighting, since they are currently on one switching system. In addition, the lighting in the library will be upgraded to energy efficient fluorescent bulbs, which should provide better lighting as well as lower electric bills. Bids submitted were from Valley View Electric in the amount of \$2412.68 and Nohner Electric in the amount of \$4573.00. After discussion, a motion was made by Thielen to accept the bid from Valley View Electric and have the work completed. Motion was seconded by Kern, and carried unanimously.

Chief Junker had not had time to compile the information for his monthly report and will have that next month. He reported he has been working on Mid-Summer Blast scheduling, they

have scheduled Jon Pardi as the main entertainment for the night, and he has been receiving inquiries about the possibility of overnight camping for RVs and campers. He asked if the Council would consider the possibility of utilizing some of the city irrigation land for camping sites, noting it would require agreement from the land lease holder, liability waivers, insurance issues, extra security, and fee structure. After discussion, a motion was made by Bengtson, seconded by Sheets, and carried unanimously, to authorize Chief Junker to research all of the requirements for use of the irrigation fields for camping and report back to the Council.

Public Works Director Rademacher reported he is in the process of obtaining bids for a new mower for the 2015 season.

He also reported the irrigation land lease with Becker Farms is up for renewal and he will ask them to attend the next regular Council meeting to discuss it with the Council.

Correspondence from the Minnesota Department of Health regarding their inspection of the City's water supply system was provided to the Council and reviewed by Rademacher.

Councilor Sheets thanked Rademacher for his input on the tour of city facilities, as she felt it was a very informative session.

Next meeting date will be the special meeting with the Townships for Fire Protection on February 25, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Fire Hall and the next regular meeting date will be March 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Center.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Thielen, seconded by Kern.

Attest:

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Mona Haag, Clerk/Treasurer

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Brent Bengtson, Mayor

# CITY OF EDEN VALLEY

## \*Check Summary Register©

Name	Check Date	Check Amt	
<b>10100 STATE BANK IN EV</b>			
Paid Chk# 008526	AFSCME LOCAL 65	1/28/2015	\$251.71 UNION DUES
Paid Chk# 008527	CENTER POINT ENERGY	1/28/2015	\$2,616.47 NATURAL GAS
Paid Chk# 008528	AURELIA CHRISTLE	1/28/2015	\$550.01 RENT DEPOSIT REFUND
Paid Chk# 008529	FLEET SERVICES	1/28/2015	\$558.31 SQUAD LEASE PAYMENT
Paid Chk# 008530	JOAN KLEIN	1/28/2015	\$212.84 RENT DEPOSIT REFUND, LESS JAN.
Paid Chk# 008531	MADISON NATIONAL LIFE	1/28/2015	\$348.04 DISABILITY INSURANCE
Paid Chk# 008532	MEEKER COOPERATIVE	1/28/2015	\$638.50 ELECTRIC
Paid Chk# 008533	MRWA	1/28/2015	\$450.00 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION - BERG
Paid Chk# 008534	SELECT ACCOUNT	1/28/2015	\$324.63 FLEX
Paid Chk# 008535	STATE BANK IN EDEN VALLEY	1/28/2015	\$20.00 SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX RENT
Paid Chk# 008536	T-MOBILE	1/28/2015	\$86.32 PHONE
Paid Chk# 008537	MN DOLI	1/28/2015	\$100.00 ELEVATOR LICENSE
Paid Chk# 008538	LONA BRUTGER	2/5/2015	\$30.00 EDA MTG 1/26/15
Paid Chk# 008539	DAVE CURRENS	2/5/2015	\$30.00 EDA MTG 1/26/15
Paid Chk# 008540	CONNIE HAAG	2/5/2015	\$30.00 EDA MTG 1/26/15
Paid Chk# 008541	BARB HAGEMEIER	2/5/2015	\$30.00 EDA MTG. 1/26/15
Paid Chk# 008542	STEVE SCHMITT	2/5/2015	\$30.00 EDA MTG. 1/26/15
Paid Chk# 008543	AMERIPRIDE SERVICES	2/5/2015	\$165.09 UNIFORM RENTAL
Paid Chk# 008544	JUANITA ARENS	2/5/2015	\$450.00 SERVICES
Paid Chk# 008545	ARVIG	2/5/2015	\$1,468.48 PHONE SERVICE
Paid Chk# 008546	BANYON DATA SYSTEMS	2/5/2015	\$795.00 SUPPORT-FUND ACCTG
Paid Chk# 008547	BCBS/RESOURCE TRAINING	2/5/2015	\$5,329.00 INSURANCE
Paid Chk# 008548	BELL APPLIANCE INC	2/5/2015	\$304.00 REPAIRS
Paid Chk# 008549	BORDER STATES	2/5/2015	\$565.84 SUPPLIES
Paid Chk# 008550	BRAUN INTERTEC CORP	2/5/2015	\$1,154.50 TESTING
Paid Chk# 008551	CENTRA CARE HEALTH PAYNES	2/5/2015	\$315.75 HEPATITIS VACCINE
Paid Chk# 008552	CENTRA SOTA	2/5/2015	\$75.00 SERVICES
Paid Chk# 008553	CENTRAL MCGOWAN	2/5/2015	\$68.84 SUPPLIES
Paid Chk# 008554	CITY OF WATKINS	2/5/2015	\$839.45 STEVE'S HOURS
Paid Chk# 008555	COMDATA	2/5/2015	\$367.93 GAS, SUPPLIES, SERVICES, POSTA
Paid Chk# 008556	DEADRICKS CARPET	2/5/2015	\$170.95 MAINT - CARPET
Paid Chk# 008557	DIVINE CAKES	2/5/2015	\$209.00 SUPPLIES - HOLIDAY GATHERING &
Paid Chk# 008558	EDEN VALLEY LUMBER CO	2/5/2015	\$95.40 SUPPLIES
Paid Chk# 008559	ERKENS WATER SOFTENER SE	2/5/2015	\$55.80 SUPPLIES
Paid Chk# 008560	GOPHER STATE ONE-CALL	2/5/2015	\$104.35 SERVICES & ANNUAL FEE
Paid Chk# 008561	GTS	2/5/2015	\$310.00 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Paid Chk# 008562	MONA HAAG	2/5/2015	\$40.25 MILEAGE
Paid Chk# 008563	HEARTLAND SECURITY	2/5/2015	\$189.96 SERVICES
Paid Chk# 008564	HENRYS WATERWORKS	2/5/2015	\$1,344.92 SUPPLIES
Paid Chk# 008565	KELLYS HEATING AND AC	2/5/2015	\$295.00 REPAIRS
Paid Chk# 008566	KIMBALL PARTS CITY	2/5/2015	\$9.80 SUPPLIES
Paid Chk# 008567	LAKE REGION FIREFIGHTERS	2/5/2015	\$40.00 2015 DUES
Paid Chk# 008568	LMC	2/5/2015	\$300.00 SAFETY TRAINING
Paid Chk# 008569	MARK BRUTGERS ON-SITE SER	2/5/2015	\$162.50 REPAIRS
Paid Chk# 008570	MEEKER COUNTY AUDITOR	2/5/2015	\$900.00 DISPATCH SERVICES
Paid Chk# 008571	MEEKER COUNTY COURT SERVI	2/5/2015	\$100.00 STS SERVICES

Name	Check Date	Check Amt
Paid Chk# 008572 MEEKER COUNTY SHERIFF	2/5/2015	\$20.00 REPORTS
Paid Chk# 008573 MINNESOTA COMPUTER SYSTE	2/5/2015	\$74.30 SUPPLIES
Paid Chk# 008574 MN PFA	2/5/2015	\$23,610.05 PFA LOAN INTEREST
Paid Chk# 008575 MR. HEATING & AC, LLC	2/5/2015	\$3,895.00 WATER HEATER
Paid Chk# 008576 440600 NCPERS MINNESOTA	2/5/2015	\$16.00 INSURANCE
Paid Chk# 008577 NOHNER ELECTRIC	2/5/2015	\$80.00 REPAIRS
Paid Chk# 008578 OFFICE DEPOT	2/5/2015	\$154.79 SUPPLIES
Paid Chk# 008579 PAYNESVILLE PRESS	2/5/2015	\$44.63 ADV
Paid Chk# 008580 BOB PESCHON	2/5/2015	\$200.00 SERVICES
Paid Chk# 008581 JAMES RADEMACHER	2/5/2015	\$12.65 MILEAGE
Paid Chk# 008582 RAMSEY PRINTING	2/5/2015	\$31.85 SUPPLIES
Paid Chk# 008583 REGION VI CHIEFS ASSOC.	2/5/2015	\$25.00 2015 DUES
Paid Chk# 008584 SELECT ACCOUNT	2/5/2015	\$594.63 FLEX
Paid Chk# 008585 STEARNS COUNTY AUDITOR/TR	2/5/2015	\$75.00 AUDIT SERVICES
Paid Chk# 008586 THEIN WELL CO	2/5/2015	\$8,768.00 WELL #2 MAINT
Paid Chk# 008587 THIELEN EXCAVATING LLC	2/5/2015	\$1,615.00 SERVICES
Paid Chk# 008588 THUNDER VALLEY	2/5/2015	\$52.09 SUPPLIES
Paid Chk# 008589 TOSHIBA FINANCIAL SERVICES	2/5/2015	\$115.09 COPIER LEASE
Paid Chk# 008590 UC LABORATORY	2/5/2015	\$156.20 SERVICES
Paid Chk# 008591 VALLEY VIEW ELECTRIC	2/5/2015	\$125.00 RENTAL & SUPPLIES
Paid Chk# 008592 VERIZON	2/5/2015	\$12.93 PHONE SERVICE
Paid Chk# 008593 VOSS PLUMBING & HEATING	2/5/2015	\$75.00 SERVICES
Paid Chk# 008594 XCEL ENERGY	2/5/2015	\$3,750.61 ELECTRIC
<b>Total Checks</b>		<b>\$66,037.46</b>

CHECK#	TO:	FOR:	AMOUNT
EFT73E	IRS	Payroll Taxes	1,494.66
39980	USPS	Stamps	332.00
EFT74E	ING	MN DCP	100.00
EFT75E	IRS	Payroll Taxes	1,858.29
EFT76E	PERA	PERA	1,839.16
EFT77E	US Dept HHSCMS	ACA Reinsurance Program	567.00
39981	Lisa Burlage	FEMA Grant Application	300.00
EFT78E	MN Revenue	Sales Tax	368.00
39982	MN BCA	Background check	15.00
EFT79E	ING	MN DCP	100.00
EFT80E	IRS	Payroll Taxes	1,830.49
EFT81E	PERA	PERA	1,711.01
EFT82E	MN Revenue	State withholding tax	713.77
	City Utilities	City water/sewer usage	1,357.87
JE-20153	Water Treatment Plant	January Usage	8,599.50
22480-			
22485	Payroll	Salaries	6,979.66
22486-			
22492	Payroll	Salaries	6,919.96

TOTAL: \$ 35,086.37

GRAND TOTAL: \$ 101,123.83