

**Minneola City Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Minneola City Hall  
March 2, 2021 at 6:30 PM**

The City of Minneola Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Pat Kelley. Also present were Vice Mayor Pam Serviss, Councilor Debbie Flinn, Councilor Kelly Price, Councilor Joe Saunders, Scott Gerken (City Attorney), Mark Johnson (City Manager), and Christina Stidham (City Clerk). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all present were practicing "social distancing" by remaining at least six feet apart in the council chambers.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Mayor Kelley** called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A moment of silence was observed, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Vice Mayor Serviss**.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

There were no changes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Monica Luna**, City resident, spoke regarding allowing backyard chickens.

**Kevin Dixon**, City resident, spoke in favor of allowing backyard chickens.

**Mayor Kelley** confirmed that the issue of backyard chickens was discussed by the Planning and Zoning Commission, but the motion to recommend changes to allow backyard chickens failed by a vote of 3 to 3. He explained that the City Council relies on the Planning and Zoning Commission for recommendations.

**Paul Giacalone**, City resident and P & Z Board Member, thanked the City Council and the City Manager.

**Daniel Smith**, City resident and P & Z Board Member, spoke regarding allowing urban backyard chickens and the code petition process.

**Item 1: Problem Gambling Awareness Proclamation**

**Mayor Kelley** read the Problem Gambling Awareness Proclamation recognizing March 2021, as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in the City of Minneola demonstrating its support in addressing problem gambling.

**CITY MANAGER'S CONSENT AGENDA**

**Item 2: City Council Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2021**

**Item 3: F.D.E.M. Contract Modification Extension Request****Item 4: John Deere Gator TX – Purchase Request – Budgeted****Item 5: Oak Valley Water Treatment Plant Emergency Repair Request – Funds Available****Item 6: Danfoss V.F.D. Controller Purchase Request – Funds Available****Public Comment**

There were no comments.

**MOTION by Vice Mayor Serviss, SECONDED by Councilor Price, to approve the Consent Agenda.**

**AYE:** Serviss, Flinn, Kelley, Price, Saunders

**NAY:** None

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS****Item 7: Ordinance 2021-05 – M.S.T.U. Authorization – First Reading**

**Scott Gerken** read Ordinance 2021-05 by title only. He explained that this is first reading, so no vote is required.

**Mark Johnson** confirmed that this authorization is only for a one-year period.

**Public Comment**

There were no comments.

**Item 8: Land Discussion – Acquisitions & Divestments**

**Councilman Saunders** provided a list of properties for discussion starting with the City owned property across from the Lake Minneola High School, which was donated for a park. He explained the property is separated by the entrance to Pine Bluff and the representatives interested in purchasing the land wanted to build a gas station on the property. He recommended the City determine a use for the property that will benefit the community and something that Pine Bluff residents will want before considering selling the land.

**Mayor Kelley** commented that if it was donated to be used as a park, he would prefer using it for that purpose and expanding the Minneola Athletic Complex.

**Councilor Saunders** suggested holding a workshop with the residents of Pine Bluff to inquire what they would like there.

**Councilor Saunders** briefly spoke regarding possible purposes for the city property near Founders Ridge with a cell tower.

98 **Mayor Kelley** confirmed he wasn't opposed to selling that piece of property.  
99

100 **Councilor Saunders** spoke regarding the large city property near Grassy Lake.  
101

102 **Mayor Kelley** commented about the Founders Ridge P.U.D. possibly changing and adding more  
103 commercial uses.  
104

105 **Councilor Saunders** spoke regarding the Car Store property as the owner intends on moving his  
106 business and may be selling the property. It could be used for additional parking and to build a  
107 road into Trailhead Park.  
108

109 **Councilor Saunders** spoke regarding the property next to City Hall and possible uses if purchased.  
110 However, this property isn't located in the C.R.A.  
111

112 **Councilor Saunders** spoke regarding City donated land to the school board and our intention to  
113 donate more land for a middle school. He also confirmed that we will need land currently owned  
114 by the Lake County School Board for expansion of the wastewater treatment plant.  
115

116 **Mark Johnson** updated Council on the progress being made for a new library.  
117

118 **Mayor Kelley** requested:

- 119 • Scheduling a workshop with Pine Bluff.
- 120 • Continue discussing the Car Store property.
- 121 • Mark Johnson and Councilor Saunders meet with S.J.R.W.M.D. regarding the Trailhead Park  
122 property.
- 123 • Further consider and discuss the property next to City Hall.
- 124 • Scott Gerken to continue working with the Lake County School Board attorney on the Scrub  
125 Jay Lane property  
126

127 **Sean Parks**, Lake County Commissioner, introduced the new County Manager Allen Rosen.  
128

129 **Mayor Kelley** requested Commissioner Parks attend Minneola City Council meetings on a  
130 quarterly basis.  
131

132 **Commissioner Parks** confirmed he would start attending Minneola City Council meetings  
133 quarterly.  
134

135 **Allen Rosen**, Lake County Manager, spoke regarding his experience and the excellent service he  
136 received working with City of Minneola employees. He spoke regarding building a partnership.  
137

### 138 **FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

139

140 There were no comments.  
141

### 142 **REPORTS**

143

144 **Mark Johnson:**

- Stated the Supervisor of Elections Office is requesting the City waive rental fees while our election expenses have increased and asked the City Council if they wanted to waive the rental fees.
  - The City Council's consensus was to allow the city manager to make that decision.
- Explained a food distribution event is tentatively scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Asked if the City Council would entertain waiving forty percent (40%) of the building permit fees for existing property owners performing property maintenance activities.
  - Council was agreeable to waiving fees if possible.
- Explained they are working on an ordinance to require vacant landowners to post "no trespassing" notices every five hundred feet (500').
- Stated the art committee plans to make a presentation to the City Council on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Reminded the City Council that the A.A.R.P. will be at City Hall on Tuesdays and Wednesdays through mid-April to provide free income tax preparation services to senior citizens.
- Reminded the City Council the Lake Minneola High School Band will be using Trailhead Park on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to film their performance for a band competition.
- Updated the City Council about a meeting with a contractor that may be interested in modifying the cemetery processes and procedures.

**Mayor Kelley:**

- Asked Scott Gerken who was responsible for tree maintenance on a utility easement.
  - Scott Gerken confirmed that residential property owners are typically responsible for maintenance of trees in their yards even if they are located in a utility easement.

**MOTION by Councilor Price, SECONDED by Vice Mayor Serviss, to adjourn the meeting.**

**AYE:** Serviss, Flinn, Kelley, Price, Saunders

**NAY:** None

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

*(Meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M.)*

Pat Kelley, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Christina Stidham, City Clerk

