EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING: March 13, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Tim Eiler, Council Randy Ebert, Terrill Anderson, Carolyn Brooks

MEMBERS ABSENT: Thomas Schufman

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Brenda Fisk

OTHERS PRESENT: Cap O'Rourke

EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING IS AUDIO RECORDED

Call to Order

Emergency Meeting held to collect City Council consensus opinion regarding 2025 legislature priorities so that the city council members who will be meeting with our State Representative (Andrew Myers) and State Senator (Ann Johnson-Stewart) in the following week can give a consensus opinion:

Council received the following documents:

a) MN Small Cities 2025 Legislative Priorities
b) League of MN Cities Fact Sheet – Bonding
c) League of MN Cities Fact Sheet – Emergency Medical Services
d) League of MN Cities Fact Sheet – Housing, Zoning, and Land Use
e) League of MN Cities Fact Sheet – Understanding the Relationship of Cities and Homeowners' Associations
f) League of MN Cities Fact Sheet – Local Sales Taxes
g) League of MN Cities Fact Sheet – Local Government Aid
h) League of MN Cities Federal Issue Highlights
i) League of MN Cities 2025 Legislative Priorities:
j) League of MN Cities – Senate bill would reduce city cost participation in Trunk Highway Projects
k) League of MN Cities – Senate labor committee considers bill that would alter building permit fee methodology
l) League of MN Cities – Focus on New Laws : local affordable housing aid and statewide local housing aid reporting and policy changes

Mayor introduced Cap O'Rourke, the Executive Director for the MN Association of Small Cities. This organization advocates for small cities with populations under 5,000 and currently has 300 members. The group focuses on policies and funding changes that affect small cities. They review bills that will go before the legislature and determine high priority bills that are opposed or supported in the best interest of small cities. They also help connect cities with state agencies and key organizations for items specific to your city. Membership provides dashboard specific to small cities that review current legislation. Members receive a link to the dashboard, weekly and monthly updates, newsletters, and lunch and learns. He gave overview of bills that had been worked on in the past including transportation, broadband, and local government aid. The keys issues for small cities this year are to maintain or increase assistance funding levels, respect local authority regarding housing and how we do it, emergency medical services, audits – raise threshold of when audits required and keep cheaper.

Council asked questions about the building permit bills, community development bill and tax exempt bond bill with O'Rourke describing why they were being opposed.

Mayor closed the meeting at 8:15pm. (no motion made)

ATTEST: Brenda Fisk

Brenda Fisk, Adm/Clerk/Treasurer