

HERON LAKE CITY COUNCIL

March 5, 2025

7:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING

Attended by Glenn Kuhnau, Zach Schumacher, Joe Liepold, Marlys Olson, Mark Haberman, Lance Baumann, John Haberman and Chad Diemer. Mayor Andrew Rasche is absent.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Pro-Tem Mayor Kuhnau.

APPROVE AGENDA

- **Any additions**

Motion made by Council Member Haberman to approve the agenda. Seconded by Council Member Baumann. Vote on the motion: Aye – Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann, Nay – none. Motion passed.

- **Approve meeting minutes February 5, 2025**

Motion made by Council Member Schumacher to approve the February 5, 2025, meeting minutes. Seconded by Council Member Haberman. Vote on the motion: Aye – Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann, Nay – none. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **gWorks Update**

Clerk Olson stated that they are still working on small issues. Getting a little easier to get around in.

- **Forfeited House Update**

Public Works does have the house all cleaned out and ready for demolition. Looking at next week for demolition – depending on the weather.

- **Website Update**

Clerk Olson was not able to get any further on the website. Council Member Schumacher requested quotes for a website.

- **BioEnergy – Industrial Well**

Tabled until next meeting.

- **Apartment Renter**

Waiting for the Writ to be signed by the judge. Once the Writ is signed the sheriff's department will come and get the resident.

- **Request to purchase – Lot next to Daycare Center**

Just a comment from the owner of the daycare center. He is wanting to purchase the lot next to the building – not take down the mural but put some parking spaces in that area.

- **New TV in Community Center Big Hall**

Tabled until next meeting

- **Senior Room Parking Lot Door – Cement Sinking**

Tabled until Spring

- **Southwest Broadband vs Federated**

- **Meeting 2/10/2025 @ 5:30 pm – Mark Polz**

Pro-Tem Mayor Kuhnau discussed about the meeting in Jackson. This meeting was for all of Jackson County Mayors. Kuhnau stated that they did vote on the subject and want to keep Southwest Broadband.

NEW BUSINESS

- **PeopleService Yearly Contract**

- **Proposal Part Time Wastewater/Water Operator**

Tabled until we get more information from PeopleService on the contract.

- **HLMLS – No Customer Charging**

Council Member Schumacher will talk with the Liquor Store Manager about the fact that there will be no more running/holding tabs for future payment.

- **Request for Sandbags available in Heron Lake**

A resident came to the city office wondering if we could get sandbags closer from Jackson in case of future flooding. Public Works commented that he will talk with Wes @ Jackson County to see if we can have bags on hand in Heron Lake.

- **Update Police Chief Applicants**

Council Member discussed the interview with one candidate for the position of Police Chief. He went on to say that there is no concern about ability, but he lives in Wells. Discussion on response time. Discussion on whether he was to take squad car home. Discussed how much to offer.

Motion made by Council Member Haberman to offer \$62,000/year salary. Have six months to relocate, which must be within a 5-minute response time. The squad car will stay in Heron Lake when he is off duty. Seconded by Council Member Baumann. Vote on the motion: Aye – Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann, Nay – none. Motion passed.

- **Update Deputy Clerk Applicants**

Again, Council Member Schumacher reviewed one candidate for Deputy Clerk. He stated that she was not a fit for the City of Heron Lake. Discussion about offering the job to our past clerk. She had put in an application. **Motion made by Council Member Haberman to offer the job to Stacy Anderson for \$22/hr. Seconded by Council Member Schumacher. Vote on the motion: Aye – Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann, Nay – none. Motion passed.** Council Member requested that if either do not accept, will need to put out more Help-Wanted ads in the local papers.

- **Community Center Floor Cleaning Quotes**

Received a quote from DeRuyter Cleaning & Floor Care. He would like to do all floors - tiled & carpeted. He had two quotes provided. Council Member Schumacher is requesting two more quotes for the next meeting.

- **Beacon Update Quote**

Discussion on our current meter reading device. A quote was presented by Metering & Technology.

Motion made by Council Member Schumacher to accept estimate. Seconded by Council Member Baumann. Vote on the motion: Aye – Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann, Nay – none. Motion passed.

- **Resolution 2025-05 Donation**

Motion made by Council Member Baumann to accept the donation of \$250 from the HL-O FFA for the Heron Lake Fire Department. Seconded by Council Member Haberman. Vote on the motion: Aye – Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann, Nay – none. Motion passed.

LIQUOR STORE – MONTHLY UPDATE – BRIDGIT PRESTON, MANAGER

Manager not present for updates.

AMBULANCE – MONTHLY REPORT – JOE LIEPOLD, DIRECTOR

Billing company – Looking at changing billing company to what Lake and Jackson Ambulance Services use. Had eleven calls both medical & lift assists in February. The Zoll will be serviced tomorrow – tech coming. Getting some clarification on the mutual aid contracts with Windom, Worthington and Lakefield.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT – CHAD DIEMER, FIRE CHIEF

Large grass fire last week. Talked with the DNR about how to get paid. We are to bill the DNR and the DNR will try to get payment from the railroad. Cad is waiting to hear from the SE DNR. Side-by-side is not here yet. February training was virtual. March training will be CPR Certification.

PEOPLESERVICE – MONTHLY REPORT - JOE LIEPOLD, OPERATOR

February 2025 report reviewed. Since leak was repaired at New Vision, we have gone down 4.6 gal. Meter bodies have been ordered. Wastewater flow has decreased since the New Vision repair. Continue to stay mindful of your water temperature to make sure it does not go below 40° for risk of frozen pipes. Having been checking the cradle point at the HLBE site because it is using more data. Will have someone out to see if we need to replace it or if there is something to repair. Wastewater ponds will be full by April so planning an April discharge.

PUBLIC WORKS – MONTHLY REPORT – JOHN HABERMAN, PUBLIC WORKS

- **Tabled – Crack Seal? Mastic?**

Discussion on crack seals and mastic. Per Public Works, \$20,000 will cover a lot of ground.

Council Member Schumacher made a motion to have Jackson County to do this at no more than \$20,000. Seconded by Council Member Baumann. Vote on the motion: Aye – Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann, Nay – none. Motion passed.

- **Tabled – Senior Room Parking Lot Door – Cement Sinking**

Tabled again until Spring.

Discussion on taking surplus items to the suction in Fulda.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT – POLICE CHIEF

- **Heron Lake Police Report** – no report was left before the last day of Chief Fauglid.
 - **Building Inspections, Ordinance Issues, Blight, etc.**

Talk with Sheriff Haken on what they are willing to do.

- **Jackson County Report**

CLAIMS

- **Review Claims**

Motion made by Council Member Baumann to pay the claims. Seconded by Schumacher. Vote on the motion: Aye – Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann, Nay – none. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Next Council Meeting – April 16, 2025 @ 7:00 pm LBA&E**

County Commissioner Liepold wanted to make us aware of bridge repair on County Road 9. Two bridges will be repaired which will cause an interruption between Heron Lake and Okabena for two years.

Meeting closed by Pro-Tem Mayor Kuhnau.

Submitted by: _____

Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: _____

Rasche, Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann