Mayor Paul Whitcomb called the meeting to order. Council members present was Jack Edmonds and Jules Zimmer. Staff present, Administrator Robert Barbian, Finance Director Steve Jackson, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, Police Chief Todd Frederick., Clerk Shawna Jenkins, Liquor store manager Nancy Campbell, Wastewater Plant Manager Chris Klinghagen, and Fire Chief Ron Lawrence. Absent was and Jeff Reynolds & Thom Walker.

Resolution 18-32 – Approving Aldi Easement

Barbian advised that this easement was brought up at a previous meeting, and Attorney Paul Dove has reviewed this document.

EDMONDS MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 18-32. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ladder One Discussion

Lawrence reported that the current ladder truck failed inspection last month. If we were to refurbish the truck, it could be more than $300,000. if we replace the bucket that would be about $60,000.

He feels a ladder truck is needed in the city. The closest ladder truck is about 30 minutes away. That time could make a big difference in an emergency. Without a ladder truck the Department’s ISO rating may go down to a 5.

Whitcomb asked if they look at these trucks every year. Lawrence said he asked the inspector, as he questioned how the ladder developed 15 cracks in the past year when it has not been used extensively.

Jackson said the interest rate they quote isn’t bad, but the city could probably do a bit better. Staff thinks this needs a lot of discussion, as the townships should probably buy into it.

When engine 8 was purchased, the Townships did pay a portion of that. Lawrence said the Townships are aware of the engine that is listed in the CIP.

Whitcomb said the Township always asks what it will cost them individually, so suggested that staff work out those numbers. Lawrence replied that they will work out the numbers and get that information to the Townships. This would be the first out truck for calls they receive.

Zimmer said a new one is the way to go, as you are not buying someone else’s problems. He asked how long a new one would last. Lawrence replied that the ladder alone is warranted for 20 years.

Jackson asked if the truck committee has looked at getting a ladder verses an engine and ladder. Lawrence replied that the entire truck committee has not discussed this as of yet.
**Tornado / Attack Sirens**

Lawrence said dispatch could not set the sirens off yesterday, so they have been doing some additional testing, which of course prompted phone calls to City Hall and the Police Station. The siren near McDonalds has 3 of the 4 drive motors are out and needs to be replaced. Zimmer asked when that was put in. Lawrence said it is likely over 20 years old, as the motors last 20 years.

They would also like to install one on the west side of town in the future.

ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REPAIR OF THE ONE NEAR MCDONALDS FOR $2,700. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Sewer Billing Discussion**

Connie Wangen, Public Utilities Mgr. has brought forth a few billing policy issues. Here is a brief summary of each of the policy issues on billings that City Council input and direction is requested.

1. Billing Consistency Issue: There are rental properties of a similar or same classification that are charged Sewer usage in two different manners.

   a. There are about 7 properties used as duplexes served with one water lateral, sewer lateral and one meter that are sent one water bill and one sewer bill plus an additional bill for the second unit for sewer at the minimum usage rate. The first bill sent for sewer and water is based upon water usage for the property. There are about 17 properties that are duplexes or more that have one water and one sewer bill-based usage. No additional units are billed for usage.

   b. Staff believes establishing the same treatment of the 24 properties is appropriate.

The Council agreed that there should be one sewer fee per water/sewer line. It would be up to the landlord to determine how to split that fee up among the tenants.

2. Hockey Center sewer usage & bill: Currently the hockey center monthly sewer bill is based upon the average water usage occurring in January, February, and March. They have requested that the usage be based upon an average annual usage due to the high usage occurring in the winter months. In addition, they have requested that a reduction be allowed for the 1” of rink ice disposed of outside at the end of the season due to the water not going to the sewer. For the two rinks this has been estimated at 15,702 gallons. The calculation for usage, not the ice would occur annually. This year the bill would be 922.53 per month. Under the current system which gives no allowance for the seasonality of the business or disposal of ice the bill equates to a monthly charge of $1,551.38.
Whitcomb asked what is done with the layer of ice. Frederick replied that the ice is chipped off and put out into the parking lot to melt.

3. Princeton Mall sewer usage & bill: The owner, Jon George has requested that he receive a sewer bill equal to the average annual usage rather than that based upon the seasonal January, February and March billing average. This changes his rate for meter one from a 2017 rate of 47.25 to a seasonal calculation amount of 86.63 to an annual calculation of 72.66. For meter 2 from a 2017 rate of 94.50 to a seasonal calculation of 136.50 to an annual calculation of 131.25.

Barbian also mentioned the Washboard, which is on a well. It would be beneficial to ask to put a meter on the well to determine how much water is being used to calculate the sewer properly.

4. Billings for nonprofits and churches: In the past sewer and water billings to nonprofits and churches were set to be at residential rates. The Public Utilities changed in the recent past to have churches and nonprofits billed at commercial rates. For sewer billing the rate for commercial and residential is the same except when it is a minimum bill. In this case residential is 21.00 and commercial is 42.00 per month. There are three of the 10 city services that are consistently at minimal sewer usage. They are Princeton Panty, Bethany Lutheran Church and First Congregational Church. Would you like to change current policy?

The council's consensus is to leave the churches as residential.

The rink is very seasonal, in that it doesn't get used much during part of the year.

Council wants to leave the mall billing calculations as it is.

Sidewalk Plowing discussion

At the January Study Session, the council discussed sidewalk snow clearing. Some business owners along the west side of Rum River Drive feel the City should also clear their sidewalks. The City currently cleans the East side of Rum River Drive from the Roundabout down to Smith Systems Road, and the Trail that goes down First Street and loops around to Hwy 95 and goes down 21st and around the Walmart and Liquor Store areas.

Most cities only clear sidewalks adjacent to City owned property. If the City only cleared sidewalks that were adjacent to City owned property, it would be the sidewalks along the Public Works Building, the Civic Center, Hwy 95 / Rum River Drive Roundabout, City Hall, the Mall Parking lots, Library and Mark Park.

Roxy with Hayes K9 Grooming stated that she understands why the city plows a portion of the East Side of Rum River Drive but does not feel that the city should be plowing along First Street and all the way to Walmart, and the Liquor store. Also, there are cars parked
when and where they should not be and she questioned why those vehicles are not being towed.

Carol Ossell read the comments from the January 4th minutes that were included in the packet. She said she does not understand why the city does one side, and not the other side.

Whitcomb responded that the City owns both mall parking lots and is responsible for doing the sidewalks on the roundabout and over the bridge on Rum River Drive. The past plow route continued down the East side of Rum River Drive, which began with a previous Public works Supervisor. With these complains, he feels maybe the City should stop doing that, and only clear the sidewalks directly adjacent to City property.

Ossell asked why the city plows Rum River Drive and First Street, as they are County Roads. Jackson replied that the City does receive compensation from the County for plowing those 2 roads

Ossell said the downtown looked very bad after one of the spring snowstorms, with large ridges of snow along the curbs.

Zimmer commented that in looking at the options that were brought up at the January Study Session, he agrees with Whitcomb that the city should change their policy and only clear sidewalks adjacent to city owned property. At that meeting, it was also mentioned that there would need to be some public relations to notify people that are on the current snow plow route so they are aware they will need to begin clearing their sidewalks.

Edmonds asked Gerold for the standard routine when the city has a snow storm

Gerold responded that there are a lot of variables in what time they start. Many times, they start at about 2am, as it takes approximately 8 hours with all trucks after a 4-inch snowfall. Many times, a snowfall takes 2 days to really clean up well.

If a snowfall is large, they run the grader against the traffic. They put the side blade on the sidewalk to pull what they can be reach. They then go the correct direction to pile the snow up, then the blower comes and blows it into trucks for removal.

Whitcomb said every city has the same problems when there is a big snow event. Down in St Paul, it takes weeks to clean up after a large event, and they have a very large crew that is working 24 hours a day.

Frederick responded to Haye’s complaint regarding about the illegally parked cars. He cannot tow a vehicle immediately. He has to identify the owner, wait a certain amount of time, ticket the owner and then they can tow. It does put Public Works in a tough situation when plowing if there is a vehicle in the way.

The Council did not want to make any changes to the current snow plow policy with only 3 council members present. Staff will put it on the June 28th meeting.
Liquor Store Employees – Accept resignation of Caitlan Hovde, and hire Ashley Johnson

Campbell reported that Caitlan Hovde was a no show / no call for 3 days. Campbell left her a couple messages, but they were not returned.

She has interviewed a few applicants and is requesting to hire Ashley Johnson.

ZIMMER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CAITLAN HOVDE, AND TO HIRE ASHLEY JOHNSON. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED

Adjournment

ZIMMER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE STUDY SESSION AT 5:47PM. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully Submitted,

________________________________________
Shawna Jenkins
City Clerk

ATTEST:

________________________________________
Paul Whitcomb, Mayor