



City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 5, 2024 7:00 PM

Cologne Community Center, 1211 Village Parkway

Vision Statement

The City of Cologne is a vibrant small town that respects its heritage, embraces its future and offers a high quality of life for all who live, work and visit our community.

Mayor: Matt Lein
Councilmember: Carol Szaroletta
Councilmember: Sarah Bruss
Councilmember: Rachel Lenzen
Councilmember: Nathan Kells

NOTE: AGENDA ITEMS ARE APPROXIMATE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE ACCORDING TO LENGTH OF DISCUSSION. TO ENSURE THAT YOU ARE PRESENT FOR ITEMS OF INTEREST, PLEASE ARRIVE AT 7:00 PM.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Lein called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilmembers Bruss, Kells, Lenzen and Szaroletta were present. Also present was City Administrator Michelle Morrison.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ADOPT AGENDA

City Administrator Morrison asked that the agenda be modified to add item e. Approve Benton Creek Area Improvements Pay Request #3 on the consent agenda. Motion by Councilmember Szaroletta to adopt the revised agenda, second by Councilmember Kells. Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITOR'S PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS, CORRESPONDENCE

a. Launch Café Cory Magstadt and John Pennucci

Cory Magstadt, Executive Director of Launch Ministries and John Pennucci, Launch Café manager gave a history of Launch Ministries with its focus on working with youth between the ages of 18 and 29 years old. Their mission is to help individuals move from Crisis to Stability. They provide emergency shelter for up to 60 days and have a drop-in facility in Chaska. Currently they are planning on teaching the youth employment skills by providing jobs at Launch Café. The youth will be transported to and from Chaska to work their shifts. There will always be supervised staff at the Café with the youth. Members of the audience asked questions about security at STARS and the background check process.

5. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed below are considered routine and non-controversial by the Council. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Councilmember, Staff or Citizen. If removed, the item will be discussed at the end of the regular agenda.

- a. January 16, 2024 City Council Minutes**
- b. Accounts Payable from January 16, 2024**
- c. January 30, 2024 Payroll Summary**
- d. Res No 24-02 Appointing Election Judges**
- e. Benton Creek Area Improvements Pay Request #3**

After discussion, Councilmember Lenzen made a motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Councilmember Bruss. Motion carried unanimously.

6. NEW COUNCIL BUSINESS

a. Assistant Fire Chief Brian Loscheider open hiring process for Cologne Fire Department.

Mayor Lein informed the council that the Fire Department is currently at 29 Firefighters and there are at least 10 potential retirees in the next few years. The department was looking for City approval to open the hiring process to recruit new members to begin the two-year training process. After discussion Councilmember Bruss made a motion to open hiring for the fire department, second by Councilmember Kells. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Personnel Committee Update

i. Planning Commission Appointment

Mayor Lein informed the council that the Personnel Committee reviewed the applicants for the Planning Commission and introduced Kristy Naegely to the members. It was their recommendation to appoint Ms. Naegely to the Planning Commission. Motion by Councilmember Kells to appoint Ms. Naegely to the Planning Commission, second by Councilmember Szaroletta. Motion carried unanimously.

ii. Employee Policy Change

The Personnel Committee also met with City Administrator Morrison to discuss reinstating a deferred compensation plan for employees hired prior to January 1, 2024. The plan was suspended in December pending attorney questions regarding its legality. Motion by Councilmember Bruss directing the City Administrator to enact a Deferred Compensation plan for employees hired prior to January 1, 2024 who are not enrolled in the City Medical or Dental Insurance Plan, second by Councilmember Szaroletta. Motion carried unanimously.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Staff Reports

Administrator Morrison updated the Council on activities the past month including completing annual State and County reporting requirements, Outstanding Bond analysis with payoff schedules, contact with election judges and election training for the March 5th PNP, Conversations with City Planner regarding multiple items for February 7 Planning Commission meeting, Sheriff Report analysis and biweekly staff meetings.

b. Council / Mayor Reports

i. Mayor Lein

1. Lions Park Update

Mayor Lein reviewed a letter he had received from Lions Club President Jeff Thompson withdrawing from negotiations to transfer ownership of Lions Park to the City.

2. Dale Schmitz Proclamation

3. Planning Commission Meeting Wednesday February 7

c. Sheriff December and Annual Report

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

9. ADJOURN

Motion by Councilmember Szaroletta to adjourn at 8:00 PM, second by Councilmember Lenzen. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Michelle Morrison

City Administrator



Matt Lein

Mayor