

SECOND FRONT



photo by Robert Hopwood

Engineer Brian Grund talks with Baudette City Council members Monday, Jan. 10, 2022, during the public comment period of their regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

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- Signed a card for Don Smith, who is retiring from the Planning Commission. The city will advertise his position.
- The Planning Commission will meet on Jan. 20 to consider a request to rezone 13 acres of land between Dollar General and Walleye Inn along Highway 11 from agriculture to commercial.
- Discussed the city's lawsuit against John Pirkel. The city has asked Pirkel to clean up and improve his downtown property. Zoning/Planning Director Tom Eaton and Ren-nemo testified in court earlier this month as part of the case. The judge is expected to make a ruling soon.
- Heard from Liquor Store Director Erica Anderson that she is still looking for someone to work part-time. Anderson also said the Westside Square Bottle Shop has opened up more room for beer.
- Approved leave donation requests. Three Public Works employees donated time to employees who were out due to COVID-19.

WILLIAMS CITY COUNCIL

City fills vacant committee seats, votes to replace City Hall furnace

Sarah Hull
Reporter

The Williams City Council met for their regular meeting on Monday, January 10. All council members were present, with the exception of Robbie Hruby. In new business, council member Leslie Huerd nominated Robbie Hruby to fill the vacant committee seats on both the Library Committee and the Finance, Budget and Personnel Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

The council then heard from City Clerk Leslie Nicholson, who had concerns regarding the furnace in the City Hall building. A new pump was installed on the current heating system, as the old one was leaking and overheating. Nicholson explained that the current furnace needs to be replaced, and presented bids from local HVAC profes-

sionals. Council member Huerd made the motion to accept the bid from RBJ & Associated LLC to have the furnace replaced. The motion passed unanimously.

In other business, the council:

- Heard from Clerk Nicholson about replacing the lights in City Hall with LED lights. The council made the decision to replace the lights in the library and city office, but wait until the new furnace is paid for to replace the remaining lights.
- Unanimously passed the motion to renew the lease with the Arena association at the current rate, which is \$1,311.
- Discussed the annual Property/Casualty insurance renewal. Council member Huerd made the motion to not waive the tort limits, as the council has done in previous years. It passed unanimously.

- Determined the need to revise City Ordinance 55 to state that any work to the sewer must be done by a certified sewer professional and photographs should be taken of completed work prior to the hookup being buried. They also decided that a fee should be charged for new sewer hookups. The matter was tabled for later discussion.
- Heard from Clerk Nicholson that the generator at the sewer plant is having difficulties running when the weather is cold. Council member Huerd made a motion to authorize maintenance worker Scott Carlson to build a structure over the generator. The motion passed unanimously.

The council approved the payment of claims in the amount of \$42,949.36. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m. after a 6:01 start time.

NLR has new website of its own

Julie Bergman
Editor

The Northern Light Region launched a new website at www.nlregion.com. All of the content in the printed NLR will be found on the new site for online subscribers or print subscribers who upgrade to "All Access." More information on page 15 of this issue.

The NLR will continue to partner with the site www.page1publications.com

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During last week's Economic Development Authority meeting, members spent about 20 minutes talking about ways the county might be able to jumpstart new housing and attract private developers.

Another challenge is the county's geographic distance from certain markets, Zemek said.

He seems to be qualified for his new role. Zemek worked for the Headwaters Regional Development Commission for 13 years after graduating. During those years, he worked on economic development projects across northern Minnesota.

And more than three years ago, Zemek began working with Lake of the Woods County Economic Development Authority part-time.

Zemek said he likes the local community but doesn't plan to uproot his wife and children and move to Baudette. His job will be a hybrid position. He plans to work in Baudette a few days a week and in Bemidji the rest of the time.

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