

City of Victoria
Council Minutes

November 20, 2023
Regular Meeting

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The Governing Body of the City of Victoria met in regular session on November 20, 2023, at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers of City Hall.

- Roll Call** Council Members Ryan Lichter, Harland Rupp, Matt Sander and Erica Dinges. Absent, Matt Orr.
- Presiding** Mayor John Schulte.
- Also Present** Neal Younger, James Robben, Marilyn Braun, Brenda Dreiling, Jim Dreiling, Jeff Pfeifer, Nancy Piatt, Connie Linder, Louis Robben, Jeff Dorzweiler, City Attorney Don Hoffman, Police Chief Cole Dinkel, City Superintendent Brad Schmidtberger, and City Clerk Jamie Sterling.
- Pledge** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- Minutes** Minutes of the October 16, 2023, regular meeting were presented for review. Motion by Matt Sander, second by Ryan Lichter to approve the minutes as submitted.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.

Minutes from the Victoria Fire Department were also reviewed.
- Warrant Ordinance A-11-23** Ordinance A-11-23, consisting of bills against the City for the month of November was presented for review. Motion by Ryan Lichter, second by Harland Rupp that Ordinance A-11-23 be approved and all bills paid.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Agenda** Motion by Erica Dinges, second by Ryan Lichter to approve the agenda as modified regarding approving and paying Esfeld Construction at the end of the month as well as information regarding the NRP.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Police Department Report** Police Chief Cole Dinkel gave his department report. Chief Dinkel stated the new pick-up was supposed to ship 11-15-23. He has contacted Doug Schulte to build the new Police Truck. He also brought to Council the need for a Yield or Stop sign at the corner of 6th and Main. Chief Dinkel stated it would be a good idea to get School Zone solar lights east of Hickory to go in front of the High School. Chief Dinkel and Brad Schmidtberger will look into the cost of each of these issues.
- City Superintendent Report** City Superintendent Brad Schmidtberger gave his department report. Brad informed council they need new tires put on the F-250 before winter and the GMC will be needing new tires soon as well. He stated that Midwest Energy would be in Victoria to help the guys put up Christmas lights. He did state they would be getting rid of 6-8 of the Christmas lights next year. All equipment is in good condition and working well.

- New Fire Fighters** The names of Nick Gottschalk and Thomas Leiker were given to be approved for Volunteer Fire Fighters. Motion to approve both Nick and Thomas by Matt Sander, second by Harland Rupp.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Fire Department Elections** The Victoria Fire Department held their officer elections. Motion to approve John Weber as Fire Chief, Scott Wellbrock as Assistant Fire Chief, Kami Weber as Secretary and Dylan Kuhn as Firefighter Relief Co. Representative by Erica Dinges, second by Harland Rupp
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Pay Estimate EBH** Motion to approve and pay invoice #14847 for Victoria Dollar Store Utilities Professional Services submitted by EBH for \$10,016.41 by Erica Dinges, second by Ryan Lichter.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Esfeld Construction Payment** Ryan Lichter made a motion, to approve and Pay Estimate No. 2 for Victoria Dollar Store Utilities 2023 in the amount of \$5,882.60 submitted by Esfeld Construction, Inc to be paid at the end of November, second by Matt Sander.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- VCC Permit** Marilyn Braun was in attendance on behalf of the Victoria Community Coalition. The VCC is asking for the City of Victoria to waive their permit fees that are in the amount of \$1,010.00. Mayor Schulte informed her and the other VCC members in attendance that the City has fees for permits for a reason. Motion by Harland Rupp, second by Ryan Lichter to waive 50% of the fees. They also informed the VCC they would not be able to waive fees again. Marilyn later commented that she will get the real MIH document to the City for the final agreement for the MIH from the State.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- NRP** James Robben attended the Council meeting in regards to the NRP. The City has passed it, Victoria School has passed it and now the County needs to pass it. With some changes being made, it was suggested by Attorney Don Hoffman to modify the previous Ordinance. Motion to modify Ordinance B-584 by Matt Sander, second by Harland Rupp.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Employee Christmas Bonus** Motion by Erica Dinges, second by Matt Sander to approve an employee Christmas bonus of \$200.00.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Citizen Comments** Connie Linder asked why there are no council minutes posted on the website since July. She also asked why it is not public knowledge which council member votes Aye or Nay. Connie also inquired about bids and why all bids are not published as well.
- Nancy Piatt also spoke during citizen comments regarding there is not enough room in the council room for many people to gather and how people do not feel welcome to attend meetings. She stated the audience is not able to see the council members off to the right that are hidden behind the wall.

- Mayor Comments** Mayor Schulte commented stating the City does not actually have to have a website therefore we do not have to post minutes. He also stated we are not obligated to state which council member voted which way nor are we obligated to share all bids.
- Regarding Mrs. Piatt’s comments, he thanked her for bringing it to the attention of the Council members.
- Executive Session** Motion for an executive session for the evaluation of Police Chief Cole Dinkel for 3 minutes to include City Attorney Don Hoffman, by Erica Dinges, second by Ryan Lichter.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Executive Session** Motion for an executive session for the evaluation of Public Works Employee, Jeff Dorzweiler for 3 minutes to include City Attorney, Don Hoffman, by Erica Dinges, second by Matt Sander.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Executive Session** Motion for an Executive Session with City Superintendent Brad Schmidtberger regarding Public Works Employee, Jeff Dorzweiler to include City Attorney, Don Hoffman, by Erica Dinges, Second by Ryan Lichter.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Executive Session** Motion by Erica Dinges, second by Ryan Lichter to go into executive session regarding employee pay raises.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Dinkel Pay Increase** Motion by Ryan Lichter, second by Harland Rupp to increase the salary of Police Chief Cole Dinkel from \$29.00 to \$30.00 per hour.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Dorzweiler Pay Increase** Motion by Matt Sander, second by Harland Rupp to increase the salary of Public Works Employee Jeff Dorzweiler from \$18.00 to \$19.00 per hour.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Adjournment** All business on hand having been discussed, Motion to adjourn by Harland Rupp, second by Matt Sander.
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.

John Schulte, Mayor

Jamie Sterling, City Clerk