

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the City Council of the City of Rutledge in the County of Pine and the State of Minnesota including all accounts audited by said Council.

February 2, 2022

Meeting called to order with all members present at 511 also present Lenard Bonander

Motion to approve minutes as read by Tim Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Angie Eckerman. All approved.

Treasurers Report- \$170,999.76 in all funds with the general having \$151,264.29

Motion to approve treasurers report as ready by Angie Eckerman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Johnsen. All approved.

Lenny- from Sandstone 15 years phase to start NXL plan, adopted by the Amtrak rail plan. About 360 million dollars for this project, need matching money from the state to pass this. Looking for state legislature to pass this, and hopefully start building the track in the fall with trains running within 3 years. 3 train sets, Minneapolis, Duluth and hopefully in sandstone. Train layover possible in sandstone with a platform with a stop. Each train two round trips per day, train tickets ordered by smartphone or vending equipment at locations. If we cannot get funded with matched money and support than the money will go elsewhere, and the train may go straight to Duluth. Here tonight asking for a proposed resolution of support of the NXL project. Questions by council- if there is not enough support there may not be a train stop in sandstone. Discussion of benefits of support with the train stop there. Determinations on stations have been made given enough support. Sandstone was included in the study of benefits to the community. Sandstone looking for the maintenance facility, place to store the train and a car wash for the train. For sandstone to get a rail stop, getting a layover facility will be key. Existing track will be used, will increase the capacity of the rail corridor. Would improve the railroad crossings, roadwork around the crossings, and the rail would be increased by one line. Currently this is considered a dangerous corridor, and this is one way to increase the safety of the corridor. Any downfalls- Larry could not think of one at time of the question. Been through the congressional budget office, funding is there. Optimum impact would be sooner than later for a letter of support due to the timing of it being in the state level right now. Amtrack project, light rail system. Federal money with a state match. Projected job increases about in our current area? If it was a heavy maintenance facility could be 12-20 jobs. Current rates are not set. Last current numbers Larry saw was around 20 dollars round trip from sandstone to Minneapolis. Sandstone estimates parking area 630 cars. Larry is not looking for financial backing only a letter of support. Will we get a influx of people we do not want in the area? These trains go very fast. Council discussion of project.

Motion to support the NXL project by Tim Johnsen 2<sup>nd</sup> by Darryl Herzog.

Larry thanks the council for our support.

Kettle River Township is getting a brush cutter, if there is time left of the rental, they will do some streets in Rutledge.

Motion to adjourn by Darryl Herzog 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Johnsen. All approved.

Attest: Lynnette Hischer, Clerk