

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
DeMotte Town Council
December 18, 2023**

In attendance were, Jeff Cambe, Alana Bauman, Terry Schultz, Dale Eenigenburg, Mark Boer, Clerk Treasurer Cindy Shepherd, Town Manager Mike Cain, Deputy Clerk Tara Howard, Attorney Luis Vallejo

Town Council President Jeff Cambe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Alana Bauman made a motion to approve the November 28, minutes. Mark Boer seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Police Chief Tom Jarrette gave the police report. Tom reported to the board regarding concerns related to the age of the department's firearms. The current weapons are 17 years old, and Tom highlighted issues and challenges faced by the police department due to the aging of firearms. Tom requested approval from the board to initiate the purchase of new weapons for the police department. The request was made to address the operational and safety concerns associated with the current firearms. Mark Boer made a motion to approve the purchase of new firearms. Dale Eenigenburg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Yurko gave the public works report. Dave reported they contracted FJF services for the cleaning of the Birch St lift station, and he expressed satisfaction with the results. Dave reported that the lift station is now operating smoothly. Dave proposed the idea of extending the maintenance efforts to other lift stations. He expressed interest in having a couple more lift stations cleaned next year. Additionally, he suggested establishing a formal cleaning schedule for ongoing maintenance.

Dave updated the council on the progress of the new hire, Nicole Fox. He informed the council that he provided Nicole with a comprehensive tour of the plants, and she demonstrated competence during the orientation process. Dave asked for the board's blessing to proceed with training Nicole for roles within the sewer and water departments. Terry Schultz made the motion to proceed with the 90-day probationary period for Nicole Fox. Dale Eenigenburg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Street Department Superintendent Mike Orsburn gave the street report. Mike provided an update on ongoing issues with one of the heaters in the shop. Mike sought the expertise of two companies to assess the situation. Both companies concluded that the heater, dating back to 1985, is beyond repair and recommended replacement. Both companies presented a cost estimate of \$4500 for professional replacement. Additionally, Mike mentioned that he found a suitable replacement heater at Menard's for \$1000 and expressed his willingness to install it himself to save costs. Dale Eenigenburg made a motion to approve the replacement of the shop heater for \$1000 and to let Mike and his crew install it. Terry Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Mike reported that new hire Tim Dyke has successfully completed his probationary period and has been performing well in his role. Mike proposed the scheduled pay increase for passing the probationary period be implemented for Tim. The council approved Mike's recommendation and the pay increase will take effect on the next pay period.

Clerk Treasurer Cindy Shepherd gave the treasurer report. Cindy presented the council with the nepotism policies for 2024.

Park Board President, Peggy Michelin gave the parks report. Peggy reported to the council that Kal Bro has approached the town regarding the windmill that is located on their property. Dan Fagen from the park board gave a presentation on behalf of Kal Bro, stating their intention to take down the 24-foot-tall windmill with an 11 ft diameter. Kal Bro is offering the windmill as a donation to the town. The Park Board expressed interest in acquiring the windmill and displaying it in one of the town's parks. They believe it could become a landmark and add historical value to the community. The only concern raised by the Park Board is related to the necessary repairs and the funding required for the restoration of the windmill. The council engaged in a discussion regarding the acquisition of the windmill, potential locations for its display, and the significance it could have for the town. Concerns about the repair costs and funding were thoroughly discussed. Dale Eenigenburg made a motion to accept the donation of the windmill from Kal Bro and to explore funding options for necessary repairs. Terry Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Attorney Luis Vallejo presented the council with the following resolutions:

Resolution 12182023-1 Payroll appropriations. Mark Boer made a motion to approve. Dale Eenigenburg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Resolution 12182023-2 Salary Ordinance. Mark Boer made a motion to approve. Terry Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Resolution 12182023-3 Encumbering police firearms. Mark Boer made a motion to approve. Alana Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Resolution 12182023-4 Encumbering computers. Mark Boer made a motion to approve. Dale Eenigenburg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Luis presented the council with the contract for legal services from Waddle and Vallejo for the year 2024. Mark Boer made a motion to approve. Terry Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Daryl Knip from Abonmarche Consultants gave the engineering report. Daryl reported that the Community Crossings Grant will open up next month. He expressed the need to start preparations for Prairie View and suggested a meeting with town manager Mike Cain and street superintendent Mike Orsburn to go over estimates.

Citizen David Alexander expressed his concern as a food vendor regarding the Transit Merchants Ordinance fee. David presented his concerns, emphasizing the impact of the current fee structure on food vendors. He discussed specific challenges faced by vendors and proposed changes to the ordinance to address these concerns. The council will take into consideration the proposed amendments to the Transit Merchants Ordinance fee.

Mark Boer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. and Dale Eenigenburg seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 4-0 vote.


Town Council President


Administrative Assistant