Town of North Hills

Council meeting minutes

January 25th, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pat McDonnell at the 36th street Church of Christ building in Vienna. Present: Pat McDonnell, Kathrine Pittman, Regina Smith, Cheney English and Fred Newberry. Absent: Don Stemple and Rachel Hensley.

**Minutes**

Cheney English made a motion to approve the January 11th minutes, seconded by Regina Smith, approved by council.

**Safety**

**Tips for Staying Warm**

Exposure to cold can cause life-threatening health conditions. Avoid serious conditions such as frostbite and hypothermia, by keeping warm.

* Wear a hat, hood, or scarf, as most heat is lost through the head.
* Wear layers, as they provide better insulation and warmth.
* Keep fingertips, earlobes, and noses covered if you go outside.
* Keep clothing dry; if a layer becomes wet, remove it.

**Snow Removal Safety Tips**

* **Stretch before you go out.** If you go out to shovel snow, do a few stretching exercises to warm up your body. This may prevent injury.
* **Cover your mouth.** Protect your lungs from extremely cold air by covering your mouth when outdoors.
* **Avoid overexertion.** Cold weather puts an added strain on the heart. Unfamiliar exercise, such as shoveling snow or pushing a car, can bring on a heart attack or make other medical conditions worse. Take frequent rest breaks, and drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration.
* **Keep dry.** Change wet clothes frequently to prevent a loss of body heat. Wet clothing loses all of its insulating value and transmits heat rapidly.
* **Stay safe.** Walk carefully on snowy or icy sidewalks. If using a snowblower, NEVER use your hands to unclog the machine.
* **Maintain an awareness of utilities when shoveling snow.** Do not cover fire hydrants with snow when clearing sidewalks and driveways. Do not shovel snow into manholes and catch basins.
* **Offer to help individuals who require special assistance,** including seniors and people with disabilities.

**Clearing Snow and Dangling Ice from Roofs**

* Snow and rain that collects on roofs becomes heavy and may damage buildings.
* Remove leaves and debris from roof drains to prevent water from collecting.
* In addition to cleaning out gutters, clear snow from roofs and drains.
* Flat roofs require special attention. Snow and water should be removed with drainage systems or manually.

OEM and the Department of Buildings urge building owners and managers to remove ice from their buildings where possible. If ice removal is not possible, building owners and managers should rope off the unsafe area.

Residents should take care to avoid areas roped off due to hazardous ice conditions, and be cautious of dangerous, hanging ice.

**Ice Safety Tips** (from [**NYC Parks & Recreation**](http://www.nycgovparks.org/sub_things_to_do/facilities/af_skating_rinks.html)):

During the winter months, ponds and lakes in City parks may appear frozen, but venturing onto them is extremely dangerous and can cause potentially fatal accidents. To remind people of the dangers of thin ice, Parks & Recreation posts warning signs along the perimeter of city lakes and ponds in English and in Spanish. Special ladders are also installed around the edges of city lakes for trained personnel to use in case someone falls through the ice.

* Never go on frozen waters (unless clearly marked otherwise with official signs).
* Parents and caregivers should make sure children are never unattended near ice.
* If you hear cracking, lie down immediately to try to distribute your weight.
* If you witness someone falling through ice, never attempt to make a rescue by yourself.
* Call 911 and notify the proper authorities. Be sure to give the exact location and an account of the incident.
[**Learn more about outdoor skating rinks in City parks**](http://www.nycgovparks.org/sub_things_to_do/facilities/af_skating_rinks.html)

**Safe Home Heating Tips**

Improper use of portable heating equipment can lead to fire or dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. Take precautions to ensure you are heating your home safely.

**FIRE SAFETY:**

* Use only portable heating equipment that is approved for indoor use.
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* Always keep an eye on heating equipment. Never leave children alone in the room where a space heater is running. Turn it off when you are unable to closely monitor it.
* Be careful not to overload electrical circuits.

Make sure you have a working smoke detector in every room. Check and change batteries often.

**Recorder’s report**

The town received an $8,211.43 check from Union Williams.

The town paid $3, 880.32 for sewer chemical addition.

The town paid $1,620 for Union Williams lawyers.

The town received $3,485 from the state (surplus fund).

The town paid $288 for our domain list.

The town received our annual statement of loan account from the Department of Agriculture Rural development. The original loan was for $1,255,000. We owe $764,777.56.

Last year we paid $34,102.59 in principal and $36,229.41 in interest.

**Building permits**

The council approved a permit for an electrical service upgrade.

**Community updates**

The town is waiting for the survey for the Northridge housing development for a right of way access road that needs to be installed for their sewer system.

The council discussed the 2024 calendar of events which will make the final decision at our next meeting.

Cheney brought up that the Brentwood slip repair needs additional shoring at the South side of repair.

Cheney English mad a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45, seconded by Kathrine Pittman, approved by council. The next regular scheduled meeting will be at the 36th street Church of Christ building in Vienna, February 8th, at 7PM.