

Unapproved Minutes of the Montrose City Council Special Meeting on FEMA Flood Map Updates

The Montrose City Council special meeting was held on January 23, 2021 in the Community Center. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Paul Klaudt at 9:00 am. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present were Mayor Paul Klaudt; Council Members Tony Heumiller, Susan Painter, Justin Hagemann, and Jasen Hanisch; Finance Officer Sara Smith (via WebEx); Riley Rinehart & Jake Morris from DGR Engineering (via WebEx); McCook County Emergency Manager BJ Stiefvater (via WebEx); and several members of the community both in person and via WebEx; Mayor Klaudt reminded all in attendance to adhere to the Rules of Decorum. Motion by Heumiller, 2nd by Painter to approve the agenda. All approved.

FEMA held a meeting last week to introduce their changes to the Flood Maps for McCook County. The proposed flood plain for the City of Montrose is considerably larger than the current flood plain. Past major flood events have followed the existing map very closely, therefore the Council called this meeting to discuss steps to take to try to keep the flood map from changing. McCook County Emergency Manager BJ Stiefvater provided a background and reviewed the contents of last week’s FEMA meeting. The more information we can get to FEMA to get the map corrected during this phase of the process is better than waiting until the final appeal process. The proposed map is scheduled to go into effect in 2023. Jake Morris from DGR Engineering informed the Council that they are already doing some modeling for the City of Salem and that they have experience with this type of work. They can look at the data FEMA is using, review historical data from previous flooding and see what they can do to help. The first priority is to verify elevations and compare to FEMA’s LIDAR data. A meeting will be scheduled with DGR and the city this week to discuss, and DGR will provide a quote for services. Another special meeting of the City Council will be held to review the quote and vote to proceed with the work. Property owners are asked to contact legislators and/or the SD Department of Transportation to try to get some additional assistance to push back on FEMA’s proposed changes and try to get the bridge over Hwy 38 rebuilt so as to not be the cause of flooding. Legislator contact information, pictures of the existing and proposed maps, and other documentation can be found on the city website home page.

Motion by Heumiller, 2nd by Hanisch to adjourn at 10:35 am. All approved. Meeting adjourned.

Attest: _____

Sara Smith
Finance Officer

Published once at the approximate cost of _____

Paul Klaudt
Mayor