

City Council Meeting Minutes (Approved)
July 11, 2011

Present at the meeting: Mike Odden, Lloyd Rausch, Susan Marstein, Ernie Schmit, Kim Ebnet, Vicki Statz, Gordon Sjaaheim, Dorine Rausch, Scott Lange, Nancy Scott, Ron Scegura, Butch Bauer, Charla Bueckers.

Mayor Ernie Schmit called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to approve checks was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Bank rec and electronic transfers were not available at meeting time.

Motion to approve minutes of the June 13, 2011 council meeting was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF

Liquor Store report was not available at meeting time.

Fire Department report was given by Dorine Rausch. There have been 39 calls so far this year. Permission was given by the council to put up a display case in the community room to house F.D. items. It will be built by Dave Yurczyk and complement the display cases already in the community room. The Fire Relief audit went well. Copies are available from the F.D. if anyone wishes to view.

Mayor Ernie Schmit gave his mayor's report. See end of minutes for details

Old Business

Scott Lange explained to the council the progress of the Street Project. Next week they will be diligently working on Cedar and then Plymouth streets. There will be another 60' added to the storm sewer going to the river just north of the ball park bathrooms, (behind Donnelly's and Schwalbe's property). Scott presented the first pay application for Larson Excavating for \$126,091.20. Motion to approve was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF Motion to approve pay application to SEH for services rendered to date in the amount of \$372,781.28 was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF

Officially awarding the water meter contract to Dakota Supply for Badger Water Meters was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Sue Marstein in the amount of \$99,536.61. AIF

Scott also talked to the council about a project improvement to the south of Washington St. making use of our grant \$. A public hearing has been set up for Wednesday, August 3, 2011 at 7 p.m. at Holdingford City Hall to explain this project improvement. Homeowners in this area will be receiving a letter explaining the project. Detail of the project will be shared at the public hearing.

New Business

Nancy Scott, our building inspector came to the meeting to ask for an increase in permit rates for mechanical and plumbing permits only. This is to be more in line with rates in nearby cities. Motion to approve a nominal increase (\$1 to \$5) as proposed in her fee schedule comparison was made by Sue Marstein, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. Voting yes: Sue Marstein, Lloyd Rausch, Ernie Schmit. Voting no: Mike Odden, Kim Ebnet. Mechanical and plumbing rates have not increased since she started being our building inspector in 2005.

Mayor Ernie Schmit showed the council expansion plans from Polar Tank. They want to add on to their building on the east end. Inspector Nancy Scott also looked at these plans and concurred with the council that

this project can go forward. Motion to approve plans was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Charla Bueckers from Tom's Refuse attended the meeting to ask approval of another 5 year contract for refuse removal with the city. She explained about the fuel surcharge. She and her employee, Butch Bauer, received comments from the council on how they can accommodate the residents better during the construction project. They will try to accommodate the residents as much as possible. Motion to approve the 5 year contract was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF

Ron Scegur explained to the council the increase in medical premiums. He had quotes from both BCBS and Medica. After some discussion a motion to stay with Medica was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF

Update to the personnel manual on vacation was pursued by the council. Changing the wording to read "Employee's must use accumulated vacation each year by their anniversary date and may not carry over to the following year unless given written permission by the City Council" and contingent upon union approval was made on a motion by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF

A fire hydrant in North High Court needs to be raised. Cost will be approximately \$460. Council gave approval for this change.

The pump house roof has a leak. Jerry Schueler asked if that can be repaired at the same time the repair of the roof on the Holdingford Area Museum Merchantile Building. Maintenance is to get a price for that when the HAMMB roof is done.

Motion to approve Resolution 11-07-11-01, Consenting to and Approving the Assignment of the Cable Franchise and System to Midcontinent Communications was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Sue Marstein AIF

On Sunday, July 3rd, when Jeremy was doing his morning city check, he found the basement in the pre-treatment plant flooded with 7 – 8 feet of water. He got Nelson's from Rice to come and suck out the clogged pipe. No local septic businesses were available to come that day.

The fire alarm at the city hall and fire hall is not in operation. Jeremy got a quote from Central MN Alarms for the new alarm system. They were given okay to get new alarm system in.

There is a tree down in Veteran's Park and two other trees with major branches broken. Maintenance is to see if someone from the city would want to come and cut up the trees for firewood.

Motion to transfer \$50,000 from our General account to our reserve account was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Residents who are delinquent on their utility bills: Duane Young \$323.92; Brandon Cottrell \$369.89; Lori Ring \$423.54; Jane Stodolka \$317.31.

It was stated that there is a resident in the city who is housing chickens. Our city Ordinance 91 (Animals) does not permit the harboring of chickens in the city. A letter will go out to them.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria R. Statz
City Clerk, Holdingford