

**CITY OF SKYLINE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2014**

Present: Mayor & Fire Chief Travis Javens; Clerk Cathy Dahl; Council Members, Wayne Bishop, Rebecca Carpenter, Samantha Erickson, Dean Rengstorf; Retired Fire Chief Roger Hermanson; City Attorney Ken White; Residents, Eric Manske, Mark Piepho, Emily Javens, Kendra Javens; Guests, Amy Vogel, Jeff Bengtson, Mark Diechman

Meeting called to order 6:45 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes and agenda. Motion to approve, Dean Rengstorf, Samantha Erickson, 2nd. Approved unanimously.

15-Minute Public Open Forum -

Public Safety Contracts – With Mankato for fire and law enforcement proposal. Amy Vogel, Deputy Director Police, Jeff Bengtson, Fire Dept. Deputy Director. Mankato Police Department consists of 51 sworn officers, 10 full-time, 5 part-time, 40 reserve and an animal control officer. Provide service 24/7. They have community governance to listen to community needs. Area has 7 different districts. If added, Skyline would be under District 5. Each district has a sergeant and districts are divided into areas with a neighborhood officer. They are out on foot, meeting people and listening to concerns. They will work with the Skyline Mayor and City Council to identify our concerns and their response. They respond to emergency, non-emergency and preventive control. They will look into traffic needs and community education, and add a neighborhood watch and association if Skyline is interested. They will conduct security surveys if asked which is done by neighborhood officer. They will do up to 1 survey per year for residents. Mankato Fire Division has 18 full-time fire fighters and 40 volunteers who work out of 3 fire stations. Skyline would be covered by the new station in downtown Mankato, on S. Front Street, which is staffed every night. They would respond to any fire and medical calls according to medical response protocols. It takes just over 6 minutes to reach Skyline without sirens or lights. If main team is tied up, off-duty personnel are called back. They would talk with current Skyline volunteers to see if they want to join the Mankato volunteer fire fighters. They would assess Skyline Fire equipment to see what could be used by Mankato. They also provide public education, similar to safety survey done by police. They give recommendations for safety issues, but no citations. The Skyline water supply was evaluated and it is sufficient to Mankato fire dept. needs. Rebecca Carpenter contacted Todd Miller about accessibility to new residence that may become part of Skyline. There is a hydrant within working distance. Driveway to residence should consider a loop or a T to allow fire trucks to come in and turn around as needed. Not required but would help end a possible delay of service to property. It is the City of Skyline's decision what to do with our current fire garage. Roger Hermanson commented on working with Mankato Fire Dept. before and they are good. Samantha Erickson wondered what kind of patrols we would receive since Sheriff vehicles are seldom seen here. Watching traffic issues would be more of a Mayor/Council driven issue as far as how many patrols would be here. Wayne Bishop suggested Skyline needs at least once-a-day run through Skyline.

Mayor Javens asked if anyone had questions for Ken White about suggestions for contracts. Ken White said his big questions are what level of service we are looking for on police and fire end. What is the per capita cost for Mankato residents? Our cost would be \$10,000 for first year only, then go to per capita rate. He mentioned Mankato needing higher level of equipment as they grow and have higher buildings. We need a clear idea of where our costs are going with this. Liability insurance needs to be clear and we need an opt-out clause for everyone involved. And clause needs enough time involved to get our own fire department back up and running if contract will be done. Mayor Javens asked if we should make them change language or if we should have Ken White write it up. Samantha Erickson asked if we can write in that our costs would not increase beyond a certain percentage a year. Dean Rengstorf suggested Ken White write up language to keep costs from getting out of control. Mayor Javens talked with Todd Miller and he didn't think changes would be a problem. Ken White will meet with Mankato's legal dept. (Ilene Wells) and iron issues out with them. Ken White suggested separate opt-outs for police and fire in case we decide later to use one and not the other. Mankato is offering to prosecute traffic tickets for us for misdemeanors – something like a DUI would not be covered. He thought we should talk about use of their city prosecutors to take care of those cases as well. These cases are rare. Otherwise they would have to be covered by the county. Mayor Javens wondered if this should be a case-by-case payment. Samantha Erickson mentioned concern about Skyline ending up part of Mankato if we proceed. Mayor Javens doesn't think we are that attractive to Mankato at this time.

Potential Annexation of new residence – Mark Diechman is the builder. Joe Eckert is selling property to his client. Dean Rengstorf asked to see plans for building. Homeowner talked to South Bend Township but they didn't want to be involved in it because all of their access would be through Skyline. Buyers are willing to do whatever Skyline decides – be annexed or stay Mankato Township. Mark Diechman showed potential site plan – house plan is still in process. The owner wants to be a good neighbor and do the right thing. Annexing will involve a public hearing with homeowner and Mankato Township representative in attendance. Ken White is worried about expense of sewer system hook up with height difference between house and hook up. Things to consider - will it stay private property driveway or would it become a city street and grinder pumps. An access easement would need to be created for a grinder pump. Gravity feed wouldn't work. Wayne Bishop and Dean Rengstorf feel it's cleaner to annex it. Samantha Erickson is concerned with the grinder cost to Skyline. Mark Diechman wants Skyline to set groundwork and the builder will work within it. Mayor Javens thinks cost of initial grinder pump should be handled by homeowner and Skyline would take maintenance from then on. Ken White suggested the contractor do a geological study before starting to build because of many caves and springs in area. There is plenty of drain field space if they go with septic system and are not part of Skyline. Mark Diechman left business cards for anyone who may have more questions. Buyers would like to start building this fall. Mayor Javens asked Ken White to outline annexation process with possible concerns and how long it would take. We may need an additional city council meeting to get the ball rolling on this situation.

Other public forum issues – no other items.

City Clerk's Report - Cathy Dahl reported Skyline Clerks Café will be April 17th from 3PM – 6PM. Cathy will bring Clerks Café sign to Samantha Erickson's home tomorrow evening.

Insty-prints printed 1000 new envelopes for Skyline (used for mailing newsletter earlier this month) – also made a return address stamp for Lon Whitehead but used our old address – waiting to hear when replacement is ready to pick up.

Cathy contacted T-Mobile and Sprint about late lease payments.

Lon Whitehead's stepfather passed away and his visitation is tonight.

Thank you to Wayne Bishop for getting measurements for mural walls on pump house.

City Treasurer's Report – Lon Whitehead absent but left March report, late water bill list, bills to review and checks to be signed. Lon told Cathy Dahl that Sprint payment has still not been received, but T-Mobile check is here now. Clerk will check on payments from Sprint not received and ask if they prefer direct deposit again.

LJP asked Lon if Skyline would rather go with single-stream recycling and have a 64-gallon cart vs. the tote. This would save windblown recyclables and give more capacity to maybe lower the trash bill. Samantha Erickson will contact them to get more information on this. City needs to know if it will save us money.

Approval of city clerk's report and treasurer's report and to pay bills – motion Wayne Bishop, Dean Bishop, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Water Department - Samantha Erickson reported there was a grinder pump issue about a week after last council meeting. Alarms go off on grinder pump. It is hard to find people who can work on grinder pumps. Ferguson Waterworks wanted payment immediately when work was done. Samantha still hasn't heard from Spears. Barb Fleming's readings have been accurate for these past years due to her water softener recycling too often. Issue is corrected for future.

Rebecca Carpenter brought Free Press article about the City of Mankato upgrading sewer treatment and cost being shared between all communities using it. Mayor says everyone's cost will be going up but possibly Skyline will not have to do testing any more. City of Skyline may have to visit our water rates to pay for higher bill from Mankato. Rebecca Carpenter thinks now may be a good time to do house-to-house check on compliance with residents not pumping water into sewer system. Samantha will research per-house cost of this with some plumbers. Mayor Javens thinks we do not need a separate ordinance because according to our contract with Mankato we have to follow their ordinance on that portion. He will double-check this.

Street Department - Dean Rengstorf reported someone on end of E. Skyline Ct. wonders if the Dead End sign could be improved – easier to see. He can ask Mankato to bring a bigger better sign up here to replace it. Mayor Javens mentioned several of our signs are getting old and faded - need a walk around to list what's needed. Lockan will do some crack filling in the streets. Dean will get someone to take care of sand on streets.

Parks & Playgrounds Department - Wayne Bishop reported the porta-potty is back in park and tennis net is back on court thanks to Rebecca Carpenter's husband. Wayne Bishop and Travis Javens will pick up additional tables for city hall. One of the swing seats in park is frayed and falling apart so Wayne will look into that. Mayor Javens mentioned to Wayne to ask if cleaner will take care of city hall windows.

Public Safety Department – Rebecca Carpenter reported on her email from Todd Miller on her research. Rebecca brought information from receiving the grant from the Southern MN Initiative Fund for painting the pump house. We need to schedule meeting with Valspar for picking paint on April 23rd. Some homework needs to be done ahead of time. Cathy Dahl will go to Lowe's to pick colors for park. Kasota stone color for majority of building. Paint needs to work for stucco and metal doors. Cathy needs to keep track of mileage for reimbursement. Paint siding for gable ends. Wayne Bishop needs to get new signs for pump house doors because they are faded.

Fire Department Chief Travis Javens – no fire calls, no meetings. All quiet.

Motion to approve departmental reports, Rebecca Carpenter, Wayne Bishop, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mentorship and job descriptions for council members – nothing new at this time.

Mankato Fire Department service to Skyline – addressed earlier.

C & S Supply open credit account for City use – nothing new.

Enventis New Communications Cabinet – Dean Rengstorff has permit and money for it. Waiting to sign permit until locates are done.

Strengthening water tower for possible additions of equipment – nothing new at this time. Mayor Javens will research on structural engineer opinion.

Bad-smelling water in City Hall - Mayor Javens thinks we should consider an on-demand water heater as it is used. New city plumber – Samantha Erickson was impressed by MRI and will call them back for future plumbing concerns and ask about fixing city hall stinky water.

Potential annexation of residence - addressed earlier. Ken White will get back to council about time-line and then a possible additional hearing will be held. Residents need a three-day notice about special hearing. It will be posted on door and in newspaper.

NEW BUSINESS

Parking in city hall parking lot – council has no problem with temporary situations if approved by council. Council will look into signs reading no overnight parking.

Mayor Javens will get quotes on fencing around water tower.

Motion to adjourn, Dean Rengstorff, Rebecca Carpenter, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Submitted by Cathy Dahl
Skyline City Clerk

Mayor

date

City Clerk

date

Note: May 8th, from 6 – 9 PM Skyline will be hosting the Mayor & Clerk Meeting for Blue Earth County.