

**CITY OF SKYLINE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
August 10, 2015**

**Present:** Mayor Travis Javens; Treasurer Lon Whitehead; Council Members, Wayne Bishop, Hans Schwanke, Dean Rengstorf, Samantha Erickson; Retired Fire Chief Roger Hermanson; Residents, Dayle Zelenka, Joanne Boettcher, Daryl Rochow, Eric Lennartson, Russ Dahl, Emily Javens

Meeting called to order at 6:45 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes and agenda. Wayne Bishop, motion, Samantha Erickson, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

**15-Minute Public Open Forum –**

Chickens – Dayle Zelenka in favor. Samantha Erickson talked to other residents who were okay with chickens. Mayor Javens had 2 residents say they had no issue with it. Samantha asked about other cities with ordinances. Wayne Bishop brought copy of Rochester ordinance. Mayor Javens looked into other cities. Mankato said yes to chickens but had too many regulations to actually make it possible. Rochester charges \$20 for a permit good for 2 years. Joanne Boettcher offered appreciation about council looking into other city ordinances.

Mr. Rockow asked about residents who don't pay water/utility bills. Mayor Javens explained we have repeat offenders. Mr. Rockow asked about putting names in minutes to shame them. Mayor Javens and treasurer Lon Whitehead said situation has gotten better in the last couple of years after ordinance passed.

Mr. Rockow also asked about weed yards and junk vehicles not allowed by Coop Assn. Rules. Council told him to talk to Wally Gates, Coop president, about the issue.

Russ Dahl wondered where it stops if we allow chickens in Skyline. Mayor Javens explained Skyline will probably have to create an ordinance about chickens and other animals will be addressed at that time as well. Wayne Bishop said Rochester has separate ordinances for ducks, pigeons, etc. Samantha Erickson wondered if ordinances can put a cap to how many can be in the entire city. Mankato has a cap at 3, Rochester 40. Mayor Javens doesn't remember cap for St. Paul. Samantha thought if we do a survey, education should be included with it. She also wonders if survey is necessary since we had the public hearing and not many came to meeting. Hans wondered why people want chickens. Wayne Bishop also questioned doing a survey. Mayor Javens said at last meeting people asked for a survey because some people are hesitant to come to a meeting. Eric Lennartson, 117 S. Skyline thought ordinance could be drawn up and another chance for public input could be done then. Wayne Bisop thought people who are adamant about a topic will come to the public meeting when ordinance is drawn up.

Dayle Zelenka said he thinks it's reasonable to draft an ordinance, publish it and move forward giving people a chance to speak on it.

JoAnn Boettcher, chicken owner – says they are like a pet. 2<sup>nd</sup>, eggs are highly nutritious. Free range eggs are extremely healthy. Standard conditions for chickens are not good. All of her yard and garden are organic and chickens are good for pest control in gardens. They even eat ground wasps. This keeps things out of landfill and is more sustainable.

**City Clerk's Report** - Cathy Dahl reported:

Everyone present please sign in on the sheet on the clipboard.

Thank you to Samantha Erickson for taking minutes at last council meeting. Clerk will be out of town again for September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting (40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary) and asked if someone else could take minutes again. Samantha Erickson agreed.

Letters were sent and signed receipts returned for 64 Skyline Drive, 1716 Woodland Avenue, and 136 S. Skyline Drive for overdue water/utilities. 136 S. Skyline wrote on receipt that ½ had been paid.

Newsletters and water reports were sent out.

The receipt for fence shrubbery is filed in a folder titled "Shrubbery Receipt Guarantee" in office should it be needed.

We received a postcard from Xcel Energy about tree trimming and a phone message from Alan with a tree service company that trimming will be done soon on the southwest corner of property east of Blue Earth River near Mankato land that has a water diversion channel to Mt. Kato.

Alan's phone number is 507-766-0057 if there are questions.

**City Treasurer's Report** – Lon Whitehead reported for July. There was more income than usual in July. He will get on State of MN website to find out what additional \$5000 is for. Mayor Javens told him the league of MN cities had emailed him to say small cities assistance account to use for maintenance cities under 5000 people who don't get other state funds. Lon transferred money into savings after receiving extra funds. Lon got the stamp for endorsing checks the auditor suggested the City have last month. It takes up a lot of space leaving little room for signature. Newville Cleaning will have a larger bill this month for waxing floor tomorrow. Council authorizes up to \$100 payment so she doesn't have to wait until next month for payment.

Contracts for Burkhardt and Burkhardt – 3 year and 5 year. First 3 years price does not change. Five year increases are large after 3 years. 6-7% increase on longer term. Samantha Erickson preferred going for 5 year.

Samantha Erickson, motion to approve 5 year contract with Burkhardt and Burkhardt as City Auditor, Wayne Bishop, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

Approval of city clerk's report and treasurer's report and to pay bills, Dean Rengstorf, motion, Hans Schwanke, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**Water Department** - Samantha Erickson asked about water testing report. Clerk will call tomorrow to be sure MN Dept of Health has our correct address. 219 E. Skyline Ct. excessively high water reading last 4 times, but they were doing a lot of watering, garden with drip irrigation

– not sure why it was high in winter months. 224 Skyline Ct. had high read but has pool. Samantha suggests a standard letter go out to residents with unusually high readings. Council decided residents should contact us if they feel there is an error. 158 S. Skyline Drive has no usage but continues paying minimum on bill. 61 Skyline Drive meter was replaced but now the pad won't read it.

Pump 1 was pulled and nothing was wrong with it. Pump 2 has been pulled and will be back by end of week. Brian Powers expects it to be back by Thursday. A few sections of casings will be replaced and they don't anticipate too bad of a bill. Brian is having some trouble with the fluoride – air is getting in the line and he is working on it. May be a bill coming later on that. Samantha received a complaint about residents at 41 Skyline having children playing in the street and multiple toys in yards. Mayor Javens does not know if that falls into City jurisdiction. She asked about building a tree fort and shed on their property. Mayor Javens told her about slope setback rules for shed - a minimum of 10 feet from a bluff line.

Samantha says recycling truck drops litter on her yard almost every time. She's had to sweep up broken glass. Hans Schwanke will call LJP about it.

Access to well pump was blocked by Vetter sign in park so a couple posts had to be removed. Samantha asked how to replace them. Brian Powers didn't think they were critical and possibly don't need to be replaced.

**Street Department** - Dean Rengstorf reported a contract finally with WW to fix “speed bumps.” Talked to Mankato about making an appointment for checking out all street signs. Unneeded signs will be removed. He will look into reflective speed limit signs. We need to budget about seal coating again next year. Mayor Javens wondered if it's necessary right now and will check to see about getting in on contract with City of Mankato to save money. Wayne Bishop mentioned repairs on parking areas by City Hall and pump house road.

**Parks & Playgrounds Department** - Wayne Bishop reported Pffeffer will be up to trim trees. He is still looking into organic herbicide. One report said it works on a couple of weeds but not all of them. Parks are treated twice a year. Dean Rengstorf asked about the amount of time the area is dangerous and thought city could turn on sprinklers to push it down. He will talk to AmLawn about using pre-emergent next spring. Mayor Javens said we could do it ourselves if we pick up corn gluten.

Wayne will fix park backstop as soon as he finds the cups. Mayor Javens said to call Sun-Up Construction.

Mayor Javens said a couple green posts around park have been broken and need replacement. He thought perhaps we need to add some to the circle park areas in Skyline at the end of Skyline Drive and W. Skyline Court. Dean Rengstorf thought it would be worth a try. Go with yellow to be more visible or go with big boulders to look more natural, 3 each.

**Public Safety Department** – Hans Schwanke reported he contacted Paul Marquardt. He will be willing to do the house inspections. He is available after Thanksgiving and through the winter. He will do the work for \$40 per house. He will line up appointments. We need a check off form for him to complete for each house. We also need to notify residents and include a photo of Mr Marquette so residents know who to expect. Lon Whitehead will forward utility bill list to Hans so Paul will have names of residents when he sets up appointments.

Motion to approve departmental reports, Samantha Erickson, Wayne Bishop, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

MN Pollution Control Agency – MS4 – Skyline City Code for Storm Water Management - Emily Javens did go to a meeting. Skyline has few services needed. We don't even have curb and gutter. They are working on a price list and she will be kept in the loop.

Fire truck and equipment – Fire department photo. Brian Powers said someone needs to be driving truck at least once in a while to keep it working. Mayor Javens put Cathy Dahl in charge of attempting to get a fire department photo.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A resident contacted Mayor Javens and requested the city consider an ordinance for requiring residents to store things like moving pods, trailers and boats instead of in front yards for months on end. Coop has rules, but no city ordinance. Samantha Erickson thinks we're doing our best by mailing letters to some residents. Mayor Javens doesn't know if we need something done as a city since it is covered by the Coop Assn.

Mayor Javens will attend meeting on Mankato Wastewater Treatment.

Chicken ordinance. Dean Rengstorf suggested council members pursue a chicken ordinance. Samantha Erickson asked if League of MN cities has anything. Rochester ordinances were emailed to council members. Council wants to move forward on ordinance to allow chickens. Mayor Javens will look into getting a preliminary ordinance worked up. Samantha said letter to residents should tell them if they don't feel comfortable talking at hearing, they should express their opinion to a council member.

Motion to adjourn, Dean Rengstorf, Wayne Bishop, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Cathy Dahl  
Skyline City Clerk

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Mayor

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date

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City Clerk

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date