

CITY OF SKYLINE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2014

Present: Mayor & Fire Chief Travis Javens; City Clerk Cathy Dahl; Council Members, Wayne Bishop, Samantha Erickson, Dean Rengstorf; retired Fire Chief Roger Hermanson; resident Wanda Hofmeyer

Meeting called to order at 6:45 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

15-Minute Public Open Forum –

Wanda Hofmeyer discussed her letter from Ken White saying she can no longer rent space in her home. She apologized for breaking rules she wasn't aware of. She's rented part of her house for a long time. She needs the lower level rent to pay her bills. She said former Mayor Willard Vetter told her she has a grandfather clause and needs nothing further to be able to rent lower level. She feels she will have to sell and move if rental of her lower level is not approved. She will do whatever is necessary to continue renting. Mayor Javens reiterated what was discussed with Wanda in a previous phone conversation. He was not aware she was renting before rental ordinance was put in place. Mayor Javens asked Ken White for legal opinion of grandfather clause. He said there is a provision for grandfathering in but there are exceptions. His understanding is that in Skyline covenant, renting property was never allowed since Skyline was established. There is no grandfather clause in this situation. Wanda brought another lawyer's opinion with her; Ken White does not agree with this opinion. She shared it with council. Mayor Javens explained getting a conditional use permit and what needs to be done for her to be able to use this option. A public hearing would need to be held and the council would vote on it. There are also Skyline Coop Assn. rules about homes being owner-occupied. Dean Rengstorf mentioned other houses in Skyline being rented out and it's difficult to monitor. Mayor Javens said it will have to be a case by case basis when people bring it to council. Mayor Javens said we don't have a form to apply for rental of property but it can be found on League of MN Cities website. Clerk needs to get that to Wanda and after returned, hearing can be on January council meeting. Residents within 300 feet need to be notified by letter. Samantha Erickson thinks there may be other residents opposed to rental property in Skyline. Mayor Javens would like an inspection of property done by a licensed building inspector before the council meeting hearing in January if possible. She asked if she can continue to rent out at present. Wayne Bishop thought inspection should be stipulated in conditional-use request form. Ken White thought there should also be a regular inspection schedule listed. Wayne Bishop suggested rental of property be in the next city newsletter. Ken White said there is also a snowbird notice for house-sitters that should be included in the next newsletter. Ken is concerned that if the City gets involved in this that rental property must be up to code as far as egress windows, smoke detectors, etc. Our City is not set up to deal with this. Mayor Javens will talk to City of Mankato about this. Ken suggested clerk can make up this form to include name, address of owners, and phone number

for owners, house-sitter's names and phone numbers, dates of snowbirds being gone. Clerk can send this to treasurer to have on city website.

City Clerk's Report - Cathy Dahl reported 2 certified return receipt letters were sent to residents with late utility bills a week ago, paid for with city credit card. Unsure if receipts have been returned. Travis Javens gave clerk a key for mailbox. Mary Larson called about possible water shut off and said she needs to avoid that. Clerk told her to call Mayor Javens. Residents have been asking clerk what all the digging is about. She told them it is from Enventis redoing their server and the landscape will be repaired in the spring. Dean Rengstorf confirmed and thinks we should add to permit that workers need to notify residents when their yards will be worked on. Office printer is out of ink. Clerk will purchase.

City Treasurer's Report – Lon Whitehead absent. Mayor went over treasurer's report for November.

Approval of city clerk's report and treasurer's report and to pay bills, motion Samantha Erickson, Dean Rengstorf, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Water Department - Samantha Erickson reported meters and pads were ordered today. They'll be shipped to Samantha's house. She forwarded email from clerk to Brian Powers from phone message about someone wanting to be considered for doing our water tower maintenance. She also asked Mayor Javens to put in newsletter to remind residents to tell their children that stealing from mailboxes is a federal offense as items are being stolen again.

Street Department - Dean Rengstorf had nothing to report. He asked if rip rap is sufficient around water tower area. He wants to look at it again in the spring to see if WW Blacktopping should bring more. Mayor Javens told Dean we need 2 more street signs: one by driveway of new residence which will be named Skyline Place and a South Skyline Drive sign for that intersection.

Parks & Playgrounds Department - Wayne Bishop reported locks are on tennis court. He will replace old locks in the spring. Key is in key box of clerk/mayor office. Mayor Javens wants key taped to instructions. He also has a new lock for gate of new fencing around water tower. Samantha Erickson said to be sure Brian Powers is notified when lock is changed. Wayne hasn't ordered a new swing yet but will get broken swing taken down this weekend.

Public Safety Department – Rebecca Carpenter absent.

Fire Department Chief Travis Javens – nothing to report. Fire department is not being paged to medical emergencies anymore because not trained for it.

Motion to approve departmental reports, Wayne Bishop, Dean Rengstorf, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mankato Fire and Police Department service to Skyline – Ken White has heard nothing more from the City of Mankato. Mayor Javens was told by Pat Hentges that it would be returned to Ken White. Mayor Javens thinks language should be in contract that amount of state aid they receive for our homes be subtracted from our fee. Ken doesn't know what the hold-up is from City of Mankato and will contact Pat Hentges about this.

Status of fencing around water tower – discussed in street department report.

Interconnection agreement with Mankato – allocated .35 % of their plant, approx. 30,000 gallons per day. Current agreement vs. proposed. Current cost 2013, \$30200. Proposed cost 2013 would be \$30700. Wayne Bishop wondered about going over on flow and Samantha Erickson told him that is not a concern. Flow is not allocated per day, it is per year. Samantha hasn't been receiving flow reports. Reader told Mayor Javens the flo-dar meter needs service. Samantha will contact John Peterson to find contact to calibrate meter. Mayor Javens suggested getting paperwork from person who does calibrating that can be sent to City of Mankato to show compliance.

Motion to approve acceptance of the Sanitary Sewer System Interconnection Agreement between the City of Mankato and City of Skyline, Samantha Erickson, Wayne Bishop, 2nd, approved unanimously.

Skyline sewer/storm water code – Mayor Javens sent to council members to review. Ken White commented he thinks an ordinance was created when sewer was connected. Paperwork needs to be organized in the office. City Council needs to be involved. Clerk needs to find notebook explaining what needs to be kept and what can be tossed. File cabinets need to be organized. Dean suggested coming in a couple 1st Mondays in the evening. January 5th at 7PM to work a couple of hours is set for first clean up. Clerk will send reminder to council members.

Storm water issue – property along Highway 66 – not a concern until spring thaw comes.

Verizon contract – City Attorney Ken White said contract is approved for Council to consider. Motion to accept Verizon contract as written, Wayne Bishop, Dean Rengstorf, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Final 2015 tax levy –

Resolution 2014-3: City of Skyline Resolution for Final Property Tax Levy for 2015

Whereas the City of Skyline requires tax money from residents of the City to fund its operations, the Council of the City of Skyline must approve the tax levy for 2015 on or before five working days after Dec. 20 each year, the City Council must set the tax levy for the next year and send a certified copy to the Blue Earth County Auditor.

Therefore, be it resolved the Council of the City of Skyline approves a final tax levy increase of 0%, which brings the total amount of the tax levy to \$49,131.00 needed from property taxes in 2015.

Motion to approve Resolution 2014-3, Wayne Bishop, Samantha Erickson, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

2015 City budget – discussion about possibly raising water rates. Motion to approve, Samantha Erickson, Wayne Bishop, 2nd. Passed unanimously. (2015 City budget is attached.)

Approve 2015 City Council calendar – January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14

Motion to approve, Samantha Erickson, Dean Rengstorf, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Mayor Javens asked for any other items for next newsletter. Enventis work in spring– ask Enventis for maintenance-free landscaping. Council members will email Mayor if they think of additions.

Motion to adjourn, Samantha Erickson, Wayne Bishop, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Cathy Dahl
Skyline City Clerk

Mayor

date

City Clerk

date