

Skyline City Council Minutes

February 13, 2012

Attendance: Mayor Mike Kluck, Council Members - Travis Javens, Rebecca Carpenter, Dean Rengstorf, Samantha Erickson; Clerk Cathy Dahl; Treasurer Lon Whitehead; Fire Chief Roger Hermanson

Meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM.

Public Open Forum:

No forum.

Approval of February 13, 2012 agenda

Motion to approve agenda, Travis Javens, 2nd Dean Rengstorf. Passed unanimously.

Approval of January 9, 2012 minutes

Motion to approve minutes, Rebecca Carpenter. 2nd Samantha Erickson. Passed unanimously.

City Clerk Report:

I need to complete the PERA exclusion report by 2/29/2012, per letter. Could I get updated list from Lon please?

I haven't heard any more about the three additional e-mail addresses from Hickory Tech but from the last meeting it seems it is not a priority.

We will once again try to get photographs on the walls by next council meeting.

Motion to approve City Clerk report, Samantha Erickson. 2nd Rebecca Carpenter. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Lon Whitehead read report. Two pagers purchased with \$900 donation from Skyline Coop Assn. Mayor and Clerk's meeting expense for catered meal at meeting hosted by Skyline. Expense for TV, DVD, etc. \$1322.00. Expense for fixing ravine by Schostag's - \$250. Annual budget filed to state and county as required.

Cathy Dahl needs to review minutes to find date liability coverage waiver was approved and file paperwork.

Discussion – Dean Rengstorf asked if anyone found leases for cell tower. Mayor thinks they are in office and will look later.

Motion to approve bills, Rebecca Carpenter. 2nd Samantha Erickson. Passed unanimously.

Water Department:

Samantha Erickson reported sewage meter monitoring is complicated. Samantha and husband Mike have been checking manhole twice a week. They set up cones when working. Mayor commended them for going above and beyond. Attempting to get data on usage to report to city of Mankato. \$4000 – 7000 for a permanent meter and flume. MN Valley testing would calibrate it for us. Reads would go straight to their computer. City plumber would have to install; no estimate of cost of installation at this time. Calibration of water tower is not cost effective and no way to track what the water is being used for. Focus will be metering sewer not water. Every house will have to be inspected this year for compliance. We will need plumber to do inspections. Ordinances must be written about people not paying water bills as well as fines if homeowners are still pumping drainage water into sewer system. Samantha recommends serious late fee for water bills, fees for shut off, fees for reconnecting. Need to get this going in next few months. Samantha will research ordinances for all water issues for council approval. Vacant houses are getting zero reads.

Street Department

Dean Rengstorf reported the mild winter hasn't tested the snowplowing crew very much. Travis mentioned they need to shovel sidewalks at city hall even if they aren't plowing roads, as well as the stoop of the emergency exit on city hall. Manholes will be leveled next summer to avoid plowing problems.

Parks Department

Travis Javens reported big monitor installed in city hall instead of pull down screen. Money rolled from budget from other items not needed; electronics came in a little under budget. Monitor can play slide shows from flash connected to monitor. Electrician will put in outlets so cords will not be showing. Shelf will be put up for DVD/VCR players.

Mowing contracts:

Summary based on 23 mows per year and totals are for 2 years.

Turf Tech \$10680 + tax

AmLawn \$10730 + tax

Green Care \$9606.52 + tax

D & M \$11036.00 + tax

Spring Touch did not reply.

Includes mowing, fertilizer, winterizing sprinkler system.

Travis' preference is to stay with who we have had (AmLawn). He is not impressed with work he has seen from Green Care.

Motion to approve contract with AmLawn, with suggestion to shave price lower. Approved by unanimous vote with show of hands.

Rebecca Carpenter will attempt to get manual for siren for information on daily chiming for Travis Javens.

City hall has been rented out on a regular basis.

Public Safety

Rebecca Carpenter reported on Tammy Pickell's light situation (city hall light shining into bedroom). All street lights are 100 watts and Xcel Energy cannot go lower for safety reasons. There is a type of light that will shine straight down. Travis wondered if light could be turned to south side to aim towards new parking area.

Lon Whitehead mentioned 2 children driving go-carts after dark and wondered if it's legal – a public safety issue? We need to know who they are for sure and then make suggestion to parents to use better judgment.

Roger Hermanson reported 2 new recruits (Drew and Shanna Hood) to the fire department are doing well and happy with participating in fire dept. After training, they asked what kind of code we have for emergency evacuation of city hall/fire dept.

Motion to approve departmental reports as read, Rebecca Carpenter. 2nd Dean Rengstorf. Passed unanimously.

Old business:

Any further generator discussion for Skyline – on hold. Submitted info for Blue Earth County Hazard Mitigation Plan last month. Mark Piepho will look into grant money for generator since we missed out on siren grant dollars.

Resident water and sewer rates discussion. We are much lower than surrounding areas. Payment to city of Mankato for the 2011 year \$39395. Is there a procedure for raising water and sewer rates? We need to be sure we are collecting enough money to cover expenses for water and sewer going out. Receipts for water/ bills/sewer, etc \$64101.91 for 2011 from residents, not including tower rental. Rental from antennae was \$57242.00 in 2011 which is 25% more than real estate tax income. Need to plan for possibility of loss of rental income in future by gradual increase in water/sewer rates.

Motion to increase \$0.10 per unit of sewer and \$0.10 per unit of water as of next billing cycle by Rebecca Carpenter. Dean Rengstorf, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Rates will be reviewed at this time each year.

New business

Name of city hall is not lit to be visible at night –will be looked into by Mayor.

Motion to adjourn, Travis. 2nd.Sam. Passed unanimously.

No further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Cathy Dahl

Skyline City Clerk