

# City of Skyline

## City Council Meeting Minutes

### ***Meeting Date: February 10, 2020 (Public Forum and meeting)***

**Members present:** Mayor Paige Attarian, Sam Erickson, Steve Romnes, Mary Dowd, Treasurer Lon Whitehead, Clerk Marnie Kortuem

- Meeting called to order at 6:46 pm by Mayor Attarian
  
- Pledge of Allegiance recited
  
- Clerical errors and typos addressed and corrected. Two items were added to the agenda. Once the changes were complete, the minutes and agenda were approved. Sam motioned, Mary seconded.
  
- Public Open Forum. Water Tower discussion with guest presenters ISG Engineering firm**  
**Bryan Petzel and Uma Vempati represented ISG during the meeting. They provided hand out that outlined costs, design options, antenna relocations and advantages and disadvantages to each design. Uma outlined the document with a more thorough discussion to the residents that were present. Brian discussed options for additional funds through grants. Intended use grant is an option, there would be an application that is reviewed by the state and approved or rejected. It was recommended that the City apply for The Project Priority List (PPL). Once applied for if not approved initially the application stays open for future consideration for years to come. Loan options were discussed by ISG representatives. It was discussed that median income would most likely be too high to qualify for grants or special loans. Applications to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) would need to be filed. ISG would assist in preparing the necessary reports for the application. Uma discussed the process for moving and retaining the current cell phone antennas and the revenue that is generated for the antenna placement. Mary Dowd asked Uma what his opinion of building a water tower independently versus joining with the City of Mankato. He explained that it basically comes down to remaining independent infrastructure instead of relying on the**

City of Mankato to own and maintain the equipment and infrastructure in partnership. Charlie Berg asked about the efficacy of the current wells, would they be sufficient or would they need to be replaced. Uma states that preliminary well testing confirms that the wells are adequate and the the cost will include new well pumps. Uma assured residents that thorough testing would be done prior to initiating construction. Steve asked about what the inconvenience of construction would be, especially to residents near the proposed construction site. Uma explained the use of a temporary water tank and actually removal of the old equipment would be a slight inconvenience. He states that usage would not be affected and that notifications would be sent out to residents when they would be a lapse in water supply and access to roads, etc. A resident asked about nitrate levels state wide and specifically in Skyline. He explained that the depth of the aquifer affects the nitrate levels and that rural agricultural areas see increased levels. Uma also states that testing for nitrates would be completed. Paige states that she spoke

with a representative from Wellhead. Wellhead stated that Skyline water had a higher quality than the City of Mankato mostly because of the depth of the aquifer. Charlie Berg asked about special assessments and how it would affect property value. Bryan states that he cannot really comment on how that would be affected. Uma explained that some funding sources will require a mandatory increase in the water bill before funding would be approved. Lon was asked about the possibility of bonding funds from the general fund to assist in water tower construction. Lon addressed the question by explaining the current method of bonding. Resident asked about who will be responsible for any damage to the City streets during construction. Uma states that a damage to property clause could be added to the agreement but he does not foresee any issues with the streets or city property. Sam asked how much daily/weekly/monthly maintenance would be required? Would someone need to be trained? Uma explained that there are remote options available to be installed so that no one would need to monitor manually. Uma also states that they also have an individual that could be appointed as the contractor of operation for a monthly fee. Paige asked about freezing risk. Uma explained that a recirculation system prevents

freezing within the water tower system and that the water tower would be insulated. A resident asked if training on usage of water tower equipment was included in the cost of the water tower. Uma states that it was included and he felt that it was a four hour course. A resident asked about ISG experience building water towers. ISG representative explained that they have been involved in over 20 water towers that he is aware of. A resident asked if it was possible to look at other locations within Skyline for possible construction. Uma stated that additional costs of analyzing pressure, new water main construction, tearing up roads to run new water main, etc. Charlie Berg asked what the risks of doing this project independently as a City. Uma states that finding someone to maintain the system or finding someone to consult about concerns. Charlie Berg asked how much a new well would cost. Uma stated approximately \$750,000 for a new well.

City Clerk Report

Marnie had nothing to report at this time.

City Treasurer Report

Lon provided his treasurer's report for January. Report available upon request. Motion to approve report and bill pay by Sam, seconded by Mary.

Water and garbage bill list

Aging summary was given to Marnie, the city clerk. Reminders will be mailed to residents that are overdue with their payments.

## **Departmental Reports**

Water Department

Sam states that if anyone observes the red light on the outside of the pump house in the City park being on, please notify Sam. MRI supplied the last meter to a resident. Sam will contact MRI to have them order additional meters. One will go to a resident that has a leaking meter and one for spare. Discussion about expediting the water tower decision. A newsletter discussing water tower options for both ISG and the City of Mankato will be provided to residents, in addition, a cost breakdown of how much it will cost each household

will be provided. The newsletter will also invite residents to a public forum to discuss concerns and questions at the next month's meeting prior to the council making a decision. Mary Dowd will prepare the newsletter. Sam stated in an email the day following the meeting that Brian has David Lloyd watching the tower during the upcoming cold stretch and that with the cold being short lived, does not anticipate a problem.

#### ❑ Street Department

Paige states that there have been complaints about the snow removal. She called AmLawn and they came and ran through the roads again. The roads appear to be in better Condition. Dean responded to Sam and states that the road to the tower will be plowed AmLawn forgets and needs to be reminded

#### ❑ Parks and Playground Department

Steve has nothing to discuss. Sam inquired about the possibility of an ice skating rink in Skyline.

#### ❑ Public Safety Department

Mary states that she is working with officer Kaiser about public safety ordinances and how to file reports with the police. They are reviewing ordinances to research guidelines for filing different violations. Mary will review the current ordinances on how to report disturbances. Charlie Berg states that the monthly test alarm did not go off in Skyline. Mary states that she will call Frontline to see why the alarm didn't sound this month and to resolve the issue for future alarms.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

- ❑ Sale of lots. The Eckert family has asked how to sell the family property as lots to be developed into additional homes. It was discussed that the family should do the research with a real estate developer and present a proposal to the council. City Attorney Ken White would have to be consulted to review if the city has any say or obligation to this proposed development.

❑ Ehmke Easement

Jeff Ehmke is unhappy with snow removal on the easement road. The agreement was reviewed and discussed. The agreement states that the City will plow at the discretion of the City based on needing access to the water tower. Dean responded to Sam and states that the road to the tower will be plowed. AmLawn forgets and needs to be reminded.

❑ Appointing Auditor

Motion to keep Burkhardt and Burkhardt as auditor by Sam, second by Mary

Meeting Adjourned at 9:17 pm motioned by Steve, seconded by Mary