

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

Present: Mayor & Fire Chief Travis Javens; Clerk Cathy Dahl; Treasurer Lon Whitehead; Council Members, Wayne Bishop, Rebecca Carpenter, Dean Rengstorf; Retired Fire Chief Roger Hermanson; residents Darrel Evers, Emily Javens; City Attorney Ken White

Meeting called to order 6:45 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

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

15-Minute Public Open Forum – Darrel Evers asked about tile-line cleaning. He didn't remember how long ago the last cleaning was, but it was 2004 before that. City of Skyline used to take care of it, next it fell to residents' responsibility, then back to the City of Skyline. Tile cleaning needs to be done every 2-3 years. He asked if that can be done again. He mentioned using Jetter Clean – they have done it before.

Darrel Evers asked about pumping rain water from home septic tanks. He wonders if Skyline has any regulations dealing with that. Mayor Javens told him it is best to pump out into yard – it is not allowed to pump into city sewer. Darrel Evers' situation is that they are at the end of the 28-home tile line and when the line gets slow, they are flooded and he wondered if it can be pumped out onto the lawn. Mayor Javens informed him pumping the rain water to the lawn is the proper way to do it.

As to cleaning the tile line, Dean Rengstorf told him the last time the City decided it was easiest for the City to take care of it. Dean will call Jetter Clean about this. Darrell Evers told Dean he can call him if Jetter Clean needs any further information on locations of tile lines.

City Clerk's Report - Cathy Dahl reported Clerks' Café on July 17th will be last attempt if few or no residents attend. Clerk will go back to having time for being in office only.

Election information - Candidate Filing Period for Municipal/School District Elections in which a primary is not to be held:

Opens: 07/29/14 Closes: 08/12/14 Withdraw by: 08/14/14 ELECTION DAY 11/04/14. This information is on the City Hall door and will be in the Legals Section in the Free Press 7/15 and 7/18. Clerk has forms in office. Filing fee is \$2. New this year – because of expected rise in number of absentee ballots in Blue Earth County, all city clerks must help with counting ballots the Saturday before each election, primary and regular, unless notified otherwise.

A copy of the letter for the tax levy approved in December, 2012 was sent from Blue Earth County and forwarded to auditors. A list of ending dates for Mayor and Council members was also sent to auditor per Lon Whitehead's request.

A log for volunteer work done on Pump House has been created. Dates will be added when decided.

Clerk has removed PO Box number from permits for Dean Rengstorf.

Internet connection was not working. Enventis was just here and got the modem working correctly.

Clerk typed up a list of cleaning responsibilities for city hall renters and sent to Wayne Bishop and Mayor Javens to review. Wayne suggested handing the list out to renters along with the City Hall key and tape one inside a cupboard door as well. Last renters before clerk's event had left men's toilet plugged (plungers were purchased and there is one in each bathroom now), heater in entry was on full blast, and other cleaning had not been done.

Newville Cleaning left a note with needed supplies. Wayne Bishop will pick up.

Overdue water bill notice was sent certified, and signed for by resident of 57 Skyline Drive on June 11th, 2014. He called City Hall at 5:34PM today (July 14th) to say he preferred to not attend the meeting tonight but the bill will be paid in full by the end of the month.

MN Revenue licensing department called wanting to know our current email address. I left them a message to call my cell phone and will give them clerk@cityofskyline.com, mayor@cityofskyline.com and treasurer@cityofskyline.com. I don't think they should need council members also but I will give those if requested.

Samantha Erickson and Cathy Dahl met to choose shingle color for the pump house. Samantha will be getting estimates from roofers.

League of MN Cities offers security breach insurance.

City Treasurer's Report – Lon Whitehead reported for the month of June, 2014. City received credit for \$2530.02 from Xcel Energy for power outages since 2010. Work comp audit was 2 weeks ago. Only blip that came up was needing a certificate from AmLawn, Mike Kennedy got that to them right away. Audit was completed and Lon made sure there is a copy of the last 10 years of audits in the office. LJP charged an extra \$150 for picking up wet carpet etc. after basements had been flooded. Mayor Javens gave approval for City to cover this because of emergency situation.

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Water Department - Samantha Erickson absent. No report.

Street Department - Dean Rengstorf reported Mankato did the sign work we requested. They cleaned the extra signs out of Erickson's yard. Dean met with someone from SMC to get them back on board for crack repair. He said they can take care of issues but he hasn't gotten to it yet. He said pipe in ravine will be more than an easy fix, but waiting on estimate. Work needs to be done before fence goes in. Lockens is going to do crack filling. Estimate from Person Bros on seal coating streets for 2015.

Parks & Playgrounds Department - Wayne Bishop reported new seat for swing is here and will be installed this week. "No poo" signs on City trash cans have been replaced. Wayne asked for suggestions for supply list. He hasn't found anyone to talk to about sand for playground. He measured sand area - 68 ft. x 88 ft. He will ask whoever provides sand to see if they will level it or if volunteers are needed. He will also apply Roundup to weeds before new sand arrives. Mayor Javens told him to be sure sand truck avoids sprinkler heads. Roger Hermanson mentioned a section of park is getting brown. Sprinklers will be started up soon now that the rain is not as heavy and frequent. Wayne Bishop thanked Mayor Javens for getting tennis court signs taken care of.

Public Safety Department – Rebecca Carpenter reported over 4th of July weekend 2 different cars were broken into and vandalized. One was locked, one was unlocked. She told them they needed to make reports to the sheriff.

Fire Department Chief Travis Javens – nothing much to report; he missed the last fire meeting.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mankato Fire Department service to Skyline – Ken White thinks we are close to having language finalized. Still waiting to hear what rate will be after the first years. He recommends waiting to decide until after we get that number. He reminded Mankato that Skyline will require less work than the rest of the Mankato area having few fire calls and police service.

Ken said new sewer agreements are different between Mankato and all smaller cities. They are working on making uniformity in agreements. All will be rewritten. Mankato needs to know we are possibly adding a house. Mayor Javens said he has already informed them. Ken White suggested checking with N. Mankato and Madison Lake to see what they are thinking of the new agreements. Eagle Lake is not happy that there is a fee for the use of Mankato pipes to get their waste to the treatment plant. Lon Whitehead said cost may be approx. \$36,000 per year. Now the billing adds up to about \$40,000. Lon will meet with auditors to discuss options if we need to increase water/sewer rates. Mayor Javens said we need to see if water tower rental needs to be used for water/sewer before increasing rates.

Verizon was informed by Ken White what needs to be done for new equipment on tower.

Mayor Javens asked Ken White to talk to Ilene with City of Mankato about Skyline using some of their sewer/storm water code to write our own. Ken White told him it is public document and we can use their wording without asking permission.

Potential annexation of residence – No residents opposed to this have shown up to discuss situation even though they have had several opportunities. Ken White explained resolution between Skyline and Mankato Township. There are 2 procedures for single annexation processes. Mankato and Mankato Township has an orderly annexation agreement. Mankato Township and Mankato amended their orderly annexation agreement to add the lot that may become part of Skyline. Those cities passed it and it was approved by state of MN. One way is to

publish and have public meetings. The other is to fill out paperwork and handle it between the cities. Fee to file it with state is \$50 or \$75. Mankato Township is voting on this tonight also. If they pass it and Skyline does, new area will become part of Skyline in approximately 3 weeks when approved by state. 2014 property taxes for new residence will go to Mankato Township, Skyline after that. Ken hasn't heard of any concerns from Mankato Township, so he assumes they will approve tonight. He also noted that Mankato Township does not have any special assessments on property. Mayor Javens asked if we should offer one more public hearing before signing. Dean Rengstorf didn't feel that was necessary at this point. Wayne Bishop feels residents have had enough opportunity to speak up about it.

Quotes for fencing around water tower – got two quotes. Second came in lower than the first. Mankato Landshapes \$11,715.14. Sun Up Construction \$8,483.00. Survey was done by Survey Services. Mayor Javens feels if city approves lower price, the extra \$3,000 would be used to hire our clearing and grubbing. Wayne Bishop mentioned telling all neighbors about upcoming work to be done. Tree trimming needs to be done over access road also. Mayor Javens and City Clerk will draft a letter to go to 7 residences adjoining lines to inform them. Motion to accept bid from Sun Up Construction for \$8483.00 to install fence around water tower area, Wayne Bishop, Dean Rengstorf, 2nd. Passed unanimously. Wayne Bishop wondered if quotes should start being sought for cleaning and grubbing area. Mayor Javens will contact Pfeffer who has done work for us before.

Pump house repair and painting scheduling logistics – Wayne Bishop looked at door on pump house. Sign can be taken off for painting. Clerk will round up volunteers when ready.

Interconnection agreement with Mankato – discussed earlier with Ken White.

NEW BUSINESS

ID theft protection available from League of MN Cities. Council feels we have no need for this.

Brian Powers spoke to mayor about wet pipe on water tower being in bad shape. There may need to be a replacement of pipe done. Mayor Javens will keep in contact with Brian about it.

Sewer and storm water code - Flow meter reading was sent back from month of June. Evening we had six inches of water overnight was astronomical. Skyline needs to get a code/ordinance in place to allow city to do inspections before we can act on it. City Council needs to get something drafted and have a public hearing. Mayor Javens will work with Ken White to get this taken care of. Emily Javens pointed out that Mankato was forced to pump sewage into river because of overflow. Residents need to understand the consequences of pumping rain water into sewer system.

Storm water issue – property owner along Highway 66 contacted Mayor Javens about culvert that goes by Moran Park and between Wanda's house and neighbor's and dumps into ravine. He told Mayor Javens that in the early 80s when his father owned his residence he sued Skyline for dumping water down on them. Skyline was required to partially close the pipe to stop this. The evening of the 6-inch rain he had a river going through his yard. To address the issue, we either

need to put cement plug back in, or for long term look for a better solution to water flying down that ravine. Emily Javens wonders if culvert even needs to be there at all. Removing it may leave standing water in the park on rare occasions. She didn't see as much erosion as she expected when she visited the ravine. She feels the best solution is to get rid of the culvert to avoid any future liability. Grading could be done to allow for more water storage in park during heavy rains. Mayor Javens thinks it's an opportunity to create a dry basin in park to soak water into ground. Mayor Javens asked for opinions. Emily Javens said another option is a 2nd outlet to discharge into City of Skyline property. City Council agreed to let Emily Javens look into this situation.

Gentleman purchasing land to build new Skyline house asked Mayor Javens if we are willing to sell a 5-acre section of land to him to use for recreation. Mayor Javens does not want to do this. New family is free to use the area for recreation, but so can anyone else. He also asked about Skyline rules for fencing.

Motion to adjourn, Dean Rengstorf, Wayne Bishop, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Submitted by Cathy Dahl
Skyline City Clerk

Mayor

date

City Clerk

date

***NEXT MEETING – RESOLVE ANNEXATION MATTER RIGHT AWAY.**