

City Council Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2020 / 6:45 PM / Skyline City Hall

ATTENDEES

Sam Erickson, Lon Whitehead, Mayor Paige Attarian, Marnie Kortuem, John Selly, Eric Manske, Gina Selly

Mike Erickson

Via Google Meet: Charlie Berg, Mary Dowd

AGENDA

Call meeting to order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Attarian at 6:45 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance performed by all in attendance.

Public Forum

Mike Erickson is proposing to add an addition to his family's home. He brought measurements and drawings.

According to these guidelines, he does not need a topography done. We would like to have it documented that the council agreed that a variance for the new road would be given if needed and that the property would be measured from the middle of the current road despite what the Blue Earth County Assessor's website appears to show.

Please see Old Business to see John Selly, a public forum attendee, requests.

Approve Agenda and Minutes

Lon proposed a change in verbage. The change was made. Sam approved agenda and minutes. Eric seconded the motion.

City Clerk Report

Election guidelines have been posted on both City Hall doors. Marnie requested

\$250 for a new ballast, fluorescent bulbs and paint supplies to paint the city park Building. Statement regarding candidacy guidelines for the upcoming election have been posted to the City of Skyline website. Sam mentioned that the city park building may be redone throughout the water tower project so the building will not be repainted at this time.

City Treasurer Report

Lon states that he received a check from AT&T for \$2500 on June 1st. The City of Mankato will begin billing the City of Skyline for wastewater through the end of the year. Lon states that the total payables are \$20,993.23. Lon prepared the complete financial report. The report will be added to the website to review. Lon also states that the audit for this year is nearly complete. Eric motioned to approve Lon's report and to pay bills, Sam seconded it.

Water and garbage bill list

Lon handed out the list of bills for this month. The over 90 day accounts were more prevalent. Letters will be sent to those owing 90 days. Sam and Charlie discussed that communication be sent to resident's that see an unusually high and unexplained jump in water usage. See notes below regarding excessive bills and homes that required new pads or repairs.

Departmental Reports

Water Department

See items listed below. Items are numbered.

Street Department

Eric states that he responded to Nielsen black top. They are planning on coming up on June 12th to repair the damage that has happened through the seasons. He states that he also discussed a more thorough project when the water tower construction is complete. Eric spoke with the Peterson resident about removing the bush in his yard that is covering up the City of Skyline sign coming up the hill. The resident states that it

is just fine to remove or trim the bush. He also spoke with AmLawn so that they maintain the patch of road that extends to the water tower.

❑ Parks and Playground Department

Steve is absent. Nothing to report.

❑ Public Safety Department

Mary contacted Frontline to address the warning system random and inaccurate messages. They addressed the issue and has been resolved. She also spoke with Darlene Lee, her daughter's house was involved in a home

fire. Darlene inquired about a fundraiser. It was determined that perhaps this would be the responsibility of family and friends. The City Council

presented the Carpenter family with flowers and extended their assistance if needed.

Old Business:

- Non- commercial greenhouse and chicken coop. Four hens, no plan for a rooster. Supply a permit.

John Selly was present, he stated that he has purchased chickens and built a coop for them. He states that he followed the guidelines while constructing his coop. He was not aware of any ordinance, but will comply.

Mayor Attarian states that Skyline will write a permit and John has agreed to sign that permit when it is ready.

John is also hoping to build a greenhouse that will be part of a garage expansion. He brought the plans for the council to review. His drawings are within guidelines so no vote is required.

New Business:

- Greenhouse-Addressed under Old Business.
- Parking boat on easement-If it becomes an issue, Mayor Attarian will discuss the issue with Jeff, the homeowner.
- Fall Clean up. At this time LJP is not scheduling and any clean-ups. Lon will notify us when that changes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm by Mayor Attarian, Sam motioned, Eric seconded

Agenda items submitted by Sam Erickson: (some topics may be duplicate information)

Item 1

Here is a list from the last water meter reading. This is sent in an email from Charlie after he enters all the data:

PROBLEMS AND NOTES:

1. 47,60 - no outside reading pads.-Electricians will need to be called by the residents to resolve these issues.
2. **23** - pad is not working, but meter is good. -Proposed that a volunteer could complete this task.
3. 41 - reading missing 3rd digit, but can estimate what that digit is.-Proposed that a volunteer could complete this task.
- 31 and 36 occasionally missing digits, but not this time.
4. 63 - extensive remodeling - no current pad - he will replace it when remodeling is done.-Nothing needed at this time.
5. 134 - new meter in January, but pad not working.
6. 118 - Knedel - big decrease, but usage still abnormally high.
7. 59 - Andring - big increase - usage abnormally high.
8. 1716 - Johnson - big increase.
9. 1716 1/2 - Renter - Usage stayed the same, but is very abnormally high.

Marnie, I am not sure if this should be included and/or if maybe just house numbers? I don't know if it is "protected" as it is not talking about past due bills but we may want to take out names and leave house numbers only? Or delete the above as they are all addressed below. You can decide what is appropriate.

**Eric Manske agreed to volunteer to replace the pads that are bad. This is a probationary volunteer effort based on his comfort level with the task.

I would like to come up with a more consistent plan on big increase reads. Two reads ago, we didn't bill one resident high usage because it was auto pay while there is another resident with similar type of bill that was billed the balance. There have never been guidelines established for contacting a resident when usage is high to alert them so that they do not go another two months with high usage due to an issue in the house instead of actual use. We have tried to establish a "bill it and they should question it" type of procedure but that isn't working either.

I have texted the owner of 1716 to let him know his usage is extreme and asked for an actual read/picture of both meters. He did not respond to my question of knowing why his water was high and only texted that he will take pictures of his meter.

As for Dorothy's, this usage still accounts for a few weeks of leaky toilet before Schweikert's came and repaired. This is actual water that was pulled from the tower and went through the drain. I have to insist that this be billed or our council is being very unjust to others who have had similar issues.

From this list, we are still in need of a volunteer to "fix" water pads outside of homes when they are not working or figure out who resident's need to call to get this done. Those without outside meter pads, we were going to address through a letter and decided to wait but with the tower project, I think we need to eliminate many of these small nuances from the equation.

Item 2

Charlie is proposing this following options for when homes transition to new owners:

We should talk with Lon and Jason at LJP sometime and set up a standard policy for water bills when a new owner moves in. Most of the time we are never asked to do a "move out/in" reading, and the owners work it out among themselves. When we are asked to do a move out/in reading, each situation usually gets handled differently.

For #61, the new owners used no water in the week between 5/8 and our regular readings on 5/15. The previous owners had used 1 unit between 3/15 and 5/8.

So we could:

1. Charge the minimum water and sewer charges to the party that used water, and pro-rate the other charges between the parties
2. Or take the total bill with everything included and pro-rate that amount
3. Or charge everything for the last period to the past owner and start the new owner fresh as on the next period that started 5/16

I would suggest #3 - it would be simpler for Jason at LJP and simpler for my records also.

Item 3

Thein Well Company was here last month. They are concerned that pump 2 is starting to slow down and should be rebuilt in the next year or two. Brian and I chose to defer this to the bigger water tower project as it is not a critical issue at this time. It has been 5 years since they rebuilt it.

Item 4

Water hydrants were flushed on Sunday, 5/31/20. When this occurred, the volunteers also took note of some issues with water shut off and hydrants. This will require us to hire someone to come and repair them. The problem is that the shut offs at the hydrant are unable to actually be shut off. If we were to have an incident where water needed to be turned off or there was damage to the hydrant, we would not have the ability to shut off without shutting off a large number of homes to water. When we had our incident of the semi taking out our hydrant, Lorentz Construction was the one who repaired the hydrant and shut off.

There is a hole in front of the hydrant at West Skyline Ct and the hydrant shut off is broken on the top.

The council agrees that these items need to be done. Sam will proceed.

Item 5

Have we hired someone to do the Faye's lawn? Eric states that he attempted to contact two contractors, but he did not have any. Paige will contact AmLawn to see if they can repair the yard at 241 W. Skyline Court.

Item 6

Call before you dig service to mark water lines. Paige had proposed a few options in an email. It was proposed that the council hire someone to mark the lines, Sam is going to talk to Travis Javens to see if he could mark the lines.

Item 7

Laura Peterson asked me about the project at the tower. She would like to plant some fruit trees but wants to know the extent of possible damage to her property along the back so she knows where she should plant them. I am not sure if there are any new updates from ISG on this. It is recommended that she wait to plant until after the construction takes place. Paige will contact ISG to see how far into their yard the construction will be.