

**CITY OF SKYLINE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
June 10, 2013**

**Present:** Mayor Travis Javens; Clerk Cathy Dahl, Treasurer Lon Whitehead; Council Members Samantha Erickson, Wayne Bishop, Rebecca Carpenter; Fire Chief Roger Hermanson; resident Mark Rieber

Call Meeting to Order 6:45 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

15-Minute Public Open Forum – Mark Rieber shared information about possible merge with City of Mankato. He met with Pat Hentges, city manager of Mankato. Merging is a long process - requires a task force and vote by both cities. Mark told him we aren't looking at anything at the present time. Pat Hentges thought a better way to check into this would be for Skyline to open our financial books to Mankato to compare what we pay now vs. the cost of what Mankato does. Pat Hentges could do this for a couple of years and then look at details of what benefit/disadvantages there would be to a merger. Information about effect on property taxes would be looked at later if Skyline decides to look into this further. Mark thinks there are things that could be handled easier by a larger governmental unit and he is concerned about the expense of our water tower in future when its life is up. Pat Hentges is concerned about a mess up front if the thought of a merger is brought up to residents without enough research ahead of time. Mankato cannot annex us – pursuing this is at Skyline's option. Rebecca Carpenter suggested Skyline look at strategic planning of our own for 10 or more years before considering working with Mankato. Council thanked Mark Rieber for his time to gather this information.

Approval of minutes and agenda – Motion to approve, Rebecca Carpenter, Samantha Erickson , 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved unanimously.

City Clerk's Report - Cathy Dahl reported signature lines have been added to at bottom of minutes for monthly approval.

Resolution for accepting AT&T amendment has been typed up and is ready to sign. Cathy searched for a tax levy sample resolution form on the League of MN Cities website and couldn't find one, so she will create one. Lon Whitehead suggested calling Mike or Greg Burkhardt who do our audits for sample resolution.

Kristy Powers will have new city directories available soon (probably 2 weeks) and will bring 6 extra copies to be kept at city hall.

Cathy requested another copy of the City and Township Weed Control Report from Blue Earth County. Mayor Javens filled it out and returned by email.

A new resident called to ask about rules for removing/filling in an in-ground swimming pool. Cathy explained about following MN state code and contacting Gopher one state about locating underground lines.

Rick, with group home, called about getting a water test report. 507-327-4608, and was referred to Samantha Erickson. When found, Samantha will send clerk a copy for future reference.

Population estimates from State Demographer:

4/1/2012 – population estimate 287, household estimate 113. Council members agree with population, but household estimate is off. It should be 124 – clerk will communicate with MN about this.

League of MN cities dues will increase next year to \$1063 from \$1031 in 2013.

ArtSplash Art Fair in N. Mankato is this Saturday, 10AM – 4PM.

City Treasurer's Report – Lon Whitehead went over report for May. He checked and we do not have a debit card for the City of Skyline checking account. One house was sold and back-utilities were paid. Audit is in progress. Audit copies will be kept in clerk's office for public viewing if requested. Wayne Bishop suggested moving money from city funds to dedicated accounts. There was a discussion of pros and cons of doing that. Long-range planning is required to start any dedicated accounts. Treasurer feels it would be too restrictive.

Approval of city clerk's report and treasurer's report – motion Wayne Bishop, Samantha Erickson, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Water Department - Samantha Erickson reported the circle graph at the pump house is not working. Brian Powers has someone coming to look at it and it will likely need to be replaced. New one may be about \$2000. Other city volunteers will receive training on reading it. Travis Javens met with Mary at City of Mankato. From now on, MVTL will not be involved in reading flow meter. In contract, Mankato will do this at their expense and it will be done monthly. Skyline will be billed for replacing battery. Mankato will take over process in July. Mayor Javens suggested having MVTL come out for June reading as soon as possible. Samantha will contact them. 3 days after meeting with Mayor, Mary sent sampling data from 2005 on. 2012 readings are in question. Travis did math showing the readings were very high and bill should drop to less than half. More answers to come on how they did their calculations and what Skyline actually owes. Right now, Mankato is evaluating all of their partnership contracts and may go with a standard residential rate. This may be completed by the end of 2013. Mayor Javens suggested Skyline should also do manual inspections at least twice a month to be sure nothing is plugged in the line – we would need a volunteer. Samantha feels it is too dangerous for a volunteer to handle lifting manhole and traffic hazard. Travis will take care of inspections for now. Samantha suggested running a wire to avoid battery replacement. Discussion of costs and disadvantages of wiring. Maybe city of Mankato would take care of battery replacement for

us for a fee. Samantha will investigate battery options. Mayor Javens believes checking flow meter twice a month will need to be done forever.

Late water bill letter discussion: Mayor Javens suggested addition of if you request a hearing at the next regularly scheduled city council meeting and add date of shut off, and add line for Mayor Javens to sign. Wayne Bishop asked that date of next council meeting be listed in letter as well. St. James Bank letter will be different as that amount will be added to property taxes with Blue Earth County and start billing over again. \$500 overdue bills will start collection process. Clerk will contact BE County taxpayers services to ask when to submit information to add long overdue invoices to property tax bill at 304-4251.

Street Department - Dean Rengstorf absent. Mayor Javens reported road striping is done, along with handicapped painting on city hall parking lot. Stripes have been helping to slow people down. Dean Rengstorf requested attending tonight via telephone conference. Checking on rules through League of MN Cities showed that it would be difficult to arrange.

Parks & Playgrounds Department - Wayne Bishop reported \$100 in city hall rental income from May. Porta-john is in. Still working on purchase of a microwave and finding a cleaner for city hall. The slide in Vetter Park has cracks in the top. Samantha Erickson said they've been there for years. Wayne will look into whom to call for repair work and getting this done to avoid possible injury. Mayor Javens mentioned we need a new basketball net. Some residents have suggested putting benches by playground area. Mayor Javens remembered there is a picnic table available that just needs to be carried across the street and can be moved any time. Mayor and Wayne will move it over after meeting. Samantha mentioned there's been a lot of trash in the sand lately. People have been putting dog poo in 2<sup>nd</sup> trash can outside of city hall. 2<sup>nd</sup> can will be moved to avoid this. Mayor Javens says more ag-lime is needed for baseball field and landscaping needs help around city hall because right in the front looks terrible - unsure if seed or sod would be better. There is no sprinkler system on city hall grounds. Wayne will check with AmLawn and see what services they offer and report back.

Public Safety Department – Rebecca Carpenter reported speed machine was up near top of hill. The City of Mankato will bring speed sign up again later to put up by park as well. Rebecca sent thank you email to City of Mankato for allowing us to use this free of charge.

Roger Hermanson, Fire Department Chief, reported has a regional meeting in Eagle Lake and then Amboy for chiefs meeting.

Motion to approve departmental reports, Rebecca Carpenter, Samantha Erickson, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

### OLD BUSINESS

AT&T proposal - Mayor Javens read typed resolution and Mayor and city clerk signed.

Mentorship and job descriptions for council positions – nothing further.

Mailbox for city hall – nothing more at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Rieber’s Mankato merger information. Discussion – no one has heard residents say they are interested in merger with Mankato. Majority of residents who have discussed process with council members want Skyline to stay on our own.

Mayor talked about grant writing. One thought is to continue finding funds for Skyline emergency generator started by former Mayor Kluck and securing water tower and equipment when needed. Chuck Pettipiece & Associates is checking to see if funds may be available. If so, he will present to Mayor and council.

Motion to adjourn, Wayne Bishop, Samantha Erickson, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 8:23 PM.

Submitted by Cathy Dahl  
Skyline City Clerk

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Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
date