

City of Skyline

City Council Meeting

March 9, 2020 / 6:45 PM / Skyline City Hall

ATTENDEES(Council Members)

Paige Attarian, Steve Romnes, Lon Whitehead, Sam Erickson, Mary Dowd, Marnie Kortuem, Eric Manske
Guests: Uma Vempati and Brian from ISG Engineering firm

AGENDA

Call meeting to order

Meeting called to order at 6:45 by Mayor Attarian

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge completed by council members and public

Approve Agenda and Minutes

Motion to add Water Tower vote following Public forum by Mayor Attarian. Mary Dowd moved to accept the minutes and agenda addition. Second by Sam Erickson.

Public Open Forum: New Skyline Water Tower

Resident: How imminent is the failure of our current tower?

Mayor Attarian: Two years ago, the water tower needed \$250,000 in repairs. It has become imminent, before complete failure occurs.

Resident: Could the location of the water tower be placed where the current pump house stands in the city park?

Mayor: Relocating will cost considerably more than the current bid.

Sam redirected to Uma from ISG

Uma: Reviewed that a temporary water source will be placed at a location to be determined while the tower is being built. He states that the bid includes one consideration for alternative location evaluation.

Resident reiterated: Clarifying that he felt since infrastructure would be there already, it seemed feasible. He was just inquiring

Resident: States that he worked as a professor in parks and recreation and feels that building in the park would greatly impact the recreational use of the park.

Resident: What is the revenue generated by the cell phone tower?

Mayor: We keep property taxes lower by using some of the cell phone tower money. Discusses that the use of bonds will assist in paying for the water tower and that the cell phone tower revenue will help with the maintenance on the new water tower.

Steve Romnes: Explained that water costs will have to be raised to offset some costs. He states that Mankato charges \$4.25 compared to Skyline \$1.70 (approximate) currently.

Resident: States that if Mankato builds the tower, how is it Skyline's responsibility that they have pressure issues below the hill. He has concerns that Skyline will be "under their thumb" if they build the tower. They will set the water rates and Skyline resident's will have to use Mankato water and that does not "taste as good".

Resident: Do the bulb style water towers have room to house the cell towers without obscuring lettering?

Uma: The design allows for the towers to be placed without obstructing the lettering.

Resident: What would the true cost per year be increasing to? \$592 per household per year, plus an increase for the water unit? He is stating that if you combine costs, it will essentially be the same whether Skyline builds their own or if Mankato builds the tower and bills for water. Asked for clarification as to why the vote must occur tonight.

Brian from ISG: States that the deadline for application to begin the process is May 7th.

Resident: What will be the impact for resident's whose property "butt's up" to the water tower?

Uma: The impact should be minimal. The biggest concern will be with the painting. He assures that skirting is placed around the site to control the paint.

Resident: When will the impact be more formally to the individuals that leave near the future build site?

Uma: February 2021 the plans will be more specific. A time table will be disclosed at that time. If changes need to occur at that time, it may postpone until the following year.

Uma assured that construction is intended to last six months.

Eric Manske: Is there a possibility to open up the ravine next to the current water tower?

Uma: Additional permits would need to be applied for and it could potentially draw out the project duration.

Resident: Would the Mankato construction be more invasive than the independent build?

Uma: Yes. They would need to dig up water lines coming up the hills and dig up roads to access lines.

Resident: What hours will the tower be worked on? What will the noise level be?

Uma: The contract will state that construction must be done 8-5 pm. Special recommendations can be made at additional costs.

Resident: Is the water tower built off site and then erected on site?

Uma: The sections are built off site and then erected. The foundation will be extensive and on site only.

Resident: How does the paint process and design proceed?

Uma: That is all discussed and voted upon prior to completion.

Resident: What is the longevity of the new water tower?

Sam Erickson: Our current tower is 60 years old and the average duration of a water tower is 30-40 year.

Steve Romnes: Can you discuss the issues of the four pedestal design versus the single pedestal design?

Uma: You have more rusting and maintenance on the four legged pedestal versus the single leg pedestal. There is less risk of freezing in the single pedestal.

Resident: Can the new tower be taller than the current tower?

Uma: Yes, that can be a consideration. Engineers must check with the FAA to assure that there are no issues with flight traffic.

Charlie: Will bonds and loans cover the cost of independent build?

Brian (ISG): The bonds should cover the cost of the project, but loans are available.

Resident: Are we confident that the current well would sustain the new water tower?

Mayor Attarian: I met with the WellHead protection agency and it was determined that the current wells are in sufficient condition to withstand the new tower.

Sam: Directed to Brian. What do you think about the current well since you are in there most often.

Brian Powers: I do not have any indication to think that the current wells would have any problem withstanding a new water tower.

Vote for Water Tower construction

Public informally voted unanimously to build the water tower independently.

Mayor moved to vote on building the water tower independently. Mary moved to build independently; Sam seconded the motion. No objection by any council members. Passed unanimously by council.

City Clerk Report

Marnie asked if Mayor Attarian should notify the City of Mankato of the council's decision and write a press release to submit to the Mankato Free Press? Council decided that a Press Release should be written and submitted to the media outlets after the City of Mankato was notified of the council's decision. Mary Dowd agreed to prepare the release.

City Treasurer Report

Lon handed out the Treasurer's Report and reviewed the report with the council.

He stated that we still have not gotten a bill from the City of Mankato for their

Water Tower proposal. Xcel bill 683.04, AmLawn \$1166.25 were added to the report balance. Lon passed out the Aging Summary for water bills. Mary motioned to approve treasurer report and bills, Steve seconded.

Water and garbage bill list

Letters will be mailed to residents that have a balance over 90 days overdue.

Departmental Reports

Water Department

The water meter 21 Skyline was replaced. The resident states that there is some corrosion near the meter that may need to be repaired.

Street Department

Eric is exploring options for reopening the manhole covers. He has pictures of the

issues. Eric is requesting revisiting AmLawn contract, he has requested receiving

the bills emailed to him and AmLawn has not accommodated his request.

Eric

states that the roads are continuing to peel up and break apart. He inquired what

funding is available to repair the roads this year. He felt that it has been three years

since the roads were resurfaced last. Steve states that he got a quote from Greg Gonzales for snow plowing. He uses a snow blower instead of a plow.

Parks and Playground Department

Steve states that he will have the port o potty delivered once the snow thaws completely.

Public Safety Department

Mary contacted Frontline and they stated that the alarm didn't sound last month

because of work down the hill, the alarm had been deactivated. The alarms sounded

this month.

Old Business: None noted.

New Business: None noted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. Steve motioned, Mary seconded.