

City Council Meeting Minutes

May 10th, 2021/ 6:45 PM / Skyline City Hall

ATTENDEES: Mayor Paige Attarian, Eric Manske, Lon Whitehead, Steve Romnes, Jason Hammond, Shirley Piepho, Marnie Kortuem

Guests: Brian Petzel (ISG), Kelly Evans (ISG-Via Google Meet), Becky Volk, Marilyn Schueneman, Cindy Romnes, Ed Kortuem, Wally Gates, Sabrina Ehmke, Dustin Jones

Via Google Meet: Charlie Berg, Alan Honerman, Andy Stapelman, Christy Schwanke Julie Freyberg, Mary Dowd, Micki Schaefer, Marvis Waterbury, Nancy Kluck, Terry Evers, Theresa Larson, Steve Byers

Agenda:

- Call Meeting to Order at 6:45 pm by Mayor Paige Attarian
- Pledge of Allegiance performed by all in attendance
 - Public Forum:

Variance request:

Dustin Jones at 240 W. Skyline Court is wondering if he can get a variance for his new pour of concrete. Dustin brought the council drawings of the proposed pour. The council will discuss at the City Council Meeting portion and notify Dustin of their decision.

Water Tower discussion:

Eric Manske, council member and water tower location team lead, informed the council and public about the recent sub-meeting that his committee held last week. He states that the team would like to consider three sites for surveying. Brian Petzel explained that it would cost approximately \$15,000/site to be surveyed. Eric explained that the majority of his committee and the recent survey indicate that the current location is favored. The problems with the current site is that the proposed site would cost more initially and staging would be a challenge due to space constraints. Kelly Evans-ISG states that they should be able to build the new water tower with the existing water tower in place. Shirley Piepho indicated that there were some safety issues in the initial report. Brian Petzel and Kelly Evans state that they felt confident that there would not be a long term concern about erosion. Paige asked if stabilization of the ravine would need to be done. Brian Petzel did not feel that would be a concern. Brian Powers indicated his concerns with maintaining pressure tanks throughout the winter months, he feels that the road going back to the water tower cannot sustain heavy traffic and equipment. Brian Petzel states that reinforcement would have to take place for the road. Kelly Evans-ISG, states that maintaining the pressure tanks would fall on

the current operator, who is the City of Skyline. Kelly Evan and Brian Petzel clarified that the cost of the current site would be considerably more, but that it is a very feasible site. The second site visited by Eric Manske and his team was Vetter Park, Brian Petzel states that there would be a great deal of power line interference and the pump house poses as an obstacle. Brian Powers states that the current pump house does not need to be as large as it is. Brian Powers states that the pump house could be effective at half of its current size. Brian Powers states that if a new building is built it should be considered to add an indoor bathroom that can lock. The third site that was visited was Moran Park, the site is very open with a lot of mature trees, the group felt that the space would be better used to develop a community space. Concerns with this site was cell tower relocation, pipe size and road tear up. The tennis court site did not seem like a good option due to tearing out existing structures. Cindy Romnes, 4 Skyline Place, addressed the council stating that the survey that was sent out indicated the current site had the majority of the votes, so why is their opinion not being considered more seriously. Paige introduced discussion about the cell phone tower usage, the revenue from the cell towers is considerable at \$90,000/year. She states, can we complete this project without the revenue and yes it can, but it would be difficult. If the water tower is moved from the current site, there is potential for increased cost to relocate them. Steve Romnes states that the wear and tear on the roads driving through Skyline to the back areas would be considerable, Brian Petzel agreed that would be an additional expense and that there would be more damage to the roads if moving to the back areas. Eric Manske states that his team does not have a clear recommendation at this time. He states that the group did look at another site, a cul-de-sac on the east end of the city. Brian Petzel states that it would be difficult to access this area and staging would be tough at that site. Brian Powers states that if the southern sites are used water pressure would be affected. Kelly Evans-ISG did not feel that decreased pressure would be a concern with the new pump and taller tower. Shirley Piepho asked if the cell tower antennas would go back onto the new tower or would there be a monopole for the antennas. Brian Petzel states that there are options with this to be determined as the job progresses. Jason Hammond states that if the tower is moved there is a potential that the cell companies could reconsider locating the antennas in Skyline. Kelly Evans, states that they have access to a company that can review the current cell tower contracts, they have not been reviewed since 2016. Kelly, states that is part of the current quote from ISG. Sabrina Ehmke, states that it would be prudent to review these contracts. Steve Romnes states that he researched companies that would review and negotiate contracts. Both Steve Romnes and Brian Petzel feel that it is possible to negotiate a new, higher cost for cell tower rental. Steve feels that if we negotiate a new contract for a higher fee it would offset the cost of keeping the water tower in its current

location. Kelly Evans states that there is a risk of the cell phone not wanting to negotiate if we are choosing to move the antennas to a totally different site. Charlie Berg, via Google Meet, asked Eric Manske what his team discussed specifically about the incurred cost at each of the different sites. Charlie Berg wanted to clarify if there were any new developments with the sites, Eric Manske denied any new information. Charlie asked about easements during construction. Brian Petzel stated that there would be temporary easements for the properties near the current site. Ed Kortuem, 124 S. Skyline Drive, voiced concern about the potential loss of revenue of the cell phone antennas. Paige explained that this is a big consideration and that it will be strongly considered moving forward. Wally Gates states that he was on the original committee for placing the cell tower antennas, he states that the companies are happy because we currently provide them with a great service. He encourages the council to work hard to please these companies and make it appealing to these companies to continue to use our site for their service. Alan Honerman, 7 Skyline Drive, asked a question about the height of the tower for the cell tower antennas and would it be a problem if the height was changed. If the site is moved and a monopole needed to be constructed in the current site it would cost \$250,000-\$400,000 to construct that pole and the City of Skyline would absorb that cost. Eric Manske moved to vote, Steve seconded two locations to be surveyed. The board voted unanimously, four votes, for the original site. One vote, for Vetter Park, two votes for Moran Park and one vote for the tennis court. Shirley Piepho motioned to accept the vote, Jason Hammond seconded. Passed unanimously. The decision is to move forward with surveying the original site and Moran Park.

Approve Agenda and Minutes

Shirley Piepho moved to approve the minutes and agenda, Steve Romnes seconded. Passed unanimously.

City Clerk Report - Nothing to report

City Treasurer Report

Lon supplied his report stating the receipts for the month were \$16,182.53 and Payables were \$11,608.53. Steve Romnes moved to accept the treasurer's report, Eric Manske seconded. Passed unanimously.

Water and garbage bill list

Marnie asked for clarification on how to further enforce payment of bills on time. Shirley Piepho states that she will investigate the penalty of shutting off water or charging a fee to homes if bills are not paid after 90 days. Lon encouraged checking with the League of Minnesota Cities to see if it is possible to pursue this action.

Departmental Reports

Water Department:

Jason Hammond states that he got a question about who maintains the pads on their homes. Jason states that 11 houses have damaged parts on their pads for reading meters. Eric states that he replaced 3-4 pads last year. Jason is going to find out how to order the pads. If the pad is replaced and it does not help the problem, it becomes the responsibility of the homeowner. Charlie Berg recommended that someone check in with the homes that have damaged pad and see if new wire needs to be run to the pads. Steve Romnes states that he will speak with Chris Heimer and that he and Chris should be able to rewire the damaged pads.

Street Department:

Eric states that he does not have any new development. He contacted Nielson and asked them to come out and evaluate current damage and to evaluate the repairs from last season. He states that the mastiff has broken apart and looks poor.

Parks and Playground Department:

Steve states that he replaced the broken baby swing at Vetter Park. Steve will place the extra baby seat in the Skyline City Hall garage.

Public Safety:

Shirley states that she talked to the city police and county to change the times that they patrol the area and attempt to catch individuals that are speeding through Skyline. Shirley is working with the county to get speed boxes that show people how fast they are going.

NEW Business:

New pump house - Brian Powers states that he feels that an engineer may over engineer the design of the pump house. Brian feels that the design could be much more simplified. Brian is working with John Shemanski about designing a facility that would manage the chemicals in the space properly.

Sign for city clean up (email reminder) on May 22nd. No mattresses.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. Motioned by Jason Hammond, seconded by Steve Romnes. Passed unanimously