

# CITY OF SKYLINE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**October 10, 2016**

**Present:** Mayor Travis Javens; Treasurer Lon Whitehead; Clerk Cathy Dahl; Council Members, Wayne Bishop, Dean Rengstorf; Residents, Brian Powers, Gil Harrison, Chris Heimer, Terri and Daryl Evers

Meeting called to order at 6:45 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes and agenda. Motion to approve minutes as corrected in treasurer's report and addition to agenda in new business (Storm outlet between 134 and 136 S. Skyline Drive), Samantha Erickson, Dean Erickson, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

**15-Minute Public Open Forum** – Brian Powers came to talk about the tile lines, along with other residents who have water issues in their basements. Brian wants to volunteer to find a resolution to the private tile lines. Past mayors would not have the City take them over. Suggestions have been made as to what can be done for Skyline to take them over. In 2014, his basement flooded after a big rain. Tile line in his back yard is full of roots and needs regular cleaning. He thinks we need an owner's manual for the tile system. A resident lost a home sale because of a flooded basement. He believes tile lines need to be cleaned before winter so we are not in trouble in the spring. Mayor Javens said City is between a rock and a hard place on this. Even if the City wants to help, is it legal for City to help? Is has to be done correctly. He wondered if city can at least take charge of letting residents know when cleaning needs to be done. Daryl Evers mentioned it's bad for the city to be known for wet basements. Terri Evers asked what can be changed for city to take it over. Mayor Javens said it would be a huge expense and lines would have to be repaired and updated before city would consider it. Map of Skyline tile lines was examined. The 27 tile line has the most problems. Dean Rengstorf said he got water in his basement even with a ravine lot and tile around his house. There is a video of the tile lines but it's 10 or more years old and will have to be redone. Mayor Javens said a new system can be put it but it will have to be bonded and assessed out to the property owners. There would be a public hearing and a consensus would be needed to go forward. Dean Rengstorf suggested starting with filming and asking Jetter Clean what it would cost to do automatic annual cleaning. Brian will have Jetter clean all tiles out now and get estimate on filming lines. 27 and 8 house lines will be cleaned. Residents think it is a city problem because wet basements hurt everyone's home value. Mayor Javens will see if it's legal for city to divide bill up and sent to residents along with utility bills as a one-time payment. Gil Harrison asked if eminent domain could be used. Mayor repeated that the city would not want to take over a 50-year old line. Options were discussed.

**City Clerk's Report** – Cathy Dahl reported that letters about storm water compliance were sent to three residences: 122 S. Skyline Drive, 21 Skyline, and 124 S. Skyline. 122 and 21 sent in their proof of compliance. Clerk printed and filed their proof receipts. Clerk asked if anything

was heard from 124 South Skyline Drive. Lon will start charging \$200 a month starting Oct 1 until compliant. Samantha Erickson suggested that they should be billed even if resident claims they didn't get letters. Clerk did not send a letter to 140 S. Skyline since they claim to be compliant but did the work themselves. I did not include a letter to 118 S. Skyline because a plumber said she was compliant. Mayor Javens and Hans Schwanke were going to check on those two before clerk will send anything out to them.

1716 Woodland Avenue overdue water/utility bills were turned over to Blue Earth County for collection with his property taxes next year. Homeowner was notified.

Jennifer Panko. 20620 Hwy 66, left a message about water from Skyline flowing down side of hill and through her backyard and driveway creating problems.. She also sent an email to Mayor Javens. Mayor Javens replied that he researched with county records. Skyline has no outlets above her property and it was caused by the major rain event. If there is an outlet it would be privately owned and have to be discussed with homeowner. He hasn't heard anything more.

Sample ballot was received from Blue Earth County and will be posted on door. Absentee ballots were mailed out to all residents.

**City Treasurer's Report** – Lon Whitehead reported for September. Two bills for Jetter Clean were covered by City for cleaning out tile lines. Lon received a bill from Lorentz that he isn't sure about. And it reads past due but he didn't get a previous bill. Letter needs to be written to ask them to explain bill and tell them what was paid in July. Water/Utility bills will be reviewed next month.

Approval of city clerk's report and treasurer's report and to pay bills, motion, Wayne Bishop, Hans Schwanke, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**Water Department** – Samantha Erickson had nothing to report.

**Street Department** - Dean Rengstorff reported about putting arrow sign up for one-way area. Wrong ways are happening more often.

**Parks & Playgrounds Department** - Wayne Bishop reported wasps in garage of city hall. They have been sprayed by Plunkett twice.

He contacted Kristi Powers about money from Coop Assn for buying bench and improvement. He's looking into options of putting one near playground with a cover for shade. It will be done in spring and he will continue researching.

**Public Safety Department** – Hans Schwanke reported he will follow up on 118 and 140 S. Skyline Drive compliance with storm water drainage.

Newsletter – some people want to bring attention to getting volunteers to run coop association. They should be taking care of yards with junk cars and other unsightly issues. For City to take care of it, an ordinance would have to be passed. Coop Association needs to become active.

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

MN Pollution Control Agency – MS4 – Skyline City Code for Storm Water Management – Application was completed by Emily Javens and handed out to council members. She has asked for variances on a few things that Skyline should be exempted on. This needs to be sent in and then there are a couple more years to complete process. Council changed a council position title to public Safety and Environmental Management. Hans Schwanke is listed as contact.

Three ordinances needed – first one is covered by a previous City ordinance.

#2 needs modification. #3 is not applicable (for new building) so she is asking for variance because we have no more buildable land.

Emergency response is taken care of by Mankato, but we have to write up a procedure for taking care of problem. Hans will be in charge.

Storm water map - Skyline is compliant.

Pond, wetland and take inventory does not apply to Skyline.

Minimal control measures – we need 6 programs.

1. Information in newsletter once a year.
2. A public hearing is needed once a year on storm water management.
3. Inspecting our outlets for pollution and have procedures in place for documenting and fixing.
4. Need plans for people doing major landscaping to do erosion control before proceeding.
5. Asking for variance because of no new building in Skyline.
6. Inspections for Skyline's outfalls.

City can probably resource ordinances from Mankato and adjust to fit Skyline.

Motion to approve Part 2 Application for MS4 General Stormwater Permit and Submittal as written, Samantha Erickson, Wayne Bishop, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

Storm outlet between 134 and 136 S. Skyline Drive – resident below hill has been complaining about storm water running into his property and believes it is Skyline's fault. He built a building at the end of the ravine. Emily Javens researched and found problem is 85% homeowner's problem and 15% Skyline. Mayor Javens checked into boring a line from area to reroute water away from this particular area, which could be very expensive. Engineers feel we have a right to discharge our water there because it is a natural outlet. But we can try to slow it down to appease person below hill. Mayor Javens suggested making a metal plate with holes in it to slow the downhill flow. It would have to be engineered to have big enough holes so backed-up water wouldn't become a problem in Skyline. City doesn't have to do anything now but Mayor believes he will keep calling. If he sues, drainage court is very unpredictable. Dean Rengstorf

said there is someone who works arbitration on these situation - Chuck Wingert. Mayor Javens will talk with him.

2017 Budget discussion – Mayor Javens has a lot of it done to bring to council next month. Questions on garbage – 1135.82 is standard but MN Waste Processing cost is all over the board. It varies according to weight of city garbage. There’s also a charge for billing services of \$2400 per year. Mayor Javens is creating lists for each department to become more organized. Property tax payments are broken down between regular taxes and assessments. A copy of the audit would have breakdown. For every house that prepays assessment it’s not a budget item according to the state.

Dean Rengstorf said next year he would like to redo city hall parking lot and repair street going to water tower. And possibly add parking spots to park area.

Water department - Look at water tower repairs in 2017.

Bond payments end in 2024. Smaller bond payments are done in 2018.

Next month’s agenda – make a transfer from savings to street department to pay for street seal-coating because it wasn’t included in budget.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Cathy Dahl  
Skyline City Clerk

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Mayor

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date

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City Clerk

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date

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