

City Council Meeting Minutes

October 12th, 2020 / 6:45 PM / Skyline City Hall

ATTENDEES: Sam Erickson, Lon Whitehead, Steve Romnes, Mayor Paige Attarian

Guests: Shirley Piepho, Brain Powers

Via Google Meet: Charlie Berg

Agenda:

- ❑ Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm by Mayor Attarian
- ❑ Pledge of Allegiance completed by all in attendance
- ❑ Water Tower Engineering proposal-Uma Vempati (Kimley Horn Firm) presenting
Brian Powers asked Uma why the antennas cannot just stay on the temporary tower rather than go to the new tower. Uma explained that there would be a considerable cost involved if they stay on the pole away from the tower. Uma also explained that the cell phone companies may not stay in the agreement if the cost increases. Brian also asked why other options for the cell towers have not been discussed. Uma explained that the actual cost to keep the new water tower in the current location would actually cost \$1.5 million versus the \$2.2 million discussed at the previous meeting. Uma also explained that costs are going up considerably due to covid 19, the materials have gone up \$300,000 since the initial quote. Brian Powers asked if Skyline could use a smaller tank than the proposed 50,000 gallon tank. Uma explained that the insurance company actually dictates the size of the water tower. Uma recommends contacting the insurance company to see what the minimum gallons required to keep insurance rates where they are. There was a discussion about the pump house condition. The pump house had been taken off the proposal, there is concern that the pump house should be replaced at the same time. Brian Powers states that the technology with the pump house is old and outdated and agrees that it should be replaced with the new water tower. Sam clarified that essentially the water tower can go to the same location as the old tower with simply the increase of \$300,000 for material price increase. Uma states that there is really no reason to change the location of the water tower at this point. Brian Powers asked what the size of the reservoir under the ground beneath the water tower will be. Uma states that it will remain the same diameter, 24', but it will be deeper. Uma assures that

there should be no stabilization issues per the soil samples that were conducted. Uma confirms that the original proposal that was given is accurate. Paige asked if it is going to be able to be built by the summer of 2021. Uma explained that realistically the tower will not be built until summer of 2022 due to contractors being completely booked next summer. Paige asked if it would be prudent to replace the current stand pipe immediately to be safe and prevent complete failure of the current tower. Uma states that the pipe should be replaced to be sure that the current water tower lasts until the new tower is constructed, the replaced pipe would buy several years of usage on the new water tower. Brian states that Aerial Services can repair the water tower as soon as possible. Brian also states that pictures were taken of the inside of the tank and the epoxy coating is starting to deteriorate on the inside of the tank. Uma states that the temporary water tanks need to be placed in the summer months or they will need to be in a storage shed. Uma states that the construction will take approximately 6 months to complete. Uma states that Skyline can reapply to get on a funding list for the new construction. The council thanked Uma for attending the meeting and answering the questions of the council.

Water Tower Discussion

After hearing Uma's proposal, the council discussed the option of moving forward with essential repairs on the current water tower to assure quality and safety and to take some time on making decisions on the new water tower project. The repairs will offer the time they need to make a decision that is best for the resident's of Skyline.

Public Forum

Shirley Piepho asked for clarification of the 2020 ballot that states vote for two candidates. There are technically three positions open. At the time of submission and verification of ballot, there were only two vacancies. Michael Stahberg, Blue Earth County election director, states the top two vote getters will be appointed to Dean and Sam's positions. Mary Dowd retracted her resignation and will remain on until January 2021.

Approve Agenda and Minutes

Agenda and minutes were approved by Steve Romnes, seconded by Sam Erickson

City Clerk Report

The clerk report is stored with the copy of these minutes.

City Treasurer Report

The treasurer's report was read and approved by Sam Erickson, seconded by Eric Manske. The report is available by request.

☐ Water and garbage bill list

Departmental Reports

☐ Water Department

Sam states that the red light on the pump house needs to be fixed more permanently. Sam suggests that Brian be given a budget for repairs on the pump house. The council voted to fix the current water tower with \$60,000. The council voted unanimously to move forward with the repairs. Sam states that she will notify Brian Powers to contact Aerial Services and schedule the repairs as soon as possible. Discussion about contacting Bolten and Menk about bidding on the water tower project. It was discussed that ISG will be contacted and discontinue using their firm. Paige is going to contact Bolten and Menk for a quote with the hopes of keeping things more local. Charlie states that it would be prudent to check the references with Uma's firm.

☐ Street Department

Nothing to report with regards to streets.

☐ Parks and Playground Department

Eric states that there is an electrical access hatch in the park that is unlocked or unbolted. Eric is recommending that bolts should be placed. He and Steve will access the situation and find a solution. Eric states that he spoke to AmLawn about broken sprinklers, they will address the broken sprinklers in the park.

☐ Public Safety

Mary was not present due to illness. She sent an email regarding unruly kids in the park. She attempted to contact the parents of the kids, but one did not answer and she stated that someone should have contacted her and not public safety.

Old Business:

New Business:

Tax Resolution

Paige states that there will be a zero percent increase on property taxes for this year. Sam motioned to pass this resolution, Eric Manske seconded. Passed unanimously.

Hall Rental for extended time. i.e. every Saturday:

Ken White would like to rent the hall from 8-12 pm every Saturday through the winter. It was discussed that he could use the hall from week to week according to availability. The rate of \$40/day will be the rate that is charged.

Water Rates

The current water rate is \$1.70. Paige is proposing that the rate should be increased to \$2.60 Starting February 2021. This will be an incremental change. The full rate will be \$3.50 will started in February 2022. Eric will create a grid to show the residents how much the increase affects them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm. Sam motioned, Eric 2nd. Passed unanimously.