

CITY OF SKYLINE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2017

Present: Mayor Travis Javens; Treasurer Lon Whitehead; Clerk Cathy Dahl; Council Members, Dean Rengstorf, Samantha Erickson; Residents, Mike and Nancy Kluck, Joanne Boettcher, Darlene Lee, William and Janet Nelson, Sue Jordan, Chris and Jennifer Heimer, Chris Short, Darrell and Terri Evers, Mary Dowd, Kathy Johnston

Meeting called to order at 6:46 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes and agenda. Motion to approve, Dean Rengstorf, Samantha Erickson, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

15-Minute Public Open Forum –

Darlene Lee brought an item for the next Skyline newsletter.

Mary Dowd, 14 Skyline, would be interested in open council position.

Private tile lines –

Chris Heimer is in favor of regular maintenance with billing done through City.

Question on tiles being scoped. Yes, this has been done, it is 6 inch clay tile.

Previous owners of house never joined tile line properly – resident wondered if this could be corrected in the future.

Question on how to know if you're on private tile lines. Map was brought out.

Main tile lines are owned by group and it is each homeowner's expense to hook onto it.

JoAnn Boettcher wondered if they need to pay for system when they don't use it. She encourages residents to find alternate ways to use excess rain water.

Brian Powers stated the problem has been going on forever. All middle lots get water in their basements. Ground is clay.

Mike Kluck mentioned it would be good to determine if certain trees are causing the problem and get rid of those trees. He is not opposed to paying for repairs divided between owners. He suggests going with yearly billing or bill on water bills.

Brian Powers said there is some misalignment but not broken tiles. Roots cause issues and trees continue growing. After last cleaning of roots, draining was good again.

Mayor Javens explained council's position: if owners of tile lines support cleaning of lines, City will take care of billing.

Darlene Lee brought a document saying the easements belong to the City. It is on file at land records office. Mayor Javens said City may need legal advice on this.

In light of new information, City of Skyline will have to do title search on all homeowners on tile lines.

Daryl Evers said there are 34 on main line; others said 27.

Dean Rengstorf said new owners should have been shown easements when these houses were sold.

Easement is not clearly defined in agreement – need to find original.

In the meantime, majority of residents present are in favor of regular cleaning. JoAnn Boettcher does not want to be on tile line – this will depend on legal findings. City Council will find out who actually owns the line and lines will be cleaned again this fall.

City Clerk's Report – Cathy Dahl reported that the missing Sprint payment should have been re-sent soon after last month's meeting. Lon said it was received.

City Treasurer's Report – Lon Whitehead reported for August, 2017. League of MN Cities renewal needs to be done. MN Dept of Health sent water testing fee. Add \$20 for Newville Cleaning. 2 bills for Schwickert – one for estimate, one for repair of HVAC. \$863.74, \$946.11 total for Excel Energy bills. Hood residence carpet replacement bill for first half \$2286.02. Mayor Javens asked if this should be referred to League of MN Cities insurance. Lon will look into this. \$40 bill for pulling weeds in park. Nationwide Insurance bond renewal for \$100 for City Clerk coverage. Dean Rengstorf has invoices for blacktopping at City Hall. Bill is \$200 over estimate. He will call and straighten it out. Mayor Javens suggested cutting check for original amount and hold on \$200 until determined if it is owed or not. \$9,118 will be paid now to Neilson. \$18007.58 total receipts.

Overdue utilities by 90 days – all will receive letter from clerk and final determinations will be made on actions at October meeting.

Approval of city clerk's report and treasurer's report and to pay bills as presented, motion, Samantha Erickson, Dean Rengstorf, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Water Department – Samantha Erickson reported Mayor Javens has email in to City of Mankato to check on them doing water testing for Skyline instead of City finding a volunteer. Waiting to hear back.

Chris Heimer will take a shift of reading pump. David Lloyd will also take a shift. They will be trained by Brian Powers. Lon Whitehead will get w-4s for Chris and David to fill out. Mankato continues to take flow readings.

Street Department - Dean Rengstorf reported meeting with Dustin Samuelson to pick out big rocks for parks and he will do that this week. Someone needs to build up edges on bituminous. He will talk to Dustin about this also. He hasn't talked to Mankato about getting no parking signs at cul-de-sac parks – he will hold off on this for a while to see if issue continues to come up. Good for another year on snow-plowing contract. Resident mentioned not happy with snow plowing in city. Dean will talk to company about more diligence, especially at stop signs where children are crossing streets.

Parks & Playgrounds Department - Wayne Bishop absent. Lots of weeds taken out of park. A used base has replaced the old base at ball park.

Public Safety Department – no report.

Motion to approve departmental reports, Dean Rengstorf, Samantha Erickson, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Water tower repair – nothing new.

MS4 permit application – Done. Letter back from MN saying they accepted our permit. Public hearing comes next. Mayor Javens and Emily Javens will come up with plan for the inspection process.

Open Council Position – Motion to nominate Mary Dowd to fill remainder of Hans Schwanke's term as city council member, Samantha Erickson, Dean Rengstorf, 2nd. Passed unanimously. Clerk will have oath of office ready for Mary Dowd at beginning of next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Customer Community Meeting – Mayor reported information from report. Water in and out from Mankato processing has stayed consistent between last years. No more spikes in billing with rainfall. It was well worth the inspections to find who pumped rain water into sewer system.

Samantha Erickson asked about validity of people asking about NRG solar electric program. City Clerk told her she contacted Excel Energy – they said it is real; not a scam.

City Clerk said that Blue Earth County assessor wants copies of cell tower lease agreements.

Mayor Javens asked how many houses in Skyline have changed hands in the last year. Consensus is three.

Preliminary 2018 property tax levy – motion to keep preliminary tax levy at 3%, same as preliminary tax levy in 2017. Dean Rengstorf, motion for preliminary tax levy for 2018 of 3% increase for a total levy of \$51,654.50, Samantha Erickson, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Harold Pickell, long time Skyline resident, has passed away.

Mayor Javens will continue looking into surveillance cameras for the park. He will also ask for more patrols from Mankato Police Department after 10PM.

Preliminary 2018 budget – hold.

Motion to adjourn, Dean Rengstorf, Samantha Erickson, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Cathy Dahl
Skyline City Clerk

Mayor

date

City Clerk

date