

City of Skyline

City Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 9, 2019

Present: Mary Dowd, Samantha Erickson, Paige Attarian, Lon Whitehead

Absent: Steve Romnes, Marnie Kortuem, Dean Rengstorf

Called meeting to order at 6:46 pm

Pledge of Allegiance recited

Approve Agenda and Minutes-Mary Dowd motioned, Samantha Erickson second, passed unanimously

Public Open Forum

Darlene Lee: Clarifying the procedure of open forum to be a discussion between resident and the mayor/council. When the open forum is done, there should not be interruptions throughout the meeting. Lastly, a big shout out to Mary Dowd for a great Night to Unite!

Charlie Berg: Presented a handout to the council stating that the shed next door to his home will presumably be for a business and that is a violation of city ordinance.

Don Waylett: Trailers/campers seem to be allowed where they never used to be. Campers can be parked for the season only. Ice houses were not allowed to be parked. Don is noticing an increase in boats, trailers, etc. Wondering if off season trailers could be included in the next newsletter. Don is also in support of the city's commitment to the All Seasons Arena.

City Clerk Report

Marnie Kortuem, the city clerk was absent. There was discussion about the attendance of city council members in general, including the city clerk. There is currently a vacant board member position.

City Treasurer Report

The city did get reimbursed for easement. Lon asked Mark Piepho, a public member in attendance, to clarify a few of the payables that seemed to overlap. We have a bill for All Seasons Arena contribution and one for All Seasons Arena annual assessment.

Steve has been attending meetings. Lon is working on the clerk's bond which is currently under the previous clerk's name. Last month we waited on a bill which Dean was to contact for Bargaen, Inc (for street repairs). Dean said the company is aware that the manholes are sealed shut. He said to pay it and the company will com and torch the manhole when we need access. The rest of the repair does not look as we expected. Sam will contact Kyle Hinrich to see how common it is to have the manhole sealed shut and if there was any business that needed to be done in there, would the companies doing the work have the ability to get in. Lon will continue to wait on payment to Bargaen, Inc.

The process last year was to finalize amount of unpaid water/garbage at October meeting. We then sent certified letters to those residents to be paid by November meeting. Remaining balances are sent to the County to be placed on taxes for 2020.

Water and garbage bill list

Vote on sending past due water bills. Mary motioned, Sam second--passed unanimously.

Departmental Reports

Water Department

Cell tower contracts are of concern. Cell towers require u to put up temporary antennae access. Sprint and T-mobile merged. Sma reported a meeting with the City of Mankato to discuss the pros and cons of joint effort. They offered a few options to the city as far as what the cost would be total and what the City of Skyline would like to take on. They sent a picture of what the new water tower would look like and that it will only be a 100,000 gallon tank. Pictures and information are to be included in the next newsletter and a public forum will be held in the upcoming weeks.

Street Department

No street department report. Dean absent.

Parks and Playground Department

Skyline resident is concerned because 12 of her bushes are dying. She is wondering if the lawn company sprayed the weeds and overspray reached her bushes. Steve will follow up with this resident.

Steve spoke to Pfeffer Tree Service regarding Ash Borer and when we should be prepared to treat here in Skyline. They stated not until next year. Thank you to Wayne Bishop for the reminder.

Public Safety Department

Frontline: In August the siren went off. The company says that our sirens are working just fine. The voicemail states that this is a test but they are truly going off due to activity. This is a glitch. Blue Earth County is in the process of updating the emergency management system so that only the areas affected would be warned. The cost to update that equipment could be \$20,000 to \$25,000.

Recreational fires: Three people have asked about our ordinance. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Ordinance is: generally it is 25 feet from all buildings, hose ready and only burn brush and trees. Mary will include this information in the next newsletter. She will also advise that individuals contact public safety in they notice violations.

Tenant complaint about rental in Skyline. This brings back the issue that five years ago we did not grant this specific resident a rental license, variance or a grandfather in. We have never enforced this issue. This would go to lawsuit which could easily cost \$10,000. If we grandfather them in, we would then be able to pose restrictions and enforce them.

Old Business

City council member replacement. Guideline handout will be provided for Council members. The new position on the council will be in the newsletter asking anyone that is interested to come to the next city council meeting.

New Business

- Vote on All Seasons Arena operating agreement.
Vote was conducted. Sam motioned, Mary second--passed unanimously
- Vote on appointing Kenneth White as the City Attorney
Tradition has been that every January when new council comes in that they appoint new officers including the City Attorney. This did not happen in January 2019. Motion to appoint Attorney Ken White. Sam motioned, Mary second--passed unanimously.
- Property Tax Levy
Mayor has Resolution 2019-2 indicating a 3% increase is the maximum increase. This increase was voted upon. Sam motioned, Mary second--passed unanimously.

❑ Skyline Zoning Ordinances

Mayor asked the City Attorney if the proposed garage construction is in violation. Setback requirements are all that are in place for the actual act. Operations of the residents is in the zoning ordinance and is broken all the time. The city has an ordinance. If violated, the city has to decide to enforce. Trailers are in the covenants which means a coop or individual resident could sue. There has been word that the covenant's is only good for 50 years which places the coop ordinance out of date. Tradition of Skyline is to ask neighbors to approve changes to your footprint. This is not an ordinance. This was just to get people to play nice together. The Zoning Ordinance is there to compare the plan to the ordinance. When the building is there and approved, the activity of the building is then under light, but until there is behavior in the building, you do not have a violation of the ordinance. The question of a general contracting business violates the zoning ordinance. The City Attorney stated that he thinks the ordinance on our city's website is not the current ordinance and that it was replaced by Mayor Javens.

Attorney, Ken White recommends that the council take no action as to the complaint of zoning ordinance. The next step is to find the ordinance that is currently in place and determine what is restricted and what is not. Decide if the structure is within building allowances and inform the resident of any limitations. The mayor will write a letter to inform the resident.