

**CITY OF SKYLINE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2015**

Present: Mayor Travis Javens; Treasurer Lon Whitehead; Council Members, Wayne Bishop, Dean Rengstorf, Samantha Erickson; Retired Fire Chief Roger Hermanson; Residents: Roger Hermanson, Mark Piepho

Meeting called to order at 6:45 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes and agenda. Two revisions made to August minutes. Dean Rengstorf, motion to approve minutes as revised, Wayne Bishop, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

15-Minute Public Open Forum – no forum.

City Clerk's Report - Cathy Dahl absent but sent report:

Everyone present please sign in on the sheet on the clipboard.

Second overdue water/utility bill sent to 134 S. Skyline Drive. Clerk scheduled their public hearing date for the October 12th council meeting so it won't have to be dealt with when clerk was gone.

I would like permission to print and mail postcards to residents to notify all past fire fighters to attend a photo session with the fire truck and have an open house at city hall to honor and thank all who have volunteered over the years. Something simple – maybe cake, ice cream, coffee and soda. If you could please discuss this possibility and give me a budget, I will take care of this. If the council does not want to spend the money on this, then I need all fire fighter phone numbers to call to invite to a photo session only. Thank you.

Mark Piepho told Clerk he thinks there may already be something in existence in coop rules about animals, including chickens. He stopped by to look at old directories to see if it is in the front section of one, but the city hall was in use so the search didn't happen. If anyone has time to search old phone books, that would be great. If not, clerk will look after vacation. Council said this would be a coop rule, we still need an ordinance. Mayor Javens did look for quite a while when the issue first came up and did not find anything.

City Treasurer's Report – Lon Whitehead reported for August.

WW Blacktop was up for the resident driveway needing repair. Their Well was here for inspections and repairs. This was a non-budgeted item so council needs to vote to transfer money from savings. Motion to transfer money from savings to checking to cover the water bill, Wayne Bishop, Samantha Erickson, 2nd. 111 South Skyline Drive house sold so the past due water bill was paid off. Work comp audit was completed with \$81 back

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Water Department –

Samantha Erickson reported. Report on VDF that was forwarded to City Clerk's email. Samantha will try to get ahold of Xcel Energy contact from Mayor Javens. Wayne Bishop noted that the tower paint is looking bad. Suggestion to put that in the budget for next year.

Updates from Brian from Sam's emails:

August 12th, 2015: With new pump and motor, some new pipe, and new check valve we are putting out over 200 GPM. #2 was quite weak.

Zack with Thein Well is sending some info on an electrical device which softens the start of the pump motor. This controlled start reduces the energy it takes to start the motor and prolongs its life. There would be a payback if we qualify for a kick-back from Excel Energy. Samantha will forward the info when she gets it. It would be purchased from the well company as it is programmed for a submersible motor. Javens Electric would have to install it in the pump house. We would have to confirm all of the numbers and present it to the council. Mark has also brought up the use of polyphosphate to deal with our rusty water. We would also need to confirm prices to verify its feasibility. He says it's cheap. Samantha will have him look into it.

September 9th, 2015: The new pump and motor went from 140 GPM to 170 GPM. The pumps will run less time to fill the tower.

As for the VFD, we need first, if we qualify for any rebates from Excel or however. Then what it will cost to install.

Maguire Iron will be cleaning the tower on 9-14 as of now. Then Mark and I will be flushing mains. Let us know if there any issues with our procedure.

Street Department - Dean Rengstorf reported that 4 signs needed to be changed out. Slow down kids at play sign and post changed out. Dead End Keep Right signs were changed. "Speed bumps" on the road were repaired by Charter. Seal coating next year hoping to join with City of Mankato to get a good price. Parking next to City Hall needs to be replaced/repair with reshaping to allow another spot. Driveway to the pump house replaced as well. Dean Rengstorf did call police when he saw some kids after 10:00PM one night and when they got to the pump house there was smoke from a smoldering rag next to the house. No follow up was given to Dean so no report on what happened after that. Dean noticed on Blue Earth Street they use more of a patch on the street instead of filling cracks. Dean will look into this possibly before we seal coat. Wayne Bishop was asking if residents could possibly pay a set rate to have driveways coated at the same time. Mayor Javens has hesitations and wonders if the company would even want to deal with it. When covering the streets Dean would like to use the finer gray material versus the course red covering they have used.

Parks & Playgrounds Department - Wayne Bishop reported that the bench at the tennis court was repaired by him and Mark Ruby. Port-a-john pick up is scheduled. Dean Rengstorf mentioned the weeds at the baseball bases are bad. Mayor Javens will spray again late at night. Wayne Bishop suggested adding a few parking stalls to the park.

Public Safety Department – Hans Schwanke absent. He reports that he contacted LJP about the recycling being blown all over on garbage days. Council noted that this is still a problem evident today.

Dean Rengstorf motioned to approve departmental reports, Wayne Bishop, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

MN Pollution Control Agency – MS4 – Skyline City Code for Storm Water Management - nothing new to report.

Fire truck and equipment. Travis talked to North Mankato Fire Department – Sales rep from Alex Air who is not interested by would distribute the list of equipment (air, pages, radios, hoses, pants, boots, helmets). Travis talked to Pat Hentges and he said they use Bid Mankato auction site. Wayne Bishop will look at a government website.

Fire department photo. Award, ceremony, or honoring parties cannot happen through city budget.

Chicken ordinance – it is really an animal ordinance. Needs to include dog ordinance for leashes and loose dogs to supersede any previous ordinance. Take out the verbiage about pets being held for certain days and being donated to science. Mayor Javens has a proposed ordinance. Wayne Bishop questioned the back yard versus side yard. Travis stated others could apply for a variance. Members to review and suggest any changes. He wants to add the dog verbiage yet. Samantha asked about whether a survey will be done. Mark Piepho stated that people would/should have come by now. Council does not plan to do a survey. Mark Piepho asked timeline and Mayor Javens stated that he hopes to have this completed by the end of the year. Wayne Bishop would like to have the bees permitted. Samantha Erickson stated she would not put energy into a bee ordinance unless someone is actually asking for a permit. Bees are a “scary” thing for many and with allergies it may make residents nervous. Mayor Javens will look into permitting bees.

Roger Hermanson noted that some neighbor has been shooting squirrels. He does not know who it is but wants to include a reminder in the next newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Piepho reported on Blue Earth County– no wheelage tax at this point because it wouldn't be enough money. Looking at more revenue from sales tax. Many counties have done both sales tax and plate tax. Trying to keep property taxes low. Mayor Javens asked about gravel tax. Mark didn't think that would happen. Just looking at the sales for extra money. City may own the guaranteed gravel park but they would not run it as they are not equipped.

Nothing has been heard about Verizon coming to the tower as that would relate to the budget. Mayor Javens has a contact.

Preliminary 2016 property tax levy – hold until next month. Travis will bring something next month.

Dean Rengstorf, motion to adjourn, Wayne Bishop, 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Samantha Erickson for Cathy Dahl
Skyline City Clerk

Mayor

date

City Clerk

date