

GOOD THUNDER COUNCIL MEETING  
Minutes of the Meeting  
April 8, 2024

Mayor Robert Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm at City Hall at 130 S Ewing Street in Good Thunder, MN 56037. Councilors Scott Stoltzman, Amy Klammer, Tom Froehlich & Jon Brude were present. Raece Johnson, City Maintenance, Sue Petty, City Clerk-Treasurer, and Brian Severns were present.

The pledge was recited, immediately followed by a moment of silence.

Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve the agenda, Councilor Brude seconded; motion carried.

Councilor Brude made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction of a typo on the March 11 council meeting minutes, Councilor Froehlich seconded; motion carried.

Mayor Anderson asked for a motion to approve the following bills: Check # 18049 to #18080, EFT#56642 to #56655, payroll EFT# 50069E to 50075E, Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve the bills, Councilor Stoltzman seconded; motion carried. Councilor Froehlich asked about a previous motion to clean up the refuse fund, Councilor Brude stated he was going to work with Clerk Petty to move funds and hasn't gotten to it yet.

Joe Smith and Chelsea Alger, Director of Funding from Bolton & Menk presented the council with the bids for the N Halladay Sanitary Sewer Project. Chambers Excavating and Trucking LLC from North Mankato came in as the lowest bidder at \$109,645. The estimated cost from Bolten & Menk was \$135,496. Brett Winters has not yet signed the easement, therefore awarding the project tonight is not in the best interest of the city. Councilor Froehlich suggested having a special meeting next, week to accept the bid, and award the bid by Resolution to Chambers Excavating and Trucking LLC. Councilor Brude made a motion to hold a Special Council Meeting Monday April 15 at 4:30 to award the bid by Resolution to Chambers Excavating and Trucking LLC, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried.

Joe and Chelsea discussed the project the council asked them to create and submit to Representative Bjorn Olson for possible state bonding bill appropriation dollars. The projects total was \$10.9 Million for new water treatment facility, new well, demolition of existing water treatment, running new main to new well on 530 Sherman, S Halladay St reconstruction with new sewer and water lines, Hiller drive water main looping. There is also a project to create a stormwater pond by the ballfield park, to help with erosion of water going down chapel. Bolten & Menk will also be listing the projects on the Project Priority List for possible funding or match if the city is approved some bonding bill money. Chelsea discussed other possible avenues to obtain funding such as Drinking Water Revolving fund, Intended Use Plan. Joe presented council with the required letters needed to get on the Drinking Water Revolving Fund Project Priority List. Mayor Anderson asked if the city had to purchase a bond would it be for 15 or 20 years. Chelsea stated it can be either 15 or 20 or the city can go a different route for funding if

needed. Joe explained the bonding bill dollars is a reimbursement process. The city would need to pay up front costs and be reimbursed through the Bonding bill. Discussion continued regarding the process of obtaining bonding bill dollars how long it can take and if there is anything else the city can do to draw attention to Good Thunder and the listed projects. Mayor Anderson asked about the need to up water rates. Joe explained the city should start looking at the process of bumping up water rates. If the city starts working with Public Facilities Authority, they will inform us of the required rate the city needs to be at.

Year End Audit – Greg Burkhardt presented the year end audit. Fire Department Relief Fund is not included in the audit due to a decision from years ago stating the city did not want to incur the cost of hiring a firm. However, the city is liable for any deficiency in the Fire Department Relief Fund. Three findings during the audit that include material audit adjustments (number of journal entries), limited segregation of duties, and Auditor prepared financial statements. Greg suggested the council take a more involved role in reviewing bills and claims. There was also a signed acknowledgement from the investment broker for 2023 that was not completed. This document is done at the end of the previous year or beginning of current year. Greg stated the payroll issues from the past have been taken care of. Payments are being made on time; deposits are made in a timely fashion, and there have been no penalties. Mayor Anderson asked if it is better to put more money in a CD vs. an investment broker account. Greg stated both are good, CDs are paying higher interest but to keep in mind that money is not accessible until the CD comes to term. Internal controls were better this year. All documents the auditors requested were provided in a timely manner, and records were in proper order. Auditor recommendations were as follows: Utility billing switch to monthly instead of quarterly, switching from cubic foot to gallons, bill group 4 in Utility Billing was not updated with the new rates for 2023 of \$12.25 water and \$30.75 for sewer. Refuse collection rates need to be reviewed as they do not keep up with the cost. Entries for Credit Card payments should be listed with vendor information and what was purchased. Mayor Anderson requested Clerk Petty have the original bills in a folder and available to council during the meeting for review. Cash and investment balances increased. General Fund increased as well. The city has 23 months of reserves. Continue to work on budgeting correctly. Greg suggested we review the budget at 6 months and if needed a change can be made by resolution.

Sheriff's Department – 69 hours of patrol. Calls include intoxication, domestic, harassment, driving complaints, assist, welfare check, animal complaint.

Fire Department – 9 calls: mutual aid, medical, lift assist, bicycle accident, structure fire, fire investigation. The ladder truck needs repairs of \$11,919.86, Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve \$11,919.86 in repairs of Ladder truck, Councilor Brude seconded; motion carried.

Streets Update – Raece stated the generator has been installed, hooked up and is working property. 19 meters are left to be installed. We are waiting on a few non responders but overall, they are almost done installing. We are a few meters short, Mayor Anderson suggested we have 3-5 meters on hand. Last week they did 180 installations. We are getting a weekly report on all meters installed, sump pump inspection and lead pipe inspection. So far, all sump pumps are being discharged properly. Midwest Testing has been doing some door knocking and hanging

notices when they have time and that has been working to get some non-responders to either schedule an appointment or have their meter installed at that time. Councilor Froehlich asked if the city has authority to turn off water for those that refuse to schedule a new meter. City staff and Midwest Testing will work on getting all residents to comply. Update on WW Blacktopping finishing the construction of the alley by the post office and the catch basins. Councilor Froehlich made a motion to have WW Blacktopping continue their construction on the water and sewer lines and catch basins in the alley by the post office down to Houk, Councilor Brude seconded; motion carried. SW Dust Treatment sent a letter asking if the city wants dust control on parts of Mielke, Flynn, Chapel, Graham, and Hiller Dr. Hiller Dr will need to be graveled prior to dust control application. Council asked Clerk Petty to find the invoice from last year and bring it to the special meeting April 15 for review. Raece received a quote from Woodland Enterprises, LLC for Ash Borer treatment. Treatment would cost \$8.50 per inch and most of the trees are around 25 inches. There are 39 Ash trees in the town the city is responsible for. The cost to treat is approximately \$4,000 every 2 years. For the city to treat, the initial cost is approximately \$4,000.00 for the equipment and then the cost of the chemicals. Raece was licensed at one time to treat the Ash Borer. Councilor Froehlich made a motion for Raece to obtain his license to treat the trees and the city will pay for it, Councilor Stoltzman seconded; motion carried.

Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve building permit GT-03-24, Councilor Brude seconded; motion carried.

Mayor Anderson thanked Raece for going around and checking manholes during the last rain and notice there are some that have a lot of water running through them suggesting there is rainwater going into the sanitary sewer. Mayor Anderson suggested Raece get some die pills and put in the catch basins and see where it's coming from. Raece and Brian will get some die pills.

The snow blower is ready to pick up. Raece asked if Kellon could pick it up while he is in that area. Council stated they would rather Raece go and pick it up in the city truck due to liability issues.

Water/Sewer Update – The consumer confidence report is due in July. Brian will work with Clerk Petty to get this completed. The sewer line in the alley behind the Thunder Bar has had to be jetted 3 times in the past few weeks. Clerk Petty will work with Bolten & Menk on a letter to send out.

Councilor Brude made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-03 water rate conversion from cubic feet to gallons, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried. Councilor Brude made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-04 sewer rate conversion from cubic feet to gallons, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried.

Community comments: None

Unfinished Business: A resident has volunteered to work with the Friendship Wagon that will be in Good Thunder this summer.

New Business: LJP suggested June 15 for Spring Cleanup. from 8am-Noon at the ballfield. Councilor Brude made a motion to hold Spring Clean-up on June 15, 2024 from 8am-noon. Residents will need to bring items to the ballfield, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried. Clerk Petty will contact Jesse at LJP for a price list and ask for a copy of the contract. Several residents have inquired about doing curbside pick-up. Clerk Petty will check into this for next year. Council asked Raece to start making a note of yards in violation of city ordinance and report back with pictures, so letters can be sent prior to clean up day.

Misc. Business: MN Municipal Clerks Institute is May 6-10. Clerk Petty applied for an was approved for a \$100 grant through MCFOA to attend. Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve sending Clerk Petty to the MN Municipal Clerks Institute and covering the cost of the Institute and hotel, Councilor Brude seconded; motion carried. Mileage reimbursement request for round trip to the MCFOA Conference in St. Cloud and trip to Mankato. Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve the Mileage reimbursement at \$199.66, Councilor Brude seconded; motion carried.

Mayor Anderson asked for an update on Dakota Mart. Clerk Petty contacted our attorney and he has not received an answer to the Discovery Request. The next step would be to send a motion to Compel, which would force them to respond to the Discovery Request. Councilor Brude made a motion to instruct Kennedy to complete the Motion to Compel, Councilor Froehlich seconded; motion carried.

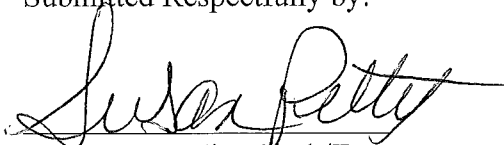
Discussion on snowbirds and if there is a policy in regards to turning water off in the fall and back on in the spring when they come back. Clerk Petty contacted Kennedy and since the city does not have a policy on this, the disconnect and reconnect fees would apply. Council will take this under advisement and revisit this topic in the fall.

Councilor Brude made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:07pm.

Special Council Meeting April 15, 2024 at 4:30pm

Next Regular Council Meeting May 13, 2024, at 7pm

Submitted Respectfully by:

  
Susan Petty, City Clerk/Treasurer