

GOOD THUNDER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting

November 9, 2020

Mayor Robert Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00p at City Hall at 130 S Ewing Street in Good Thunder, MN 56037. Councilors Ron Kaul, Sarah Karels, and Councilor Jim Prom were present. Brian Beckel, City Maintenance, and Ashney Helleksen, City Clerk-Treasurer were also present. Councilor Tom Froehlich was absent. Mayor Robert Anderson presided. Pledge was recited immediately followed by a moment of silence.

Councilor Kaul made a motion to approve the minutes from last month's meeting & the bills, Councilor Prom seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Sheriff's report was submitted with 58 hours of service for the month of October. Everything has been going well. They also started extra coverage for around the school, during the morning and afternoon.

Water / Sewer report:

ponds are empty, all discharges have been done.

Streets & Parks; Zoning Permit 20-25 was presented, Councilor Prom made a motion to approve, councilor Kaul second, motion carried. Mayor Anderson abstained.

We are still waiting on the easement agreement to be signed for the sewer project on Front St. There was discussion about the tile to be ran by Protein sources, Boenings came back with an estimate of \$13,500 for 350 Ft of 15" tile. It won't happen this fall yet, but plan to start working on it in Spring of 2021.

Water bill, now that they larger outstanding ones are current, council reminded Ashney & Brian to stay on top of them and if they get to far behind that we shut them off. "It really is to help them too, its so hard to get caught back up when they are that far behind."

Resident Maureen Spear was present via Zoom to address her concerns about how the COVID-19 relief money was handled. Mrs. Spears stated that she was "disappointed" about how it was handled and she is "not mad at Ashney, she is doing a good job, but other people are disappointed and ticked off on how it was all handled."

Mrs. Helleksen expressed that she tired to get packets to everyone that was qualified under the guidelines for the funding. Mrs. Spears said, "everyone should get a packet and then if they don't qualify after its fill out, then they know, but they shouldn't not get one because council

“thinks” they don’t qualify; that is Profiling if you don’t give them a chance to fill it out themselves.”

The Covid funds became available in August 2020. The City of Good Thunder received \$39,855 in assistance, when the city used what they could, they then opened it to helping out businesses in town. The first round there was only two businesses in town that have applied, those businesses were approved and awarded funds. The council then ordered some other items that they needed and still with having a large amount of money outstanding, the Council decided to do a second round of small business grants.

Clerk Helleksen post on our social medias and it was addressed in the meeting that a second round was approved. At the time of the deadline, only 2 businesses had applied, the same two that applied the first time. Council extended the deadline to this Friday, November 11, 2020 for any last-minute applicants and we will have a special meeting at 5pm to approve.

Mayor Anderson said, “He was sorry and honestly over looked some businesses because the hours they are open or didn’t even think about them.” He also stated, “we will do better and try harder if this comes up again.”

Councilor Kaul made a motion to extend the deadline to Friday November 11 for additional applications, Councilor Prom seconded and the motion carried. Councilor Kaul then made a motion to hold a Special Meeting Friday November 11 at 5pm to approve the application and spend any fund that are still available. Councilor Karels seconded and the motion carried.

Councilor Karels made a motion to approve the Toughbook to be ordered for City Maintenance, Councilor Prom seconded and the motion carried.

There was little discussion on the 2021 budget, however Mayor Anderson said, “being frugal over the years, is now biting us in the butt a little. We don’t qualify for any funding or grants because we have no debt.” If we want to build to expand the community, it would be on the tax payers instead of the state, and that isn’t fair either. Councilor Prom suggested, “maybe we leave the taxes the same or at a lower rate, and increase the sewer rate to where it needs to be.”

New Business:

A Small Business Improvement Grant application was submitted, Councilor Prom made a motion to approve the application, Councilor Karels seconded and the motion was approved.

Mayor Anderson stated that he had been contacted about softball and they are looking to have Softball at the Ballpark next year in town. There is some work to be done down there, fence, lighting and bleachers, but we should get a start on it. The Minnesota Twins plan to have their Youth camp here next summer too. The Softball league will most likely start May-ish.

Lastly items to keep in mind for the 2021 budget are cementing the S. Side of the shop, pallet racking to get it more organized and items off the ground. They will look into get estimates for that so we can budget.

Councilor Kaul made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilor Prom seconded and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30p.