

Minutes of the April 6, 2015 Good Thunder City Council Meeting

The April 6, 2015, meeting of the Good Thunder city council was called to order, at 7:00 p.m., by Mayor Robert Anderson. The meeting convened in council chambers located at 130 Ewing Street, Good Thunder, Minnesota. Council members in attendance were: Kenton Giese, Sarah Karels, Kim Hernandez, Jim Prom. Others in attendance: Jerry Birr, City Maintenance; Brian Severns, Water/Wastewater Operator; Phil Klammer, Fire Chief; Cheryl Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council member Ken Giese, made a motion to approve the agenda as distributed and submitted. Council member, Jim Prom, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member, Jim Prom, made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2015, city council minutes; minutes of the March 16, 2015, Personnel Committee; and minutes of the March 30, 2015 Parks Committee as presented and distributed. Council member Ken Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Water/Wastewater Operator, Brian Severns, informed the council that Electric Pump was in Good Thunder for the lagoon pumps annual inspection. During this inspection, it was found that pump #2 was “ragged up”, Mr. Severns stated. Severns asked Clerk-Treasurer Barnard to place something in the city’s newsletter indicating that wipes, ladies toiletries, and mop heads are not to be flushed. Mr. Severns reported that he is currently discharging the ponds from the primary to the secondary. The council was informed that Dakota Supply Company representatives performed training on the handheld remote radio reader and things went very well. Severns thanked Jerry Birr, City Maintenance, for the installation of meters that have been installed. Mr. Severns informed the council that when reading the “large” meters, he has been taking pictures which will be forwarded to Dakota Supply Company. DSC may have connections that could be used in the updating of these meters to radio read meters. Mr. Severns informed the council that this new form of meters saves so much time in the reading of them, and it is very much appreciated.

The council was informed that Thul Specialty Contracting Inc. was contacted and had performed hydrant maintenance on thirteen fire hydrants. One hydrant was mobilized and 12 were lubricated and exercised to get them working properly. The cost was \$5700. None of the hydrants were disassembled. Mr. Severns informed the council that he had previously oiled the fire hydrants and still had these problems. Mr. Severns requested that payment on this invoice be held until he flushes the meters in May to make certain that they are working correctly. Council agreed. It was noted that the seal on the fire hydrants by the Harlan Lentz and St. John Lutheran Church have seals that need to be repaired. City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, informed the council that oil had been left at the shop for oiling the fire hydrants and he was instructed that they should be oiled twice per year.

Jeff Domras, City Engineer, was present to present a preliminary cost estimate for Halladay Street South between Sherman Street and Hiller Drive. The following information was discussed:

- Discussed sidewalk and monies available through Federal programs such as MN Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Safe Routes to School (SRTS). Good Thunder’s preliminary cost is \$45,000 for one-side of street sidewalk. Since both funding programs utilize Federal Funds, projects under \$100,000 are not typically feasible due to the additional requirements of the funding.
- Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Improvements. Public Facility Authority (PFA) and Minnesota Rural Water Development (RD) has funding available if city qualifies. Each project is scored and health and safety issues are a specific criteria. PFA has low interest loan financing available. If the city has a large inflow and infiltration problem that causes backups in basements this would be a qualifying factor.
- Mr. Domras informed the council that Good Thunder has a median of \$47,000 per household. PFA and Rural Development financing requires that the City’s monthly sewer and water rates be at least

states that residents must have a 1.5% of median monthly income, or \$60 per month for each utility to qualify for grant funding (free money).

- If lead water service lines have been documented this could be a qualifying factor. Brian Severns, Water/Wastewater operator indicated that lead has never shown up in the city's water testing program.

To install a new water main and water services, the cost for the project is estimated at:	\$105,000
Sanitary Sewer and services, the cost for the project is estimated at:	75,000
Roadway with recycled aggregate	110,000
Bituminous roadway	200,000
Curb and gutter	50,000

Mr. Domras suggested televising Halladay Street South for inflow and infiltration if the City wanted to pursue PFA or RD loan financing. He had spoken with Blue Earth County as in 2016 Hwy. #66 will be reconstructed and it would be a perfect time to replace the sanitary sewer lines, under this road, to the city's lagoon. He also suggested televising the clay line under Hwy. #66 to determine its condition as it may be in good condition and not need to be replaced. Discussion took place on the old clay sanitary sewer line between Hwy. #66 and the lagoons as this had been replaced a few years ago with PVC. Since replacement, flow to the ponds has dropped substantially. At this time, no decisions were made as the purpose of contacting the City Engineer was to receive information.

Zoning Permit, GT-01-15, 850 Sherman Street was approved under the conditions stated at the March 2, 2015, council meeting.

Fire Chief, Phil Klammer, stated that the Good Thunder Volunteer Fire Department responded to three (3) medical and one (1) mutual aid call during the month of March 2015. The Fire Department will sponsor a Pancake Feed, at the fire station, on April 19th from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, presented the Rental Inspection Contract between the city and Minnesota Valley Action Council. This contract would retain and employ MVAC, Judd Schultz, to perform rental property inspections and re-inspections under Chapter 13, Residential Rental Ordinance, of the Good Thunder City Code. The term of the contract will be for three (3) years.

Council member, Jim Prom, made a motion to approve the three (3) year rental property inspections and re-inspections contract between the City of Good Thunder and Minnesota Valley Action Council. Council member, Kim Hernandez, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The council reviewed the forms, and brochure, developed for the Residential Rental Ordinance by Clerk-Treasurer Barnard, and complimented her on a job well done on developing this ordinance and all documentation needed in implementation of the ordinance.

Clerk-Treasurer Barnard presented information regarding rate increases for waste processing services from Minnesota Waste Processing Company. They are increasing their tipping fee to \$85.38 per ton. Ms. Barnard suggested that the council increase refuse rates 25¢ per month/75¢ per quarter.

Council member, Sarah Karels, made a motion to increase the city's refuse rates 25¢ per month or 75¢ per quarter beginning April 1, 2015. Council member, Kim Hernandez, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Barnard informed the council that the Tri-City Police Commission had decided that the City of Good Thunder should bill the property owners for the All Pets Medicine invoice of four (4) impounded pit bulls. It was decided that because this incident happened in Good Thunder, and because this was a rental property, the owners should take responsibility for the cost of this bill. This bill had been paid for by Tri-City Police Department so Amboy, Good Thunder, and Vernon Center paid their set percentages towards this invoice. It was felt also that it was unfair for residents of these towns to pay for this expense. Ms. Barnard asked the council to make a motion directing her to bill the property owners for this expense.

Council member, Kim Hernandez, made a motion, that under the suggestion of the Tri-City Police Department, the All Pets Medicine, Surgery and Rehabilitation Clinic invoice in the amount of \$980 be billed to the property owners of 251 Halladay Street N. Council member, Ken Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Barnard informed the council that Blue Earth Library will sponsor the following events: Wednesday, June 10: The Oldenburg Brothers Yo-Yo Show at 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday, July 8: Gator Alley and Company at 1:30 p.m. and Wednesday, August 19: Mary Hall's show for Pipsqueaks at 1:30 p.m. These events will be held in council chambers.

Ms. Barnard informed the council that the city's annual audit will be conducted April 9th and 10th by Burkhardt and Burkhardt LTD.

Discussion was held regarding the ATV's, mini-trucks, utility vehicles and golf carts permitting within the city. A concern was individuals not living within city limits coming into the city and being stopped by the Tri-City Police Department if they do not have a permit. A non-resident has indicated that because they are not a citizen such enforcement does not pertain to them. After lengthy discussion, it was determined that this topic be tabled.

Council member, Sarah Karels, informed the council that she had spoken to Adam Hollerich, Thunder Valley Softball League, and was informed that the last two (2) softball teams of the evening will be responsible to pick up all trash at the ball field after games. If not, the city will have the authority to fine them, the softball association, if a fine is set by the city.

Council member, Jim Prom, made a motion that a fine of \$50 per hour, two (2) hour minimum, be set for Thunder Valley Park clean up. This fee is to be set for all games, and concession stand rental events. Council member, Ken Giese, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member, Jim Prom, informed the council that he, Kim Hernandez and Sarah Karels had met as a Park Committee. They made the following suggestions.

- Mulch is need at the Thunder Valley playground.
- At the Main Street Park, Sticks and garbage need to be picked up.
- A new Thunder Valley Park sign is being developed.
- Road signage to the park is needed coming from County Road #1 and Hiller Drive. Park directional signage was also discussed within the city.
- Lighting at Main Street Park bathrooms was discussed. Solar lighting was suggested by Council member, Ken Giese. Mr. Giese will take on the responsibility of installing such lighting at these bathrooms.

Police Commissioner, Sarah Karels, stated that everyone needs to remember that the Tri-City Police Department is a work in progress. She felt that the comment made at the last Police Commission meeting stating that the city may not stay in this department should not have been stated. Council member, Ken Giese, stated that this was a premature statement as at this time costs for running the department are even uncertain as it will take this year to see what such expenses would be incurred.

Council member, Ken Giese, made a motion to pay the bills as distributed and presented. Council member, Sarah Karels, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member, Kim Hernandez, questioned if the city would like to again sponsor Yard of the Month. This has been held in the past during from the months of May-October. It was felt that this is a great program for the residents. Ms. Hernandez felt that businesses should be contacted and asked if they would help support

this program. Council member Prom and Mayor Anderson each stated that they would each donate \$150 towards the program.

Council member Hernandez stated that a Coke machine would be installed at City Hall and maintained by the Good Thunder Day Committee. Discussion followed.

Council member, Ken Giese made a motion to have an electrical outlet installed on the outside of City Hall to accommodate a Coke machine. Council member, Sarah Karels, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The proceeds from the sale of coke products will be given to the Good Thunder Day Committee.

Council member Hernandez also informed the council that in 2008 the Lyra Township, United Way, discontinued meeting as they became uncomfortable asking people for money during the economy's downfall. Ms. Hernandez contacted members of the Lyra Township, United Way, and asked their approval in closing their existing bank account and giving this money to the Good Thunder Fire Department for assistance in the purchase of an air pack. This was agreed upon.

Council member, Sarah Karels, made a motion that on behalf of the Good Thunder Fire Department the city accept the Lyra Township United Fund donation of \$4000 to be used towards the purchase of an air pack for the Fire Department. Council member, Ken Giese, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The city thanked the United Fund Committee of Lyra Township for this donation.

The city reviewed estimates received from Boening Brothers Construction Service for a 6" watermain in the alleyway between Ewing Street S. and Halladay St. The estimated cost is \$13,200 for 240 feet. Minnesota Pipe & Equipment Company presented an estimated quote of \$10,485.54 for materials for this project. This project would include all curb stops. Installation of a fire hydrant is estimated at \$2800. Councilor Giese questioned the 240 feet on the Boening Brothers Construction Service estimate as on the estimate from Minnesota Pipe and Equipment Company the materials were estimated on 340 feet of alleyway. The second estimate from Boening Brothers Construction Service was for 600 feet of storm sewer on Chapel Street and the installation of five (5) PVC surface catch basins. Mayor Anderson will contact Boening Brothers and obtain a clarification of the correct footage for the alleyway.

Mayor Anderson brought up discussion on the past Halladay Street construction project with City Engineer, Jeff Domras. The condition of this street was discussed. Mr. Domras will contact Boening Brothers Construction and discuss with them their findings when they dug up the street due to a past water main breakage. He will then report back to the city what will be done in the repair of this street.

City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, asked the council if a part-time person will be hired this summer for mowing. No decision was made.

Councilor Giese informed the council that the Archery Range will be receiving six (6) telephone poles at no charge for help in a raised platform for archery shooting.

Council member, Ken Giese made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m. Council member, Sarah Karels, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer

