

Minutes of the August 5, 2013, City Council Meeting

The August 5, 2013, 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 Court, Good Thunder, Minnesota. Council members present, Kim Hernandez; Kenton Giese; Sarah Karels, Arlen Ostermann. Others in attendance: Brian Severns, Water-Wastewater Operator; Jerry Birr, City Maintenance; Jeffrey Marx, Police Chief; Fire Chief, Phil Klammer; Cheryl Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council member Sarah Karels made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and distributed. Council member Arlen Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Kim Hernandez made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2013 city council minutes. Council member Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Judd Schultz, Minnesota Valley Action Council, presented information on past and present Small Cities Development Programs. In previous years, the cities of Good Thunder, Vernon Center, St. Clair and Amboy had participated in a county wide application for Housing Rehabilitation. Schultz explained that in working with Region 9 and Chuck Pettipiece, Pettipiece and Associates, it was felt that working with individual communities, such as Good Thunder, could benefit the city when applying for their own application for housing rehabilitation. In the previous application, there was a lot of interest. If the city qualifies for such a program, it would benefit low and moderate income persons. Such programs help in eliminating blight conditions. Mr. Schultz felt that it would benefit the city to apply for a comprehensive application for housing and business. The council was informed that the deadline date for preliminary proposals for the Small Cities Development Application is November 14, 2013. The council was informed that data is available from the previous preliminary application. Under the housing portion of the application a possible \$600,000 is available for financial assistance. If there were 15-18 homes, with an average of \$21,000 this program could total \$320,000. It was explained that the money awarded to a homeowner is placed as a ten-year lien on the property. If the homeowner resides in the property for ten (10) years, the lien would be forgiven. Under commercial assistance building and safety issues could be addressed such as electrical, lead paint, smoke detectors, windows, heating etc. The council was informed that Mr. Schultz could also bring in a weatherization program. June of 2014 is when the money is awarded. Cities then have 30 months to spend this money on specific projects. Schultz explained that in administering this work, cities are now being charged. However, because this is a transition year, Mr. Schultz is willing to do the work for free as information is available from the previous application. Mr. Schultz did indicate that he would like to resurvey the town to gauge interest from Good Thunder residents.

Councilor Giese made a motion for Minnesota Valley Action Council to begin the process to apply for the discussed funding through the Small Cities Development Program. Councilor Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Ostermann made a motion approving timesheets for 6-22-13 through 7-6-13; 7-6-13 through 7-20-13 and 7-20-13 through 8-3-13. Councilor Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, presented two estimates for tree trimming and removal from a "right of way" behind the Lee Hiller property. The estimates were from Scheurer's Tree Service and Pfeffer Tree Service. Discussion followed.

The council was informed by Mr. Birr that Nielsen Blacktopping will be in town within two or three weeks to repair the curb work on Ewing Street S.

Mr. Birr informed the council that he will make a new Thunder Park sign during the winter months. The council felt this was a good idea.

Councilor Ostermann made a motion to accept the estimate from Pfeffer Tree for trimming and removal of trees in the "right of way", between Shaubut and Mielke Street, and on the school bus route. Councilor Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Water/Wastewater Operator, Brian Severns, informed the council that Electric Pump had repaired a motor at the lift station with the installation of a guide cable bracket.

Water meters were discussed and it was decided that Brian will obtain information from the Badger Meter Company and Midway Testing for the purchase and installation of new brass meters for the entire city.

Councilor Karels made a motion approving the part-time police officers July 2013 timesheets. Councilor Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief, Jeffrey Marx, reported that the police department responded to fifty-one (51) calls for service during the month of July 2013. Marx informed the council that he is working on nuisance properties as there are habitual issues. National Night Out will be held August 6th, Tuesday, from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the Main Street Park. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Fire Chief, Phil Klammer, reported that the fire department responded to one (1) fire call, one (1) vehicle call, and two (2) medical calls during the month of July 2013. The department will hold a Pork Feed Saturday, September 7th from 4:00 p.m. through 8:00 p.m. at the Fire Station. Fire Chief Klammer reported that Alpha Wireless has set up a system allowing Klammer to activate pagers if there is a future problem with pagers not going off during a call.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, presented a LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for Misfit Acres. This fundraiser will be held October 6th at Anderson Trucking. St. Joseph Catholic Church is also requesting approval of a LG240B Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo for their fundraiser which will be held September 8, 2013.

Councilor Hernandez made a motion approving the Minnesota Gambling Applications, as discussed, for Misfit Acres and St. Joseph Catholic Church. Councilor Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The property drawn for Yard of the Month is Pat Just.

Councilor Giese made a motion approving the bills as presented and distributed. Councilor Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Hernandez thanked the Good Thunder Fire Department for their help in the installation of the roof on the concession stand at Thunder Park. All council members also expressed their appreciation.

Councilor Ostermann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Councilor Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl A. Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer

