

## Minutes of the August 6, 2012 Good Thunder City Council Meeting

Mayor Robert Anderson called the August 6, 2012, meeting of the Good Thunder City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting convened in council chambers located at 130 Ewing Street, Good Thunder. All council members were present. Others in attendance were: Police Chief, Jeffrey Marx, and Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Councilor Tom Froehlich made a motion approving the agenda as presented and distributed. Councilor Russ Brase seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Russ Brase made a motion approving the minutes of the July 2, 2012, city council meeting. Councilor Tom Froehlich seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ben Stein, 230 N. Halladay Street, was present and asked for an update on inoperable vehicles that were discussed at the July council meeting. Police Chief Marx stated that regarding the vehicles in question, these vehicles have collector plates, are operable, or have proper tabs. Stein presented an ordinance from the Blue Earth County website that defined a junkyard, which he felt concurred with this neighbor's property. Police Chief Marx explained that the Blue Earth County ordinance did not apply in Good Thunder. The city has its own city ordinances which follow the state statutes. Marx further explained that under state statute, 168B.011, a vehicle needs to meet five specific requirements to be considered a junk vehicle. Council member Russ Brase asked Stein if he had spoken to his neighbor about the cars and Stein explained that he had. Kathy Travaille was present and suggested that Stein contact the Environment Protection Agency if the vehicles are leaking oil. Stein thanked the council for listening to his concerns.

Kathy Travaille, 843 Chapel Street, stated her concern of a business trailer parking on Ewing Street and other vehicles parked on the other side of the street at the same time. In driving down Ewing Street, under these situations, it is difficult to maneuver a car between the two. Her concern is if an emergency vehicle was to try to go down the street, under these circumstances, and was unable to. Ms. Travaille asked if the city could post a no parking sign on one side of the street. Mayor Robert Anderson suggested that maybe the city could ask the owner of the trailer to park the vehicle in his driveway before declaring "no parking" on one side of the street. The council asked Police Chief Marx to discuss this request with the vehicle owner. Ms. Travaille's second concern was children playing in the middle of the road on Chapel Street. The council was informed that the ages of these children are two to three years old. Discussion followed. Ms. Travaille asked if she should speak to the children's parents. Police Chief Marx stated that when this happens to contact the police department and an officer will check on the situation. Ms. Travaille also questioned the swimming pool ordinance regarding fencing. It was explained that there are no fencing requirements at this time. Clerk-Treasurer Barnard explained that the city attorney has indicated that temporary pools do not require fencing. If ladders are used in such pools, it is the homeowner's responsibility to remove them when the pool is not in use.

Lola Giese was present and stated that the Flea Market has had eleven vendors. The council thanked Ms. Giese for her setting the Flea Market up for the city.

Council member Sarah Karels, stated that there approximately 50 children in attendance at National Night Out. Ms. Karels was pleased with the donations received from Spear Plumbing, Culligan, Thunder Restaurant, Happy Dan's, Walmart and Dietz's. The new part-time police officer and a fire department truck were also at the event. Mayor Anderson thanked Ms. Karels for organizing this event.

Chad Ostermann, M & M Insurance, was present and explained that the city's annual insurance policy will be renewed on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ostermann reviewed the city's annual insurance policy, informed the council of insurance claims submitted in the past year, and answered any questions which council members had.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion to keep the city's insurance policy as is, and to waive the torte limits from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Robert Anderson informed the council that it was discovered that the waterline, for the property at 611 Sherman Street, runs under the garage of the David Sternitzke property at 621 Sherman Street. Discussion followed regarding what the best strategy would be in the replacement of this water line. Clerk-Treasurer Barnard will notify the owners of the property at 611 Sherman Street and invite them to attend the September council meeting to discuss this issue.

The council discussed the water line situation also at the Joe Hathaway property at 333 S. Halladay Street. The council asked that Clerk-Treasurer Barnard notify the Hathaways that at this time, the city will not be repairing this line. The Hathaways were to come to the council with a cost estimate on what the repair cost would be to fix the water leak that was occurring in the line to their home. The council also acknowledged that this is a lead line as discovered by Jeff Dale, Minnesota Rural Water.

Clerk-Treasurer Barnard presented an estimate from WW Blacktopping for blacktopping repair on city streets from City Maintenance, Jerry Birr. Discussion followed.

Councilor Froehlich made a motion that City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, contact M & R Paving of New Ulm and Nielsen of St. Peter for estimates for blacktopping repair on city streets. Councilor Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The council was informed that Jerry Birr did go to the city of LeSueur and the equipment that he looked at for purchase was not something the city should purchase.

Councilor Brase questioned why the city is storing blacktop and fencing on the property near the burn pile. Discussion followed. The blacktop is to be hauled away and the fencing be taken to B&R in Beauford, by city maintenance.

The Personnel Committee will meet with city employees on Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

Councilor Russ Brase made a motion approving Zoning Permit, GT-14-12, 431 S. Halladay St., addition to deck. Councilor Tom Froehlich seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Sarah Karels made a motion approving the time sheets for the pay periods of 6-23-12 thru 7-7-12; 7-7-12 thru 7-21-12 and 7-21-12 thru 8-4-12. Councilor Tom Froehlich seconded the motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief, Jeffrey Marx, informed the council that the police department had twenty-three (23) calls for service during the month of August, 2012.

Police Chief Marx informed the council that he had hired a new part-time police officer.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion approving Shelbea Sadusky, as a new part-time officer for the city of Good Thunder. Councilor Russ Brase seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The council asked that Ms. Sadusky attend a council meeting so that all council members can meet her.

Fire Chief, Tom Froehlich, informed the council the fire department responded to five (5) fire calls, two (2) medical calls and one (1) accident call during the month of August 2012.

The fire department will hold a Pork Feed in Rapidan on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Fire Chief Froehlich informed the council that new radios are in.

Councilor Ostermann made a motion to set September 5<sup>th</sup> as a "budget workshop" session for the 2013 budget. The meeting is to begin at 5:30 p.m. Councilor Brase seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Barnard discussed with the council her recommendation regarding city banking. As of October 17<sup>th</sup>, MinnStar Bank will be closing the bank in Good Thunder. Ms. Barnard asked the council to consider transferring all city funds to US Bank. Ms. Barnard was questioned as to why she would consider US Bank over other banks. Deposits are a major concern. One way in making such deposits is to have the police department drop deposits off when they are going to the Law Enforcement Center. Convenience is a main concern. Discussion followed.

Councilor Russ Brase made a motion that the city transfers all city banking accounts from MinnStar Bank to US Bank. Councilor Arlen Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following vote. Sarah Karels – yes; Arlen Ostermann – yes; Russ Brase – yes. Tom Froehlich Nay.

Councilor Ostermann made a motion approving the bills for payment as presented with the correction of the Boening Brothers statement as discussed. Councilor Froehlich seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Under Old Business:

- Tom Froehlich requested that a plan be made in repairing water meters.
- The council was informed by Sarah Karels that several surveys for the gas station have been received. Information will be compiled and given to the new owner.

Under New Business

- The council would like to have the mileage recorded on the city maintenance vehicle and a report turned in monthly to the council.

Councilor Ostermann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m. Councilor Brase seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl A. Barnard  
Clerk-Treasurer