

Minutes of the December 2, 2013, City Council Meeting

The December 2, 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: Kenton Giese, Sarah Karels, Arlen Ostermann, Kim Hernandez. Others in attendance: Jeffrey Marx, Police Chief; Phil Klammer; Fire Chief; Cheryl Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer; Parker Skophammer, Minnesota Valley Council of Governments.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Council member Sarah Karels made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2013 city council meeting. Council member Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

In the absence of City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, Clerk-Treasurer Barnard, presented items for discussion for the maintenance department. Gene Kleinow would like to bring in a shed to be placed on his property. The council discussed this matter, and directed Birr to inform Mr. Kleinow that a completed drawing must be presented as to where this building would be placed, and an actual picture of the shed must be shown to the council before approval would be considered. Also, Birr is to check into the section of the Zoning Ordinance regarding specific footage a property must have before another building is added to the existing buildings.

The council was informed that no information has been received regarding questions on the new civil defense siren.

The council was informed that as of this date, \$60,893 has been allocated towards the new ballpark concession stand.

Brian Severns, Water/Wastewater Operator, is waiting to hear back from the new distributor for the remote control water meters. No order has been placed as of this date.

Police Chief, Jeffrey Marx, informed the council that the Police Department had forty-five (45) calls for service during the month of November 2013. On Wednesday, December 4th, the D.A.R.E. class will visit the Blue Earth County Justice Center in Mankato. Police Chief Marx informed the council that part-time police officer Sadusky had sixteen (16) hours for the month of November 2013.

Fire Chief, Phil Klammer, informed the council that the Fire Department responded to seven (7) fire calls, five (5) medical calls, one (1) gas leak and one (1) animal rescue call for the month of November 2013. The council was informed that on December 3rd it has been scheduled that the Fire Department's pager programming will be involved in a simulcast. Med-Compass, of Minneapolis, will be coming to the fire station December 10th to do physical testing for the department. Santa Claus will be at the fire station from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 14th.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, reported on the proposed 2014 budget for the city. Barnard informed the council that beginning January 1, 2014, cities will no longer pay sales tax on specific items. In providing Blue Earth County with a cost estimate, Barnard calculated that the city would save approximately \$3,700 by not paying sales tax in 2014. The council was again informed that this savings had been calculated in the 2014 proposed budget. The following items were also stated by Ms. Barnard:

- \$25,043 was increased in Local Government Aid
- Future Improvements was increased by \$1000 in Law Enforcement
- Fire pension was increased from \$300 to \$400 per year per firefighter beginning in 2014
- 3% raise for Police Chief, City Maintenance, Clerk-Treasurer, Water/Wastewater Operator no increase for part-time police officers
- Under General Government, in Future Improvements, a retention line item was added for publicity such as a town celebration etc.

The council was again reminded that a zero percent increase in taxes for 2014 had been proposed.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion approving **Resolution No. 2013-05, Resolution Certifying 2014 Adopted Special Levy** and **Resolution No. 2013-06, Resolution Certifying 2014 Adopted Tax Levy**. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Parker Skophammer, Minnesota Valley Council of Governments, informed the council that in searching for an inspector for the city's proposed Residential Rental Ordinance, Judd Schultz, Minnesota Valley Action Council has indicated that he would be interested in providing this service. The City of Mapleton is also looking at approving such a rental ordinance. Ms. Barnard indicated that if Mapleton is interested, she would forward a copy of the proposed ordinance to Mapleton as both cities have Chris Kennedy for their City Attorney, and Mr. Kennedy has approved Good Thunder's ordinance.

Police Chief Marx informed the council that he is proposing a public archery range at the "old" shooting range near the lagoon. The proposed project would include purchasing or having donated three bag arrow targets, six 4x4x12 pressure treated posts, weed and foliage cover and straw bales for the berm behind the targets, garbage cans, tables and cable along with other miscellaneous items to hand the targets. The range would feature removable targets with a distance of 580 feet from where the original berm resides. Marx informed the council that the plan would be to get most of the money or items needed donated from different organizations etc. This range would be open to the public and signage and rules would be posted. Discussion followed and it was decided that all scrap iron be sold at B&R in Beauford. Marx also stated that the local Boy Scout Group has shown an interest in helping clean up the site.

Councilor Giese made a motion approving the Police Chief Marx proceed with developing an archery range as discussed, and to keep the council informed and updated on progress of this project. Councilor Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl A. Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer