

Minutes of the February 2, 2015 Good Thunder City Council Meeting

The February 2, 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; Ryan Jordan, Tri-City Police Chief; 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, Kim Hernandez, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member, Kim Hernandez, made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2015, city council minutes and the minutes of the January 23, 2015, Personnel Committee as presented and distributed. Council member Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, had been contacted by Al Forsberg, P.E. Blue Earth County. Blue Earth County is working of the design for reconstructing CSAH I (old TH 66) from Good Thunder north. The construction is planned for 2016. The county questioned if there are any water, sanitary sewer or other utilities under the road that the city is considering for replacement. They would include this in the county's plan at the expense of the city. There are none. However, the council did discuss the water that accumulates at the intersection of County Road #10 and State Hwy. #66, west side of the property, on the Lynn Sternitzke property. The city discussed having the county install a catch basin, or an underground drainage tile, to alleviate the water from accumulating on this property. Ms. Barnard will contact Mr. Forsberg with this information.

City Engineer, Jeff Domras, Bolton & Menk, Inc. was present at the meeting. The city opened the informational/citizen input portion of the meeting to discuss possible street upgrades for Halladay Street South between Sherman Street and Hiller Drive. The meeting was an opportunity for property owners to express input and comments on what should be done to maintain this street. Mr. Domras began the meeting by stating that there are two (2) items that should be considered: 1. the addition of curb and gutter on this street; and 2. underground water-main, and sanitary sewer lines. It was felt that they should be discussed as these utilities are currently in the roadway. Mr. Domras explained the city's current Assessment Policy and how specific construction would affect property owners. Curb and gutter is assessed 100% to the property owners; sanitary sewer and new services are assessed 100% to the property owners. Concrete driveway aprons are assessed 100% to the property owners. The city pays for 15% of the street improvements with 85% of the street improvements being assessed to the property owners. Intersections are city's responsibility along with alleyway frontage. If it is decided to upgrade a 6" main to an 8" main, the cost is assumed by the city. Storm sewer is assessed 70% to the property owner and 30% to the city with catch basins included in this assessment. Halladay Street from Hiller Drive to Sherman Street is one-fourth of a mile. Mr. Domras explained that assessments are based on footage. The council also stated that this needs to be a 7 ton road, not a 5 ton road. This street currently does not have storm sewer or curb and gutter. Mayor Robert Anderson stated, "There are no plans" for a street project. Councilor Giese stated that sections of this road are dangerous. Julie Beaudette, 420 Halladay Street, stated that she is concerned about the cost as there are several people on this block on fixed incomes and minimum wage. The street currently has no curb and gutter or sidewalks Mrs. Beaudette indicated. Councilor Giese stated that the council wants to know the level of improvements the property owners want. Dale Braulick, 300 S. Halladay Street questioned the type of material the current underground utilities current are. Mayor Anderson responded, cast iron. Brandee Shoemaker, 421 Halladay

Street questioned if there is a water problem. Councilor Giese responded by stating the water currently goes to low spots and causes erosion problems. Brandee Shoemaker stated that there is speeding on this road, and with all of the little kids it is a concern. Especially, if the road is upgraded from what it is now? Blacktopping was suggested. The city informed the citizens that in doing the construction on Halladay Street north, the city picked up the cost of the underground utilities. However, having such money available now is a concern. Jason Schultz 431 S. Halladay Street asked if there were any grants available. Mr. Domras stated that there is a Local Road Improvement Program for projects. But, this grant is for projects that have a larger impact, are heavily used, unsafe and it is a very competitive grant project. Erica Kittelson, 231 South Halladay Street felt that doing the project in stages should be considered. She suggested constructing a gravel road and then do the underground utilities. Ms. Kittelson also asked the time frame for assessments. City Engineer Domras stated that it is usually a 12-15 period. Mayor Anderson stated that the city has been applying recycled blacktop to some of the gravel roads such as Chapel Street and Hiller Drive and this has worked out well. If recycled blacktop is used it helps with dust control and becomes compacted on the street. In the past the city has applied a chemical to the streets, for dust control, but are now leaning towards applying recycled blacktop as you have something that helps maintain the street. Councilor Giese stated that recycled blacktop locks down nice and is more water resistant. Citizens clearly stated that if the value of their house is a specific number, high assessments simply do not make sense as they cannot afford them and a high assessment would not bring up the value of their home. Mr. Domras also discussed the possibility of high lines being buried if the time frame and schedule for Xcel can be arranged. Front yardage was discussed as a new road, with sidewalks, would eliminate a large portion of some of the homes front yards. Mayor Anderson suggested that placing a sidewalk on only one side of the street could be considered. Brian Beckel, 301 S. Halladay, stated that if he had wanted a home with curb and gutter, he would have purchased such a home. He can understand the overlay of the street but if assessments are \$30,000-\$50,000 he can hand the home back to the bank. He has plans to make improvements on his property, but this is always hanging over his head because you never know what the assessments will be. Mayor Anderson stated that he felt sanitary sewer is needed. Councilor Giese felt water control, catch basins, are needed. Discussion followed. It was felt that cost breakdowns of specific improvements are needed before any further decisions could be made. Mayor Anderson stated that this is just an informational meeting to get ideas from the citizens. There are no plans for street improvements. It may be several years before anything happens certainly not in one, two or even three years. Mayor Anderson also suggested that the city could dig up what we now have and lay a 2" overlay. Councilor Hernandez stated that after listening to input from citizens it appears that no one wants curb and gutter. Steve Stenzel, 401 S. Halladay Street stated that the water utility needs replacement as water pressure is very low on this street. Mayor Anderson suggested that maybe some of the poor areas of the street (blacktop) be taken up and replaced with recycled blacktop. City Engineer, Jeff Domras, will prepare some cost estimates and they will be presented at a meeting sometime in the future. The council thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and stating their opinions regarding this street.

City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, informed the council that 185 radio meters have been installed. There are 47 left to install and 15 appointments have been set up. Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, informed the council that representatives from Dakota Supply will be in the office for two days February 10th and February 11th for training on the utility program. The council was informed that a letter was delivered to residents not having made appointments for the water meter installation on January 23 informing the homeowner that they had 15 days to contact Birr for installation appointments. The council discussed this and decided that the homeowners, who have not contacted Birr, be informed that they have five working days to set up an appointment or water will be disconnected to their home. Homeowners can also be informed that Saturday morning appointments for installation will be accepted.

David Karels was present to address a problem that had arisen at his property located at 237 S. Houk Street. He presented the new water meter that had been installed. It is the feeling of Mr. Karels that this meter was defective and caused water damage to his property. Mr. Karels asked to be reimbursed \$1800. It was decided that this meter be

reviewed by Dakota Supply when they are here for training in February. If it is defective, Mr. Karels should be reimbursed by this company. No decision was made until this meter is thoroughly looked at by them.

Tri-City Police Chief, Ryan Jordan, was present to introduce himself to citizens present at the meeting. Police Chief Jordan explained that two officers have been offered positions with the Tri-City Police Department and are currently in the background hiring process. Hopefully, another officer will be on the road in the next two weeks. If residents need to contact him they were asked to call the Good Thunder office at 278-3031, or 911 if it is an emergency. Police Chief Jordan stated that Blue Earth County has been very helpful in this transition period.

Mayor Anderson reported that at the Police Commission meeting car stripes, patches, and setting a firm date for meetings was discussed.

Fire Chief, Phil Klammer, reported that there were thirteen (13) calls for the month of January 2015. Six (6) medical calls, two (2) mutual aid structure fire calls, one (1) car accident call, one (1) structure fire call, two (2) gas leak calls, and one (1) assist call. The EMT Refresher class has been completed by Ryan Bergemann, Mitch Froehlich and Phil Klammer. Fire Chief Klammer and Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, have worked on updating the current Fire Service Agreement with the townships. The council was informed of language that was updated in the contract. Klammer will clarify the changes to the township officials and receive signatures as needed.

Council member, Ken Giese made a motion to accept the updated five year Fire Service Agreement for fire protection between the Good Thunder Volunteer Fire Department and the townships. Council member, Sarah Karels, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, presented Resolution #2015-02, Amendment to 2013 Blue Earth County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. Ms. Barnard explained that the Blue Earth County-All Hazards Mitigation Plan was adopted in 2013. Now additional language needs to be added in the plan regarding: “demolition of dwellings and infrastructure to prevent loss of property would allow eligible entities to apply for grant funding to support such demolition or relocation.”

Council member, Kim Hernandez made a motion approving **Resolution #2015-02, Amendment to 2013 Blue Earth County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan**. Council member, Ken Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Barnard informed the council that she had contacted LJP Waste and Recycling regarding Spring-Clean Up. Saturday, May 16th will be the date for this event. The rates for appliances this year will be \$22 each and electronics will be \$9. Computer monitors and TV's that are large than 19 inches will be \$35.

Council member, Jim Prom made a motion that Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, attend the annual Minnesota Clerks and Finance Officers Association conference March 17th-March 20th. Council member, Ken Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member, Kim Hernandez, informed the council that the committee who served food from the trailer, on Friday Nights, at Thunder Valley, during the summer months will be using the concession stand this summer.

Council member, Ken Giese made a motion approving the City of Good Thunder Concession Stand Rental Policy. Council member, Jim Prom seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The council thanked Sarah Karels, and Kim Hernandez on the development of this policy.

Council member, Sarah Karels informed the council that she had spoken to Adam Hollerich, Softball Association, and discussed items that were concerns (as reported in January 2015). Mr. Hollerich had stated that the teams will be more accountable with the last team playing, being responsible for clean-up of the park area. The council held discussion of setting a fee and charging the Softball Association if this clean-up is not enforced. Councilor Karels informed the council that she had also invited Mr. Hollerich to attend the March or April council meeting.

Councilor Giese informed the council that May 16th will be a fund raiser for the Good Thunder Day Committee. It will be a Blues and Barbeque event at Anderson Trucking. Mayor Anderson asked that the city inquire with the city's insurance agent to see if this event would be covered under the city's insurance policy.

Steve Stenzel informed the council that in riding his motorcycle, after a heavy rain, gravel accumulates at the bottom of Blue Earth County Road #10 and Hwy. #66. Mr. Stenzel suggested placing recycled blacktop on the gravel road on Halladay Street N. The council felt this could be done and directed City Maintenance Birr to sweep this intersection once a week.

Council member, Jim Prom made a motion to approve the bills as presented and distributed. Council member, Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member, Jim Prom discussed with the council the Minnesota State Building Code. He will obtain more information regarding changes that have been made in 2015. Clerk-Treasurer Barnard informed the council that the city currently has a Zoning Ordinance that is enforced. Ms. Barnard will check with City Attorney, Chris Kennedy, and obtain his legal opinion on this situation.

Mayor Anderson asked that the council go into closed session at the March 2015 meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

Council member, Ken Giese made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Council member, Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully recorded by,

Cheryl A. Barnard
City Clerk-Treasurer