

Minutes of the February 4, 2013 Council Meeting

The February 4, 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; and Robert Anderson. Absent council member: Arlen Ostermann. Others in attendance: Jerry Birr, City Maintenance; Jeffrey Marx, Police Chief; Cheryl Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council member Kim Hernandez made a motion to approve the agenda as distributed and submitted. Council member Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Kenton Giese made a motion to approve the January 7, 2013, city council minutes as presented and distributed. Council member Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Tom Froehlich was present at the council meeting to introduce the newly elected Fire Chief, Phil Klammer. Froehlich informed the council that he was all in the confidence in the world that Klammer will do a fine job for the fire department as the fire chief.

Council member Kim Hernandez made a motion appointing Phil Klammer as fire chief for the Good Thunder Volunteer Fire Department. Council member Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Kim Hernandez informed the council that she would like to promote city businesses and suggested that the city start a "yard of the month, or week program" as Mapleton and Vernon Center have. Discussion followed as to if this would be a "bragging rights" program or a program where the city and local businesses donate monetarily to be used within city businesses. Discussion followed. Ms. Hernandez will check further into how area towns are promoting such a program and report her findings to the council for further consideration.

In promoting business, and growth within the city, the council discussed the MinnStar Bank property and options regarding businesses that could be placed within the building. Suggestions were a satellite bank, apartment rental, office space rental and an area designated for a community center.

Mayor Robert Anderson informed the council of a business idea that he has for the property he currently owns on the corner of Main Street and Halladay Street. Anderson indicated that he would donate this property to the city. He would like to see a Laundromat, tanning and exercise area, and rental property for businesses to be placed in such a building. Discussion followed.

The council was informed that the Personnel Committee, Kim Hernandez and Sarah Karels, had met with city employees prior to the council meeting. Councilor Karels informed the council that as soon as the employees were notified of a meeting, they were on the defensive and questioned if they had done something wrong. Ms. Karels stated that the employees need to know of the positive things that they do, not always the negative.

Councilor Sarah Karels made a motion approving timesheets for the payroll periods of 1-5-2013 thru 1-19-2013 and 1-19-2013 thru 2-2-2013. Councilor Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief, Jeffrey Marx, reported that the police department had forty-four (44) calls for service during the month of January 2013. The 2012 police call breakdown, from Blue Earth County, was also presented for council consideration.

Fire Chief, Phil Klammer, informed the council that he has served on the Good Thunder fire department for 16 years, has been an EMT for 14 years, and was assistant chief for 1 ½ years. He stated that he is, "excited to serve as chief." Klammer informed the council that there were four (4) medical calls and one (1) vehicle accident call during the month of January 2013. Currently, there are four fire department members completing EMT classes, and one member completing 1001 Firefighter training. On March 2nd and 3rd South Central Technical College, in North Mankato, will be hosting the Fire Sectional School training. The annual Oyster Feed is February 5th. The assistant chief for the fire department is Larry Rahn.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, informed the council that the date for Spring Clean-up has been set for May 18th.

Councilor Kim Hernandez made a motion approving Jeff Domras, Bolton and Menk, as the city engineer. Councilor Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Sarah Karels made a motion for Clerk-Treasurer Barnard to attend the Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Conference in March. Councilor Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Kenton Giese made a motion to approve the bills as presented and distributed. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Other miscellaneous business:

- City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, informed the council that a person fell at the Post Office and may require surgery. The council stated that this incident should be reported to the Post Office as they are responsible in keeping the walkway shoveled and free of ice.
- Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, asked the council to consider reimbursing Jerry Birr \$25 per month for his cell phone. The council was informed that Birr uses his personal phone for city business. Discussion followed.

Councilor Kenton Giese made a motion to reimburse City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, \$25 per month, to be paid quarterly, for use of his personal cell phone as needed for city business. Councilor Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- The concession stand dimensions will be 24' x 35'
- Police Chief, Jeff Marx, suggested that the city may want to consider some form of solar lighting for the proposed concession stand. Council liked the idea especially for security reasons.

Councilor Kenton Giese made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl A. Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer