

Minutes of the February 6, 2012, City Council Meeting

Mayor Robert Anderson called the February 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: City Maintenance, Jerry Birr; Police Chief, Jeff Marx, Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard.

Council member Russ Brase made a motion approving the agenda as presented and distributed. Council member Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Arlen Ostermann made a motion approving the minutes of January 4, 2012, as distributed. Council member Russ Brase seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief, Jeff Marx, reported that for the month of January 2012 the police department received 31 calls for service. Marx stated that this figure does not include traffic stops. The council was informed that there are specific vehicles in the city that have not been moved for a long period of time and the owners of such vehicles will be notified that this will no longer be acceptable.

Councilor Brase asked Police Chief Marx if he had discussed with Bruce Hooper how snow removal was being handled by St. John Church. Marx stated that he did have a conversation with Hooper as the way the snow was being piled up, at the intersection of Hubbell and Sherman, a safety hazard had developed. Marx explained that the way the snow was being removed from the sidewalks, by St. John Church, and piled in the street on the corner it appeared to be a traffic safety issue. Discussion followed as to who is responsible to remove such a snow pile as the city plows the street and the snow is being placed on the sidewalk. In the past, the city had pushed such a pile of snow onto the "sliding hill". Councilor Karels questioned why this would be the city's responsibility to remove a pile of snow if someone is being paid to "remove snow" from a property. It was felt that this is no different than a homeowner removing snow from a sidewalk after snow is plowed by the city. Mayor Robert Anderson suggested that Jerry Birr, City Maintenance, plow a wind row on the south side of the church and then plow the snow over the edge of the sliding hill.

Fire Chief, Tom Froehlich, thanked the police department for their response to recent calls that that the Fire Department has responded to. Mayor Anderson asked if Marx could obtain a copy, from Blue Earth County, showing when he has been on duty during a month. This was agreed upon.

Council member Arlen Ostermann made a motion approving the part-time police officers payroll for the month of January 2012. Council member Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Robert Anderson informed the council that he, council member Russ Brase, and city maintenance, Jerry Birr had met at the well house with Jeff Dale of Minnesota Rural Water and discussed the water filtration system. Installation of a modern filtration system is approximately \$1 million dollars and is not feasible for the city. The other option would be to replace the sand in the current sand filtration system that is already in place. Usually, this sand is replaced every 15-20 years.

The city's current sand has not been replaced in approximately 40 years. Anderson stated that the water quality is "good" so replacing the sand isn't an immediate concern. However, it is in need of attention. Jeff Dale did state that the tower has a small leak in the southeast corner of the vessel but isn't a pressing concern at this time. The council was informed that in fixing the current filtration system, the project could take approximately two months. The first step in such a project is to contact the city's engineering firm to see if they have an engineer who specializes in such filtering services and has knowledge of available funding programs. Council member Tom Froehlich stated that he would contact Wenck Engineering for this information. In discussing the cost of this improvement, it was decided that the water contingency fee needs to be increased in paying for this maintenance issue.

Councilor Ostermann made motion that effective April 1, 2012, the water contingency fee is be increased \$2.50 per month or \$7.50 per quarter. Councilor Brase seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Froehlich made a motion approving timesheets for the payroll periods of 12-24-2011 thru 1-7-2012, 1-7-2012 thru 1-22-2012 and 1-22-2012 thru 2-5-2012. Councilor Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, informed the council of a water main break that had occurred on Shaubut/Middle Street. It is believed that that this is the third break in this water line. Discussion followed regarding replacing this line in the spring or summer of this year. Birr asked the city to consider placing a "walk light" in the city shop. He feels it isn't worth turning on a whole row of fluorescent lights just to get into the city shop's office. Councilor Froehlich directed Birr to contact Darin Dalluge, Maple River Electric, for a cost quote and to see if this would be a cost savings. Mr. Birr also asked Fire Chief, Tom Froehlich, if the fire department could flush all city water mains this summer. This was agreed upon. The council again discussed the low water pressure on two properties located on Halladay Street South. It was decided that Birr purchase a water pressure gauge, and check the water pressure on these specific homes and inform the council of these results.

Fire Chief, Tom Froehlich, informed the council that the Fire Department responded to eight (8) medical calls during the month of January 2012. The council was informed that the new ladder truck has arrived and that a presentation will be made, of this vehicle, at the department's annual Oyster Feed on Tuesday, February 7th. In discussion of the "old" ladder truck, Froehlich informed the council, that Pioneer Power had expressed an interest in the vehicle. Councilor Brase suggested selling it for scrap metal. Fire Chief Froehlich informed the council that the vehicle cannot be sold to another department. Clerk-Treasurer Barnard congratulated Froehlich on the amount of money he has been able to obtain in grants for upgrading the department's equipment. Fire Chief Froehlich reported that in the past eight years approximately \$506,000 has been received in grants. The local share of such grants has been approximately \$24,500. The council also expressed their approval of obtaining such grants.

Council members Russ Brase and Arlen Ostermann informed the council that they had driven to Redwood Falls to view the 2007 Ford F450 4 x 4. It is their recommendation that the city purchase this vehicle. In researching the vehicle they were informed that the box and hoist are new, at a cost of \$9,400 and that the snow plow is new at a cost of \$6,000. The sides of the vehicle fold down, and there is 68,000 miles on the vehicle. Discussion followed.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion that the city purchase the 2007 Ford F450 4 x 4 from Kohls-Weelborg Truck Center of Redwood Falls, Minnesota at the purchase price of \$36,950. The council requests that the light be wired on this vehicle at the expense of Kohls-Weelborg Truck Center. Councilor Tom Froehlich seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, informed the council that Spring Clean Up for 2012 has been set for Saturday, May 19th.

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

Councilor Ostermann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Councilor Brase seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl A. Barnard
Clerk-Treasurer