

Minutes of the January 4, 2012, Good Thunder City Council Meeting

Mayor Robert Anderson called the January 4, 2012, meeting of the city council to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting convened in council chambers located at 130 Ewing Street, Good Thunder, Minnesota. Council members present: Sarah Karels, Arlen Ostermann, Russ Brase. Absent council member: Tom Froehlich. Others in attendance: Jerry Birr, City Maintenance; Jeff Marx, Police Chief, Cheryl Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer.

Councilor Ostermann made a motion approving the agenda as distributed. Councilor Brase seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Brase made a motion approving the minutes of the December 5, 2011, city council meeting. Councilor Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Terri Halvorson was present and presented a cost estimate for replacement of the bulbs and garland on the current street Christmas lights. Ms. Halvorson's father had made these lights, and at this time, they do need some repair. The cost for the proposed items is \$730. This cost also includes the large wreath that had previously been placed on city hall. Ms. Halvorson informed the council that she would be the person working on these lights. Discussion followed. Councilor Karels volunteered to help repair the decorations.

Councilor Brase made a motion that the city replaces the LED bulbs, wiring, wire sockets, and garland, as discussed, on the Christmas street lights. Councilor Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Ostermann made a motion approving the time sheets for 11-26-11 thru 12-10-11 and 12-10-11 thru 12-25-11. Councilor Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief, Jeff Marx, informed the council that the department had received 545 calls for service in 2011. On January 10th the D.A.R.E. Program, at the elementary school, will begin. The council was informed that the American Legion Post #616 is making a donation towards this program. Discussion on the new radio system was held. Chief Marx informed the council that the city will need to pay for the police department's share of the radios, and then the city will be reimbursed at a later date. The city's out of pocket expense will be approximately \$1500 for the cost of one mobile radio and two portable radios. The initial cost for this equipment would have been \$8,000 if the grant was not received.

Councilor Karels made a motion approving the part time police officers time sheets for the month of December 2011. Councilor Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, presented the 2011 Council Committees for review. Each year this listing must be updated. Discussion was held.
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Councilor Karels made a motion approving **Resolution #2012-01, 2012 Organization and Appointment Resolution**. Councilor Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The City Code appendixes will reflect specific changes and the 2012 Council Committees will remain the same as what was approved in 2011. The following is the 2012 Council Committees.

2012 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

WATER, SEWER, GARBAGE - Arlen Ostermann, Russ Brase

STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND ALLEYS - Robert Anderson, Arlen Ostermann

POSTING PLACES - City Hall, Good Thunder Post Office, MinnStar Bank, Happy Dan's

FIRE CHIEF – Tom Froehlich

RECREATION AND PARKS - Sarah Karels, Tom Froehlich

ACTING MAYOR – Tom Froehlich

POLICE COMMITTEE – Russ Brase, Sarah Karels

ADMINISTRATIVE - Tom Froehlich, Arlen Ostermann

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Tom Froehlich, Russ Brase

MINNESOTA VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS –

NATURAL GAS COMMITTEE – Russ Brase, Robert Anderson

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MN VALLEY COG – Cheryl Barnard, Arlen Ostermann, Sarah Karels

Ms. Barnard informed the council that no payment had been received from one of the companies using bulk water during the Blue Earth County Hwy. #10 road construction. Ms. Barnard informed the council that she would like to send another letter to the company asking that they attend the February council meeting to discuss their concerns, regarding the bulk water rate, and if they are not in attendance to turn the matter over to City Attorney, Chris Kennedy. The council was in agreement with this decision.

Ms. Barnard informed the council that in 2009 the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 54, a Fund Balance Report and Governmental Fund Type Definitions guideline. This policy is to be approved by city councils, as it requires that classifications of ending fund balance must be set according to accepted accounting principles for the annual financial reports and audits. The proposed policy was presented for council consideration and discussion.

Councilor Ostermann made a motion approving **Resolution No. 2012-02, A Resolution Implementing GASB Statement Number 54 and Establishing a Minimum Fund Balance**. Councilor Brase seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Barnard informed the council that the Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association will hold its annual conference in March and asked permission to attend the conference.

Councilor Brase made a motion approving Clerk-Treasurer Barnard attend the annual MCFOA conference in March. Councilor Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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Under Old Business the following topics were discussed:

- City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, informed the council that he had been approached by David Sternitzke to cut a boulevard tree down in front of the Don Manderfeld property. This was approved.
- The work bench in the city shop needs repair. Council approved this repair.
- The snow plow truck will be D.O.T. by Kelly Halvorson.
- Birr presented information on what is available for new truck vehicles. Councilor Ostermann also presented information which he had researched. Discussion followed. It was decided that Councilor Brase and Councilor Ostermann will go to Redwood Falls and look at vehicles before the next council meeting.
- Due to the lack of snow this winter it was suggested that Birr cut any trees that need to be removed and to make a few more barricades for the city.

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

Due to the poor shape of the tennis court fence and poles, it was decided that they should be removed.

Discussion regarding the trays and sand filter in the well house was discussed. Jerry Birr was asked to contact Jeff Dale from Minnesota Rural Water and question if funding would be available for such a project.

Councilor Karels made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Councilor Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl A. Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer

