

Minutes of the July 1, 2013, City Council Meeting

The July 1, 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. Absent council member: Arlen Ostermann. Others in attendance: Brian Severns, Water-Wastewater Operator; Jerry Birr, City Maintenance; Jeffrey Marx, Police Chief; Fire Chief, Phil Klammer; Cheryl Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council member Kim Hernandez made a motion to approve the agenda with additions as discussed. Council member Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Sarah Karels made a motion to approve the minutes of the Police Commission meeting of May 31, 2013 and the June 3, 2013, city council minutes. Council member Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Dan McGrane, representative from the Dakota Supply Group presented information on the Badger Meter Systems. The council was informed that the Badger Company has been manufacturing meters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for 110 years. McGrane stated that meters have been tested for accuracy at 25 gallons per minute and have a twenty-five year life expectancy, with a warranty of a 20 year life expectancy. The council was shown two different types of meters for consideration. One meter is made with brass housing and one with plastic housing. McGrane explained that the chambers in both meters are identical and are in compliance with the January 2014 lead law. The meters have an intricate mount with no pieces being exposed. The meters are capable of reporting no usage, and have leak protection. A "tamper" flag is also constructed inside the meter. Data profiling of two years water usage is stored in each radio unit. The meters cost between \$160-\$165 per unit. Meters are not installed by Dakota Supply Group but Midwest Testing would install units for approximately \$50 per meter. The handheld unit for reading the meter has no exposed wires and readings can be read from a vehicle. The cost for this unit is approximately \$5,500 and includes the unit, software, which will work with the city's current accounting and utility programs, and training of the unit and the utility programming. McGrane stated that the technical support is highly rated by current users and the training could be from two days to one week. The council thanked Mr. McGrane for his presentation.

Mayor Robert Anderson stated that citizens and council members were not happy about how the June 2013 council meeting was run. In reference to the citizens/council member section of the agenda, it was decided to place this section at the end of the agenda. Mayor Anderson stated that citizens speaking need to state their name and addresses when they are addressed by the council. Council member Sarah Karels stated that the Pledge of Allegiance was added to the agenda to set the tone of the meeting. The meeting needs to be "kept on" the agenda items, and remain respectful.

Ron Kaul, stated that he was a spokesman for the people, and questioned the curb and gutter to be placed on Ewing Street and the repair of the sidewalk on Front Street. It was again stated that the curb and gutter project was discussed in 2012 and is considered a "repair". The sidewalk repair on Front Street will have a portion of it paid for by Northwest Gas as during a repair a portion of the sidewalk was damaged.

Vicki Hollerick stated that some of the yards, which she had previously taken pictures of, had been clean up, but others haven't been touched. She felt that scraping should not be allowed within the city limits.

Council member, Kim Hernandez, made a motion approving the time sheets for the pay periods of 5-25-13 thru 6-8-13 and 6-8-13 thru 6-22-13. Council member Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member, Sarah Karels made a motion approving the following Zoning Permits for approval:

GT-06-13, Dean Johnson, 847 Chapel St., 10' x 16' portable shed.

GT-07-13, Kenton & Rebecca Giese, 538 Main St., chain link fence & poles.

Council member, Kim Hernandez, seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following vote. Sarah Karels, yes; Kim Hernandez, yes; Robert Anderson, yes. Kenton Giese abstained from the voting process.

Water/Wastewater operator, Brian Severns, thanked City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, for the spraying of weeds on the fence line at the lagoon plant. Mr. Severns informed the council that he has completed his third discharge this spring and is in the process of transferring from pond 1 to pond 2. Mr. Severns informed the council that he and Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, met with two representatives, from the Minnesota Department of Health, on June 27th. The purpose of the meeting was an explanation of how the city must produce a Wellhead Protection Plan. There are two parts to the plan and the city will receive assistance in the development of Plan I. Ms. Barnard informed the council that the entire project will take about two and one-half years to complete as the plan is to prevent contaminants from entering the city's well water. A public meeting will be held in the winter of 2014 in which information will be brought to the council and public.

Council member Kenton Giese made a motion approving the part-time police officers time sheets for June 2013. Council member Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief, Jeffrey Marx, informed the council that there were sixty-one (61) calls for service during the month of June 2013. The council discussed street sign options near the Main Street Park on Main Street. Again, the concern is the safety of children and other pedestrians. Discussion followed.

Councilor Kenton Giese made a motion to extend the yellow line, on the park side of Main Street, twenty (20) feet. Police Chief Marx is to order a sign system that he feels is appropriate for this area. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, informed the council that he had a discussion with Lee Hiller regarding the city's right of way on the east side of the Hiller property. There is one dead tree in this area, and several trees are in need of trimming as they have branches extending into power lines. Birr informed the council that Pfeffer Tree Service is providing a bid. Mayor Anderson stated that two bids should be obtained. Birr agreed to obtain a second bid for this project.

The council was informed by Birr that the city mower was taken into John Deere for repair.

Councilor Kim Hernandez informed the council that she, and volunteers, will paint the bell tower deck.

Fire Chief, Phil Klammer, informed the council that for the month of June 2013 the Good Thunder Fire Department responded to six fire calls, five medical calls and one fire mutual aid to a Vernon Center call. The department also trained in two training burns. One was held in South Bend Township and trained through North Mankato and the second was in Mapleton. Phil Klammer also informed the council that there had been issues with the paging system on two separate occasions. The council was informed that the issue is being worked on. Klammer informed the council that the Fire Department Interview Committee had met with applicants for the fire department and Jeff Marx has been accepted as a member.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, presented the Residential Rental Ordinance. Discussion was held regarding two off street parking spaces. It was suggested that Police Chief Marx contact area towns, that currently have rental ordinances, and see how they handle the inspection of rental property and obtain the information regarding fees for this service.

Ms. Barnard informed the council that she had received documentation from LJP Enterprises that during the months of March and April, Good Thunder had 12 percent less garage due to the new recycling carts. This savings in garbage collection is approximately \$1,424.30 per year.

Merry Sinkbeil had submitted a letter for council consideration in which she indicated why the "old warming house" project was put on hold at this time.

Charlie and Kathi Travaille were drawn as the Yard of the Month recipients.

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

Mayor Anderson reported that portions of the roof for the concession stand will be delivered July 5th. Fire Chief, Phil Klammer, will ask fire personnel for their help in placing the roof on the concession stand.

Councilor Kim Hernandez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Councilor Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl A. Barnard
City Clerk-Treasurer