

Minutes of the March 5, 2012 City Council Meeting

Mayor Robert Anderson called the March 5, 2012, city council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in council chambers located at 130 Ewing Street, Good Thunder. Council members in attendance: Tom Froehlich, Sarah Karels, Russ Brase. Absent council member: Arlen Ostermann. Others in attendance: Brian Severns; Water/Wastewater Operator, Jeffrey Marx, Police Chief; Cheryl Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer.

Councilor Tom Froehlich made a motion approving the agenda as presented and distributed. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Russ Brase made a motion approving the minutes of the February 6, 2012 city council meeting as presented and distributed. Councilor Tom Froehlich seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Brandon Severns was present and asked the council to consider him for part-time summer help if the city is looking for someone to work this summer. Severns informed the council that he is sixteen, has his driver's license, and is looking for employment to earn money for attending college in the future. The council directed Severns to contact Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, and complete an application form.

Jon Herzog, Business Facilitator, for the Regional Center for Entrepreneurial Facilitation addressed the council and presented information on this non-profit entrepreneur and business development organization. The council was informed that RCEF is located on the Bethany Lutheran College Campus, and that RCEF provides one-on-one free and confidential business assistance, counseling, training, and mentorship to individuals who want to start up or have a business up and running. RCEF was started in 1997 by Blue Earth County. Herzog informed the council that 60% of RCEF's clients are "pre-venture". These individuals are looking to start up a business. Forty percent of RCEF's clients are people looking to expand their business. A majority of RCEF's funding is sponsored from the state and the county so RCEF's services are free.

Police Chief, Jeffrey Marx, informed the council that there were twenty-one calls for service for the department during the month of February 2012. Marx asked the council to consider allowing him to attend a firearms instructor course in May at a cost of \$550.

Councilor Froehlich made a motion that Police Chief Marx attends the Police Firearms Instructor Course May 21 thru May 25. Councilor Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The location of the class is to be determined on registrant's locations.

Councilor Froehlich made a motion approving the part-time police officers time sheets for payment for the month of February 2012. Councilor Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Severs, Water/Wastewater Operator, and Dennis Johnson, Wenck Engineering, were present to discuss with council the current water filtering system at the well house. Severns informed the council that at this time, the filtering system is working fine. His recommendation to the council was to start setting aside monies, for equipment or maintenance that will be needed for maintenance in the years ahead. Severns informed the council that there have been no complaints about "bad water" and the city has not received any violations for its water quality from the Minnesota Department of Health. When Severns backwashes, the current system shows how much rust the filter is taking out of the water as the water runs red with rust for 10 to 15 minutes. Severns explained that when the well water comes into the system, oxygen converts ferrous iron in the water into ferric iron which is a filterable solid. This can be

accomplished by adding an oxidizer like chlorine or by aeration and filtration. Trays in the plant are good but the framework is what needs work. Severns suggested that one solution would be to take out the "squirrel cage" fan that currently aerates the water, and trays, and replace them with an atomerator. Severns explained that atomerator looks like a spool for thread. It has a porous stone and a twin -tank, non-oil, air compressor. The atomerator would go in between two pieces of pipe. The council was informed that Mr. Severns had installed such a system in the city of Pemberton for approximately \$11,000. This could be a consideration for future improvements to the existing filter structure. Severns stated that the filter media was replaced approximately 10 years before he started, and he has worked for the city for eight years. At this time, the sand filtration is okay. Mr. Johnson stated that his only concern in putting in an atomer is that the system is designed for pressure filter systems and Good Thunder's system is a gravity filter. He said the air could disperse before it has a chance to react with the iron. "If you don't get it far enough ahead, it could just go poof", meaning that the oxygen may just blow out of the open pipe, rather than staying entrained in the liquid stream. Like blowing air through a straw. It was again stressed that at the current time, the system is working as it should. Mr. Severns questioned why the City wants to proceed with upgrading the system when the current system is working. It was decided that City Engineer Wenck would obtain a sampling of maintenance upgrade suggestions, and cost estimates, so that the council has something to work with in setting goals and well house improvements for the future.

Councilor Froehlich made a motion approving the timesheets for 2-4-2012 thru 2-18-2014 and 2-18-2014 thru 3-3-2012. Councilor Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Chief, Tom Froehlich, informed the council that the fire department responded to one (1) fire call during the month of February 2012. The council was informed that six (6) firefighters attended a Sectional School.

The council was informed by Froehlich that Pioneer Power would like the "old" ladder truck and will keep it as is. Discussion followed. Councilor Brase questioned how the city could increase water rates and then justify giving a piece of equipment away. Mayor Anderson stated that in preserving history giving this equipment to Pioneer Power is a way of preserving a piece of Good Thunder history and the history of this particular vehicle. It was decided to place this vehicle up for sale.

Councilor Brase made a motion that the city advertises the following vehicles for sale: 98 Chevrolet pickup minimum bid of \$4,000, with a recently repaired frame; 76 LaFrance 100 foot ladder truck, with no pump and a 58 International Fire R-190 with no pump. Councilor Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The bids are to be opened at 7:00 p.m. at the April council meeting. Councilor Brase and Clerk-Treasurer Barnard will develop the advertisement for these vehicles.

Fire Chief Froehlich informed the city that Beauford Township had mailed correspondence to the city asking that the city look at the cost percentages per section for fire coverage that their township is currently being charged. This will be checked into by the city.

The council reviewed samples of decals, from Crystal Graphics, for a logo to be placed on the new city truck. Councilor Froehlich made a motion that a decal for the new city truck be purchased from Crystal Graphics as discussed. Councilor Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The council selected a favorite and will direct City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, to order the decals.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, presented Resolution No. 2012-03, Resolution Reestablishing Precinct and Polling Place, City of Good Thunder. This resolution is in need of approval as the state legislature had been redistricted. Under Minnesota State Statute section 204B.14, Subdivision 3 (d) precinct boundaries

must be reestablished within 60 days of when this redistricting was established, or at least 19 weeks before the state primary.

Councilor Tom Froehlich made a motion approving **Resolution 2012-03, Resolution Reestablish Precinct and Polling Place** with the City of Good Thunder. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Therefore, this sets the city's polling place location as City Council Chambers, 130 Ewing Street, Good Thunder. Ms. Barnard also informed the council that she had attended a training program at Blue Earth County regarding a new computer program that the county has purchased for elections.

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

The council directed City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, to contact Tim Krengel to look at the draining project that is needed at Thunder Valley. The council will also have Birr grind and paint the vessel at the well house this winter. The fence at the tennis court is to be torn up, and removed, as previously discussed.

The council discussed mowing of the lagoon. The purchasing of a mower by the city was discussed. Councilor Brase will speak with Blue Earth County and check into such a purchase.

Councilor Russ Brase made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl A. Barnard
Clerk-Treasurer