

Minutes of the May 6, 2013 City Council Meeting

The May 6, 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; Arlen Ostermann and Robert Anderson. Others in attendance: Brian Severns, Water-Wastewater Operator; Jeffrey Marx, Police Chief; Cheryl Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer. Not present: Jerry Birr, City Maintenance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Council member Kenton Giese made a motion to approve the April 1, 2013, city council minutes. Council member Arlen Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Severns, Water-Wastewater Operator, informed the council of the wastewater issues that had occurred at the ponds when the high level emergency light alarm was activated. Severns and Mayor Anderson investigated the pumps and discovered that only one pump was slowly running. Mr. Severns immediately contacted Electric Pump and they arrived on site at 6:00 a.m. the following morning to discover that excessive amounts of rags, and even a mop head, had clogged the pumps. The council was informed that pump #2 is in need of repair, (the floats) and was taken in by Electric Pump. The cost for this emergency call was \$550 which Severns felt was very reasonable. The council was also informed that Jadd Seppmann Company had been notified, and they cleaned out the lift station. Mr. Severns reported that a "discharge" of the ponds has been completed at the site.

Mr. Severns informed the council of some "good" news. The city's water pumps had been pumping 85,000 through 90,000 gallons of water per day. When a water line repair leak at the corner of Halladay and Chapel Streets was repaired the gallons pumped per day has decreased to 50,000 through 55,000 per day.

Mr. Severns also suggested that the council consider installing auto read meters in each home in the city. The city has discovered that replacements parts, and meters, are no longer available regarding the current water meters installed in residential homes and businesses. These meters are obsolete. Discussion followed and it was decided that Severns contact companies, that currently sell auto read meters, to come to separate council meetings to discuss what equipment they can offer the city.

Clerk-Treasurer Barnard informed the council that she and Mr. Severns will be meeting with Terry Bovee, Principal Planner for the Minnesota Department of Health, on June 27th to discuss Wellhead Protection requirements for the city. The city's water system is being phased into Minnesota's wellhead protection plan program. Mr. Severns explained that it may be a requirement to place a chain length fence around the pump to prevent someone from placing contaminants that could enter the public water system.

Lola Phelps asked the council, for their approval, for holding weekly "Farmer's Markets" in the city park this year. The time frame for this would be to start the second Wednesday in June and run every Wednesday through October from 4 p.m. – 7p.m. The council was in favor of this idea as spearheaded by Ms. Phelps.

Jim Sinkbeil, was present and expressed his concern regarding supervision of street maintenance. Sinkbeil felt that there are pot holes on Hiller Drive and Chapel Street that are in need of filling, plus other items of concern. Discussion followed. The council informed Mr. Sinkbeil that the appropriate committee will meet with the employee and resolve the issue.

Linda Wengert, was present to discuss her safety concerns for children at the Main Street Park. The issue discussed was children crossing in the street and approaching vehicles. The council discussed a "speed" bump or the installation of a flashing light. Police Chief Marx will research the options and report back to the council his findings.

Mike Burkhardt, Burkhardt & Burkhardt, Certified Public Accounts presented the 202 Financial Statement. Mr. Burkhardt began the audit by stating that materials supplied by Cheryl Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer, made it a "breeze" to prepare the 2012 audit and was a job "well done" on her part. The council was informed that the city's cash and cash equivalents as of December 31, 2012, increased \$128,000 from 2011. One item pointed out was the city vehicle assets. This line item increased to \$249,331. Burkhardt explained that this was due to the purchase of the fire truck ladder and the city's new Ford 450. The council reviewed long-term debt. The balance beginning 12-31-11 was \$477,000 with debt retired at the cost of \$57,000 the balance of long-term debt is \$420,000. Capital assets were discussed. Mayor Anderson questioned if the city's infrastructure was included in the report. Mr. Burkhardt explained that because of the city's small size it was not. However, in the future, any new street structure and infrastructure would be included. In budget comparison the following were noted. Original Budget Revenue figures were: \$505,899 with actual revenues of \$779,619 equaling an over budgeted amount of \$273,720. Original Budget Expenditures were: \$505,132 with actual expenditures of \$690,982 equaling an over budgeted amount of \$185,850. This equaled an excess of revenue over expenditures of \$87,870. The council was made aware that under deposits and investments, the city held deposits with a financial institution that didn't provide sufficient collateral to meet the requirements of the legal compliance guide. (MinnStar Bank) Discussion of the budget followed with Mr. Burkhardt stating that the city is in good financial shape.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion approving the 2012 Financial Statement as presented by Mike Burkhardt, Burkhardt and Burkhardt. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion approving the timesheets for the pay periods of 3-30-2013 through 4-13-2013 and 4-13-2013 through 4-27-2013. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann informed the council that he and Russ Brass had received a quote for dust control from Andy Walser of Evergreen Companies. The cost is 95¢ per foot, 20 feet wide, 5000 feet, with two (2) applications. The cost is estimated at \$4,750.

The council also discussed recycled blacktop being placed on city streets and felt that this has worked out very well on a portion of Chapel Street.

Councilor Kim Hernandez approved the quote for dust control from Evergreen Company and approved placing recycled blacktop on Hiller Drive and Chapel Street. Councilor Arlen Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief, Jeffrey Marx, informed the council that the police department responded to seventy-four (74) calls for service during the month of April 2013. Vanessa Etherington had been in contact with Police Chief Marx regarding a Safety Day for youth. Police Chief Marx and the Good Thunder Fire Department will work on material for such an event. Police Chief Marx again stated that he will check into the cost of a speed bump for placement on Main Street by the Main Street Park. Police Chief Marx informed the council that properties will be notified of nuisance violation clean up after the Spring Clean Up date. A letter from Larry Anderson was submitted to the council and turned over to Police Chief Marx for review. The Police Commission will be informed of his findings.

Councilor Sarah Karels made a motion to approve the part-time police officers timesheets for the month of April 2013. Councilor Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Chief, Phil Klammer, informed the council that the fire department responded to three (3) medical calls during the month of April 2013. Four fire individuals attended training in Rochester. The council was informed that Clerk-Treasurer Barnard, and he had meet and are in the processing of obtaining reimbursement for specific training classes for the fire department. Fire Chief Klammer informed the council of equipment that will have testing done on them during the next few weeks. Air packs for the department were discussed. Klammer informed the council that in August the cost for this equipment will increase 15% through 20%. The cost for four air packs is estimated at \$28,000. The gambling funds and Future Improvements will help defray this expense. Discussion followed.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion to approve that the Good Thunder Volunteer Fire Department purchase four (4) air packs at an estimated cost of \$28,000. Councilor Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, informed the council that Merry Sinkbeil had contacted her about "fixing up" the current bathroom building at Thunder Park. She would like to get volunteers organized to get this building cleaned, painted, and any necessary repairs made so that people may use this building for functions such as parties etc. Ms. Sinkbeil will advertise and see if individuals will volunteer in helping her with this project. The council was in unanimous support of Ms. Sinkbeil taking this initiative.

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

Kim Hernandez informed the council that she had contacted a drafting student through South Central College who is willing to draft plans for the concession stand, at Thunder Valley Park, at a cost of no more than \$500. Discussion followed.

Councilor Kenton Giese made a motion that Matthew Rockers, a student in drafting at South Central College be hired to draft the concession stand plan as discussed at a cost not to exceed \$500. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Kim Hernandez made a motion that Robert Pongratz, Maple River Masonary, be hired to lay the block work, and the concrete flooring, for the concession stand. Councilor Arlen Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The council announced the winner of the Yard of the Month for the month of May is Harry and Lavonne Heins of 804 Shaubut Street. They will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Thunder Restaurant and \$25 in Thunder Bucks from the city.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. Councilor Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl A. Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer

