

## **Minutes of the May 7, 2012 Good Thunder City Council Meeting**

Mayor Robert Anderson called the May 7, 2012 meeting of the Good Thunder city council to order at 7:00 p.m. Meeting convened in council chambers located at 130 Ewing Street, Good Thunder, Minnesota. All council members were in attendance. Others in attendance were: City Maintenance ~ Jerry Birr; Police Chief ~ Jeffrey Marx; Clerk-Treasurer ~ Cheryl Barnard.

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

Councilor Tom Froehlich made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2012 city council meeting and minutes of the Public Hearing of April 25, 2012. Councilor Arlen Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Brad Schneeberger, 134 N. Houk was present requesting council permission to erect a privacy fence on the boulevard side of his property. The fence would be six (6) feet in height and run eighty (80) feet in length. The fence would be placed ten (10) feet from the alley. Council held discussion.

Councilor Russ Brase made a motion that Zoning Permit GT-06-12 be approved as discussed for 134 N. Houk Street. Councilor Arlen Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The city opened a bid for the 76 LaFrance, Detroit Diesel, 238 horsepower, 100' aerial ladder truck. Discussion followed. Councilor Russ Brase made a motion to accept a bid of \$3600 from Greg Mikkelson for purchase of the 1976 LaFrance ladder truck. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Richard Wolcott, 131 Middle Street, was present to discuss the waterline that was repaired on his property at 131 Middle Street. The council felt that the area, dug up by the city for this repair, needs to be tilled by the city. Then, Jerry Birr, City Maintenance, should rake and sow seed on this area. Councilor Ostermann felt that at this time, the city should not incur further repairs regarding this water main. Currently it has now been fixed and may not need repair for another five (5) years. Council agreed with this decision.

Jim Day was present and informed the council that he is purchasing the property at 124 Middle Street. Mr. Day informed the council that he would like to add on to the current garage and questioned what would be needed. He was informed that the height of the building cannot be more than 30' tall, must be six (6) feet from the property line (easement) and must be nine (9) feet from the west property line.

Doug Peterson, Peterson Mowing Service, was present and questioned if the council would be using their services in 2012. He expressed his appreciation to the council for allowing them to mow for the city. The council informed Mr. Peterson that this would be discussed later on the agenda.

The current lease holder, of Happy Dan's, was present and informed the council that the store would be closing soon. His offer, for purchase, has not been accepted. Discussion followed. One idea was whether the city could purchase the building and lease it back to this individual. Many questions were asked, and concern was expressed as this business is viable to the citizens in Good Thunder and the surrounding area.

Mike and Greg Burkhardt, Burkhardt and Burkhardt, were present to present the 2011 City Financial Statement. The council was informed that the cash and cash equivalents for 2011 was \$1,199,643 an increase of \$20,000 from 2010. The city's property and equipment assets were valued at \$4,474,897 an

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increase in value of \$164,000. A major portion of this increase was due to the 800 megahertz radios purchased by the fire and police departments involving monies received through grants. The city's total liabilities in 2011 were \$877,239. This is down from 2010 due to principle dollars paid on bonds which the city incurred for various improvement projects. The city had a positive change in net assets of \$141,296 which resulted in a positive dollar amount of \$168,000 from 2010. The reason for the positive dollar amount for expenses in 2011 was lower than in 2010. In reviewing enterprise funds, Mr. Burkhardt informed the council that water revenue was up \$20,000 from 2010. This is a positive approach for the city as it shows that expenses for operation of the water department, are covered, and the city is being allowed to set aside money for future improvements which have been already discussed by the council. In reviewing the 2011 budget with actual expenditures, the city showed a positive balance. Mr. Burkhardt noted that Clerk-Treasurer Barnard had done an excellent job in the budget and the annual financial statement process.

Councilor Tom Froehlich made a motion approving the 2011 Audited Financial Statement as prepared by Burkhardt & Burkhardt, Ltd. Councilor Russ Brase seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, informed the council that the fire hydrant, at the corner of Houk and Main, will be repaired when school is out for the summer. A new six (6) gate valve will be installed to the hydrant as the line is a six (6) inch line. City water isolation valves were discussed as several of these need replacement. These valves need to be in working order as when there is a water line break, and water needs to be shut off in specific areas of the town, this is impossible as these isolation valves do not work. Discussion was held regarding the cost for replacement of such valves and it was suggested that specific areas of the town be worked on breaking up the cost of this project. Mayor Anderson felt that a shutoff valve on the water tower needs to be installed so that at least the city would be able to control the water at the source.

Councilor Tom Froehlich made a motion that Water/Wastewater Operator, Brian Severns, obtain two bids for the installation of a water shut off valve on the water tower. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

In discussing the water main break in front of St. John Lutheran Church, the council felt that Mr. Birr handled the situation as it should have been handled. The council felt that having parts available for water main breaks is needed and directed Birr to obtain such parts to have on hand.

Swimming pools were discussed. If a property is delinquent on utilities, no pool is to be filled. In regard to fencing, the City Attorney stated that no fencing is required if a pool is temporary and is only used for a few weeks in the summer. Pools that are permanent or semi-permanent are required to have a fence round the pool. The requirement would be for any pool dug into the ground, attached to the ground or a structure, or a semi-permanent structure that is kept in the same place for an extended period of time.

Discussion was held on curb and gutter in the city that is in need of replacement. Specifically discussed was a block on Ewing Street South and an area in front of 134 N. Houk Street. Jerry Birr had obtained an estimate for \$17,000 from Hoffman Construction. Russ Brase obtained an estimate from Greg Groebner at a cost of \$10,920. To include the cement slab by the generator at the water facility the cost would be an additional \$2484. The Hoffman estimate did not include the cement slab.

Councilor Froehlich made a motion to hire Greg Groebner to repair the curb and gutter on Ewing Street South (In front of Melvin Bergemann property) and repair the section in front of the Brad Schneeberger residence. Remove trees as needed on Ewing Street. Place the cement slab by the water tower as discussed. WW Blacktopping is to come in and patch blacktop in the city as needed. Councilor Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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The following Zoning Permits were presented for approval.

GT-04-12, 121 Houk Street, wood fence

GT-05-12, Crystal Valley, demolition of old fertilizer building only

GT-06-12, 134 N. Houk St., add new walkway on the south side of the house. Add new patio and fire pit on south side as well.

GT-07-12, 300 S. Houk, 24' x 30' cement slab

GT-08-12, 100 Front St., shed/office – Shed 20'x20'x20', Office 8'x14'x8'

GT-09-12, 300 Sherman St., 4'x52' addition to deck

GT-10-12, 220 Graham St., replace 87' x 40' of blacktop with cement

GT-11-12, 134 N. Houk, 6'x95' privacy fence

Councilor Froehlich made a motion approving the Zoning Permits as presented. Councilor Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Karels made a motion approving the time sheets for the pay periods of 4-2-12 thru 4-16-12 and 4-16-12 thru 4-30-12. Councilor Froehlich seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Ostermann presented information regarding a mower for the city. A 5 ½ 'swath mower is \$6500 and 7' thru 8' swath mower is \$10,000. Councilor Ostermann expressed his concern of the city mowing the north half of the lagoon and felt that Peterson Mowing should continue mowing this section for the city. Others were in agreement.

It was decided to have Peterson Mowing, mow the north slope of the lagoon, spray the lagoon as needed, and mow Hiller Drive as in the past. Mr. Birr is to contact Mr. Peterson and have a new contract submitted for these services for city signatures.

Councilor Russ Brase presented a cost estimate for street oiling from Envirotech Services Inc. The cost is \$5,396.49 and will be placed on the needed streets twice. The council was made informed also that the streets would need to be bladed, by Peterson Mowing Service, before spraying is placed on the streets.

Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve the cost estimate from Envirotech Services Inc., for dust control for 2011 as needed on city streets in the city. Councilor Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Councilor Brase stated that he would like to place crushed blacktop on Chapel Street to help defray the cost of street oiling in 2012.

The council directed Jerry Birr to purchase sod and place it in front of the Lorraine Truebenback residence as previously discussed.

Fire Chief, Tom Froehlich, informed the council that the Good Thunder Volunteer Fire Department responded to two (2) medical calls and one (1) fire call during the month of April 2012.

Police Chief, Jeffrey Marx, informed the council that the Good Thunder Police Department responded to twenty-eight (28) calls for service during the month of April 2012. Marx asked the council that they consider allowing him to hire two part-time officer. Part time officers have left for other departments during the past months.

Councilor Froehlich made a motion that Police Chief Marx advertise for two part-time police officers. Councilor Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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Police Chief Marx presented information on a new flag pole to be placed in front of City Hall. Discussion followed.

Councilor Karels made a motion that \$400 be spent on replacement and installation of a new flag pole to be placed in front of City Hall. Councilor Froehlich seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, presented Resolution 2012-#04, City of Good Thunder Resolution Requesting Action for Forfeited Property from the State of Minnesota. Blue Earth County has notified the city that two specific parcels have been forwarded to them by the state. Discussion followed as to if the city would want to come in possession of these non-conservation properties.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion approving Resolution 2014 - #04, City of Good Thunder Resolution Requesting Action for Forfeited Property from the State of Minnesota. Councilor Russ Brase seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Councilor Karels discussed with the council placing mulch and a border around playground equipment at Thunder Valley. The council agreed with this purchase.

Councilor Brase made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m. Councilor Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl A. Barnard  
City Clerk-Treasurer