

Minutes of the November 4, 2013, City Council Meeting

The November 4, 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; Sarah Karels, Arlen Ostermann. Absent council member: Kenton Giese. Others in attendance: Jerry Birr, City Maintenance; Jeffrey Marx, Police Chief; Brian Severns, Water/Wastewater Operator; Phil Klammer; Fire Chief; Cheryl Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council member Kim Hernandez made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and distributed. Council member Arlen Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Arlen Ostermann made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2013 city council meeting. Council member Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Judd Schultz, Minnesota Valley Action Council, presented the preliminary proposal for the small cities comprehensive/housing application. At this time, it is felt that 15 properties, may qualify for the housing application and may receive approximately \$22,500 per property if the application is approved. Mr. Schultz also explained that other resources, from Minnesota Valley Action Council, may be added into the applications for assistance. There is approximately \$425,000 funds available. Schultz explained that surveys will continue to be collected by MVAC. The grant application is due November 11, 2013, with determination of grant recipients by mid-December. Mayor Anderson signed the application for the grant.

Jerry Birr, City Maintenance, informed the council that he had spoken to Mike Maurer, Blue Earth County Emergency Management Director, and was informed that the civil defense siren has equal or greater decibels than the previous siren. The council asked Birr to have the siren tested as there is concern that areas of the city did not hear the siren on the first Wednesday of October.

Councilor Hernandez made a motion approving **Zoning Permit GT-14-13**, George & Maureen Spear, 602 Sherman St., 6' x 16' deck. Councilor Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Phil Klammer, Fire Chief, reported that the Fire Department responded to five (5) medical calls and two (2) fire calls during the month of October 2013. Klammer also reported that the Pancake Feed was successful and served approximately 300 individuals.

Brian Severns, Water/Wastewater Operator, discussed with the council the pump repair that was made in October. Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, submitted the cost of the repair for insurance reimbursement and Severns reported that the entire pump repair will be reimbursed minus the \$250 deductible. Severns informed the council that in the spring of 2014 the old well pump needs to be upgraded. Currently, it pumps approximately 20 gallons per minute. It should pump between 80 – 90 gallons of water per minute. Severns also stated that he will be having a “dialer” alarm system installed so that contacts are made if an emergency arises at the well house.

Mr. Severns also informed the council that Dakota Supply Group will no longer be the Badger Orion System water meter distributor as of November 19, 2013. Mr. Severns suggested that the council wait until a new distributor is announced. Brian will contact Badger and report back to the council his findings. Information was also reviewed and discussed from Dick Wetzels, Northern Ferguson Water Works Supply, representing the

Neptune water meters. No decision was made at this time.

Police Chief, Jeffrey Marx, stated that the police department responded to fifty-two (52) calls during the month of October, 2013.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, asked the council if they had a chance to review Chapter 7, of the City Code, which was placed in their council packets. Ms. Barnard questioned the council if they are in agreement with this chapter as is at this time. Council agreed with the current chapter.

Ms. Barnard informed the council that the Rental Residential Agreement is completed. However, an inspector is needed to inspect rental property. Parker Skophammer, Minnesota Valley Council of Governments, was present and informed the council that he had spoken with the City of Mankato's inspector and at this time, they cannot help inspect rental property in Good Thunder as they have too many rental properties to inspect. Mr. Skophammer will contact area inspectors and see if they are available to inspect Good Thunder rental property.

Ms. Barnard presented the 2014 Business Application Licenses and informed the council that all necessary documents have been received and completed as needed.

Council member Sarah Karels made a motion to approve the 2014 Business Application Licenses for Thunder Bar and Restaurant and G. T. Market. Council member Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Barnard informed the council of an election law change in which Good Thunder qualifies. Mail ballots are being allowed if there are fewer than 400 registrants. Ms. Barnard informed the council that the city had 327 registered voters in the last election. Blue Earth County Elections/License Center would be the polling place where residents would vote on Election Day if they would not vote by mail. Monies would be saved, but Ms. Barnard asked if it would be worth taking this right away (to vote in Good Thunder) from the citizens.

Council member Arlen Ostermann made a motion to keep elections as they have been carried out in the past. Council member Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Anderson asked the council if they would like to keep the "big" door on the concession stand as previously discussed or would they like to proceed with windows. It was decided to go with windows.

Council member Arlen Ostermann made a motion to approve the bills as submitted and distributed. Council member Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Sarah Karels thanked the Thunder Bar and Restaurant for the gift certificates that they gave in support of Yard of the Month. Council member Kim Hernandez reminded everyone to get out and vote for the school referendum being held Tuesday, November 5th.

Council member Kim Hernandez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and to announce that the council will meet in closed session, after the adjournment of the December 2nd council meeting, to discuss personnel matters. Council member Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl A. Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer

