

Minutes of the October 7, 2013, City Council Meeting

The October 7, 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. Others in attendance: Jerry Birr, City Maintenance; Jeffrey Marx, Police Chief. Absent: Cheryl Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Council member Sarah Karels made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2013 city council meeting. Council member Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Birr, City Maintenance, informed the council that the civil defense siren was not heard in all areas of town. Police Chief Marx agreed. Discussion followed. Jerry will contact the appropriate agency to report this. The street work was discussed. Mayor Anderson explained that more work was down in front of the church than anticipated. When the city requested bids, it was stated to do patching. He was informed that patching is when the edges are milled out; don't go in the middle, then overlay. Repair is when they dig down into the soil, compact, and put back. On Houk Street, (in front of the property previously owned by Harry Petrowske) the street was patched two inches in the middle then down to the edges. This entire street is spidering. Discussion followed.

The council was informed that the dump truck was taken to Herman Speck to have the box bed repaired.

Councilor Kenton Giese made a motion approving the following Zoning Permits:

GT-12-13, Thunder Bar, 453 Main St. replace sidewalk 32' x 5'

GT-13-13, Greg Goettlicher, 511 Chapel St. repair retaining wall

Councilor Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Chief, Phil Klammer reported that the Fire Department responded to eight (8) medical calls during the month of September 2013. Fire Prevention Week is the 7th through the 11th of October. On Wednesday, kids visit the station, and on Thursday fire personnel will be teaching safety with the kids at the elementary school. October 20th the Fire Department will hold a Pancake Feed from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Fire Chief Klammer asked the council to approve that the pension for fire personnel be increased from \$1100 to \$1200 per year after the vested year.

Councilor Hernandez made a motion approving that the pension for fire personnel be increased from \$1100 to \$1200 per year after the vested year. Councilor Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief Marx informed the council that the police department responded to fifty-five (55) calls for service during the month of October 2013.

Councilor Kenton Giese made a motion that Chris Kennedy, City Attorney, start the civil abatement process for the property at 131 N. Ewing Street. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief Marx informed the council that he had applied for a second defibrillator when he came to Good Thunder. In July, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community donated a defibrillator, carrying case, infant child key, and fast response kit to the City of Good Thunder. The value of this donation is \$2,226. Police Chief Marx stated that the Fire Department and the City of Good Thunder would like to thank the Mdewakanton Sioux Community for this donation.

Police Chief Marx informed the council that he, Jerry, and Cheryl attended a South Central Safety Meeting in St. Clair on October 3rd. Blue Earth County Emergency Services were the presenters'. One scenario addressed was, are we as a city prepared, if a storm cripples our communities. One concern, found in Good thunder, is obtaining fuel at the city garage for plows and the fire department vehicles during a power outage. Fire Chief Klammer stated that several citizens within Good Thunder have portable generators and one could possibly be used at the city shop. City Maintenance Birr felt that a generator should be at City Hall. A concern is citizens calling with questions and no phone service etc. Fire Chief Klammer stated that if catastrophic events do occur, residents are to go to the fire station as this building is designated for such use. Mayor Anderson did state that a generator at city hall would be appropriate as one could be purchased for \$1000-\$1200. Councilor Ostermann stated that this building (city hall) should be wired for a generator along with the city shop. Police Chief Marx stated that grants may be available for such generators and that he would be willing to research this. Mayor Anderson questioned if boring under the street from city hall to the generator at the water building would be feasible. Discussion followed. Mayor Anderson indicated that he would contact Luke Kranz, and obtain a cost estimate and feasibility of such a procedure. Police Chief Marx will research generator grants for the city.

Police Chief Marx presented a "Contract for On Call Law Enforcement Services." This is a contract between the city and Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement services for emergency calls. This contract would allow the city police protection if Police Chief Marx wants to take time off and cannot staff the department with part-time officers. Police Chief Marx explained that there is no cost unless a call is responded to. Councilor Ostermann questioned if this is only for emergency calls and not calls I such as dog problems? Marx responded that this would be for all calls. Councilor Hernandez stated that she thought this was to be for medical calls, car accidents, or something major. Mayor Anderson questioned if it could be stipulated that emergency calls only be responded to by the county. Marx stated that it was to be for all calls so that if he is on vacation, or at training, he would not have to come back to handle non-emergency calls, or paper work, not handled by the county. Discussion followed regarding the reimbursement fees for calls to Blue Earth County. Police Chief Marx stated that this type of service could be tried until the end of the year. Councilor Giese stated that he would not want unnecessary emergency calls responded to. Marx stated that this can be worked on with the county. Councilor Ostermann felt that this contract should be tried until the first of the year. Marx emphasized that this is for only specific times when he would not have city officers available during specific times. Councilor Giese questioned what currently happens if there is no contract, and no city officers available, and someone dials 911. The county would respond.

Councilor Ostermann made a motion that the City of Good Thunder contract for On Call Law Enforcement Services with Blue Earth County through January 1, 2014. Councilor Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Kenton Giese made a motion approving, **Resolution 2013-04, Adoption of Hazardous Mitigation Plan**. Councilor Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion approving the bills for payment. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Lola Giese reported that the Farmers Market was successful but that vendors would like more people to come. Vendors suggested that someone serve a sandwich etc. Someone playing music, for entertainment, was also suggested. Discussion followed.

Council member Sarah Karels presented information on the Maple River operating levy referendum which will be held Tuesday, November 5, 2013. With the new 2013 legislative changes, Maple River would like to Revoke and Replace the current operating referendum of \$596.82 per pupil to \$691.82. This will generate approximately \$106,000 of new money at no increase to taxpayers from what they paid in 2013. The state of Minnesota has enhanced its equalization formula of matching for referendums which changes Maple River's match from 35% to 45% so that the state is paying more for the referendum. Ms. Karels informed the council that there will be an information meeting in Good Thunder October 24th at 7:00 p.m. at the elementary school gym. It was suggested that council/citizens check the school's website for more information.

Mayor Robert Anderson reported on the progress of the concession stand.

- Bob Pongratz will be laying the cement floor and installing the interior walls
- The tin in the main part of the building was installed last Sunday with the help of: Kim Hernandez, Chuck Hernandez, Kent Giese, Robert Anderson, Larry Rahn, Brian Petty, and his sons.
- George Spear installed floor drains in each room
- Gas line has been installed to the building

Mayor Anderson and George Spear discussed the installation of a small 30,000 BTU gas heater in the NW corner of the building with 8"x8" fans in each room to keep the building warm during winter months. Discussion was held in replacing the corrugated roll up door with two smaller doors with a column between the two doors. The council agreed with the installation of the two smaller doors.

Council member Kim Hernandez made a motion to reserve the right to close the next council meeting if needed. Council member Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jay and Cassie Winters were drawn as Yard of the Month Recipients.

Councilor Ostermann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl A. Barnard
Clerk-Treasurer