

# GOOD THUNDER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting  
September 8, 2015

The September 8, 2015 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, Jim Prom, Ken Giese. Others in attendance: Hunter Chaffee, City Maintenance; and 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 Ken Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Ken Giese made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2015, city council meeting and the minutes of the August 26, 2015 budget workshop. Council member Jim Prom seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Judd Schultz, Minnesota Valley Action Council, stated that at this meeting a Public Hearing is being conducted in regards to the current open Small Cities Development Program, which began May 29, 2014 and will end December 31, 2016, for the cities of Vernon Center and Good Thunder. The council was informed that Good Thunder was eligible for eleven (11) rehabilitation housing projects at an estimated cost of \$22,500 for each project. Ten applications have been received, for Good Thunder. Three projects are completed, two projects are in the bidding process, two projects have issues to resolve and one project is in appeal. Two applications received were not eligible. Minnesota Valley Action Council staff will go back to the survey list, again send notifications to applicants that had originally applied for the program, to complete the required eleven projects for Good Thunder. If this is not feasible, a city-wide letter will again be sent seeking applicants. Mr. Schultz explained that it is difficult to find licensed contractors as when improvements are needed on older housing, Lead-Based Renovation, Repair and Paint licensing is a requirement.

Judd Schultz also informed the council that on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, he will be performing two more rental housing inspections. One housing rental inspection is scheduled for the next week and there are two owners that need to be contacted to set up inspections. Mr. Schultz informed the council that one rental housing duplex failed inspection. Mr. Schultz also informed the council that during his inspection of properties, one item of concern, is cleanliness and clutter. Clutter can be a problem if an emergency occurs in a home and someone cannot get out or emergency personnel cannot get into a home because of the clutter. Mr. Schultz informed the council that the tenant is responsible for clutter and if clutter is a concern when inspecting is again performed in two years, the property will fail inspection. The council was informed that eight single family homes, three duplexes, and one twelve and eight unit complex have been inspected. There are four single family units and one multi-unit that need to be inspected as of this date. The council was informed by Mr. Schultz that currently all property owners have been cooperative and pleasant to work with.

Chad Ostermann, M & M Insurance Agent for the City, reviewed the city's annual insurance premium with the council. The council was informed that the premium has decreased by \$5200 for 2016. \$5000 of this reduction is due to the police department being removed from coverage. Mr. Ostermann informed the council that the Good Thunder Day Committee needs to obtain their own one-day coverage as they are a separate entity from the city.

Council member Jim Prom made a motion to waive the statutory limits of liability and approve the purchase of the umbrella policy for the city's insurance. Council member Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member, Ken Giese, made a motion approving Zoning Permit, GT-16-15, Chapel Street Apartments, rebuild existing decks; Zoning Permit, GT-17-15, Crystal Valley, restore overhead door opening, enclose dock area. Council member, Kim Hernandez, seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following members voting yes: Ken Giese, Kim Hernandez, Sarah Karels. One abstention: Jim Prom.

City Maintenance, Hunter Chaffee, reported on the following:

- Jetter Clean completed the annual storm sewer cleaning
- Camera has been installed and is working at the concession stand building
- There are approximately five (5) radio water meters that have not been installed.

Council member, Ken Giese, made a motion that residences that do not contact City Maintenance, Hunter Chaffee, to have radio water meters installed, are to be charged an extra fee of \$150 per quarter for having these meters read manually. Council member, Kim Hernandez, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. If a property is vacant and for sale, the radio meter is to be installed at the time the property is sold.

Council member, Ken Giese, made a motion that the city purchase a 96" Grading Scraper, from Arnolds of Mankato, for road grading. Council member, Jim Prom, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on three-tier park bleachers, with no decision being made at this time.

Mr. Chaffee informed the council that he had attended an American Legion meeting in Good Thunder requesting assistance in the purchase of new flag poles, and mounting rings. The American Legion suggested that a flag be placed on each pole beginning on Sherman Street by the city shop, going onto Ewing Street, and down Main Street to the city limits. This would require the purchase of 30 flags at an approximate cost of \$1300. Discussion followed.

Council member, Ken Giese, made a motion to accept the purchase of 32 flags, brackets, and bands at a cost of \$1376 to be funded as discussed with the Good Thunder American Legion. Council member, Jim Prom, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The council asked Mr. Chaffee, to contact Mike Samuelson, Blue Earth County, to attend a council meeting to discuss the road improvements needed on the County Road from the Blue Earth County Shop to the intersection of Sherman Street and Ewing Street.

Mayor Robert Anderson informed the council that he had met with Jeff Domras, City Engineer, and discussion was held regarding the reconstruction that Bolton and Menk will complete on the previous street project on Halladay Street between Main Street and Sherman Street. The council discussed with Mr. Chaffee the requirements of taking a lunch break and confined space requirements.

Council member, Kim Hernandez, questioned who locks the concession stand buildings in the evening. The council directed Mr. Chaffee to close the concession stand bathrooms and Main Street park bathrooms by November 1. It was decided that Mr. Chaffee continue to open and close the concession stand bathrooms for the city. Locks are to also be changed on the utility room at the concession stand building.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, reported for the Fire Department as Fire Chief Klammer was at a fire meeting. During the month of August 2015 the Fire Department responded to six (6) medical calls, and four (4) assist calls. The Pork Feed will be Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 4 p.m. through 8 p.m.

Clerk-Treasurer Barnard presented information for Brain Severns, Water/Wastewater from Their Well after their technicians pulled and inspected well #1. It was found that the flow meter is faulty. A new meter to fit in the same place as the old meter is \$3,496.52 plus labor for installation.

Council member, Kim Hernandez, made a motion to approve the purchase and installation of a new flow meter, to replace the current faulty flow meter, for well #1. Council member, Kenton Giese, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, presented the proposed 2016 city budget. An amendment to Future Improvements was discussed. Under Street Department the amount proposed for Reflective Signs, under Future Improvements, is to be set at zero and the proposed budgeted amount transferred into Street Improvements/Dust Control. Discussion followed.

Council member, Ken Giese, made a motion approving ***Resolution No. 2015-04, Resolution Certifying 2016 Proposed Tax Levy*** of \$293,487 and the Special Levy of \$8,760 for a total budget of \$302,247; and ***Resolution No. 2015-05, Resolution Certifying the 2016 Proposed Special Levy*** of \$8,760. Council member, Jim Prom, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Barnard informed the council that the Truth in Taxation Hearing will be held at the December 7, 2016, council meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. At this meeting, the council will adopt the final 2016 city budget.

Ms. Barnard presented a resolution that will allow the city to place on the tax role for 2016 delinquent utilities. There are four (4) properties that have been notified of this process and invited to attend this meeting to appeal this process. Discussion followed.

Council member, Kim Hernandez, made a motion approving ***Resolution 2015-03 Certification of Delinquent Utilities***. Council member, Ken Giese, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. This will allow delinquent utilities to be placed on the 2016 tax role at 8% interest.

Clerk-Treasurer Barnard presented a revised Chapter 3-Utilities for the Good Thunder City Code. Updates and revisions have been made. Ms. Barnard suggested that because of the length of this revision, the council discuss this chapter at the October council meeting.

Council member, Sarah Karels, made a motion to approve the bills as presented and discussed. Council member, Jim Prom, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The following was discussed under Citizens/Council members:

- John Lillis discussed confined space and recommended that the city go to the Minnesota OSHA website and review the information that is provided.
- Council member, Ken Giese, indicated that the Good Thunder Day organization needs more storage space and suggested the purchase of a shed to be placed near the existing shed at Thunder Valley Park. City Maintenance, Hunter Chaffee, suggested that the organization use a portion of the cold storage area at the city shop. No decision was made.
- Council member, Ken Giese, asked City Maintenance Chaffee to have printed a two-sided sign stating Archery for the site near the city burn site.
- Council member, Kim Hernandez, stated that the Good Thunder Day Committee felt that a pretty good crowd was on hand for the town celebration. Ms. Hernandez thanked the following: Hunter Chafee for help in setting up, Mayor Anderson for use of his shop for the music, the Fire Department for use of the table and chairs, and Protein Sources for the corn that was provided.
- Mayor Anderson, thanked the committee for all of their efforts in setting up this year's celebration. He stated that he realizes they are short of help, but if this committee doesn't do it no one will.
- John Lillis questioned the council as to what they were doing regarding the school referendum. Joe Sohre and Dan Sohre, Maple River School Board members, were present at the meeting. Council member, Kim Hernandez, presented information stating that an informational meeting will be held in Good Thunder, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Anderson responded to Mr. Lillis' question by stating that the city's job is to take care of city business.

The Yard of the Month was awarded to Millie Wrucke, 804 Main Street.

Council member, Sarah Karels made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Council member, Jim Prom, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl A. Barnard  
City Clerk-Treasurer

