

# CITY OF SKYLINE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**October 8, 2018**

**Present:** Mayor Travis Javens; Treasurer Lon Whitehead; Clerk, Cathy Dahl; Council Members, Dean Rengstorf, Wayne Bishop, Mary Dowd, Samantha Erickson; Residents, Russ Dahl, Terri and Darell Evers, Don Waylett, Jerry Edwards, Darlene Lee, Kris Beaumont, Marilyn Schueneman, Steve Romnes

Meeting called to order at 6:45 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of agenda and minutes. Revise minutes to include in public forum that Darlene Lee thinks the public should address elected officials only. Mary Dowd wondered why minutes and agenda are approved at beginning of meeting. Motion to approve as revised, Wayne Bishop, Samantha Erickson, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

## **15-Minute Public Open Forum –**

Darlene Lee said she was surprised that the water tower issue was raised and a meeting had happened before citizens were informed. She thought there should be a task force. She wondered if Mayor Javens should not have the company he works for investigating tower repairs. She feels we need to be more thoughtful about this. Samantha Erickson replied that she was also at the meeting and the meeting was just to consider the option. It was presented to decide if city council thought this was to be pursued. Bolton and Menk was hired by City of Mankato. Darlene believes Skyline should have a different engineering firm. Samantha assured her that a needs assessment was done 2 years ago. Darlene wants caution about any further moves. Steve Romnes believes complete investigation into this possibility will be done. Mayor Javens explained costs involved and results of needs assessment. Mary Dowd wondered if new needs assessment needs to be done since it is 2 years old.

Kris Beaumont wondered when water tower needs to be updated. It was suggested then to do work within next 5 years, which would be within 2 years now. Brian Powers said pump house needs complete overhaul. Things are starting to rust away. Mayor Javens reiterated that we are not to the point to discuss this. Information is being gathered – no decisions have been made. Mankato has not contacted Mayor Javens since last council meeting.

Kris wondered when to bring up rental policy. Mayor Javens said it would be discussed later in meeting and council is not approving policy tonight. There will be a mailing of proposed policy before final approval.

Cathy Dahl does not like the idea of prohibiting any religious rental of city hall. She talked about freedom of religion. There's no harm in renting to religious groups as long as they follow rules the same as everyone else. She also pointed out that the comment "who can't afford \$30" was not justified. She explained how Girl Scouts works with girls paying dues each week and a cost of \$30 for rent would keep any future scout leaders from being able to afford renting city hall. She also believes that an event such as a blood drive should be allowed to use city hall rent free.

Kris doesn't like lowering the monthly rental fee to \$30. She wonders how rental fees cover utility fees. Lon Whitehead said if someone wants to track all that, they are free to do so. Kris would also like the clerk's salary raised for having to take care of city hall rentals.

**City Clerk's Report** – Cathy Dahl reported late water/sewer letters were sent out to 7 residences per the September aging summary.

The city newsletter was printed and sent as requested.

City clerk requested that if a rental policy is passed before the end of the year that it please not go into effect until January. With the current clerk, council member and mayor so close to the end of their terms, it would be better for the new council to implement it, whatever it turns out to be.

City clerk would also like to report that for the last three council meetings, working for the city has become a hostile work environment. She requests that all people, including council members, making charges of wrongdoing against herself, any member of the council or any other residents have proof of what they are saying before making any further unsubstantiated accusations.

Clerk was contacted by one person who may have an interest in being city clerk.

Clerk reminded council her name will have to be taken off the city credit card account, removed as a signer for checking account and bonding by January 1<sup>st</sup>. She will take care of minutes and whatever else is needed after the December council meeting but will be finished after that is accomplished.

A packet came in the mail from Charter. I have not had time to read it as of yet.

Letter received from Community Bank for pledged LOC to be filed.

Please remember to vote by Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mary Dowd said that the rental policy should wait for the new council and a new clerk shouldn't be hired until January.

**City Treasurer's Report** – Lon Whitehead reported for September, 2018. Precision Backhoe bill was for rocks and cost of moving them, and French drains. Ken White bill was for easement and looking at rental agreement. Not all bills received because the council meeting is as early as it is this month. Wells Fargo checking account is still open to enable us to pay credit card. He will write a check from Community Bank account to city Wells Fargo account to cover credit card bill. The council members suggested an amount of \$500. It's too hard to open a credit card account for a city entity – not for profit, not a non-profit. Wayne Bishop mentioned council members need to tell Lon about any large purchases with city credit card to be sure money is available in account.

Late water/utility payment info was given to city clerk to be able to send final notices to residents before resolutions to put bills on property taxes are made next month.

Approval of clerk and treasurer's report and to pay bills as presented, motion, Dean Rengstorf, Samantha Erickson, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

Motion to transfer \$500 from CB to Wells Fargo to cover credit card bills, Samantha Erickson, Dean Rengstorf, 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed unanimously.

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**Water Department** – Samantha Erickson reported Mark Weber would like to have the contract for doing water sample reporting instead of the city of Mankato. He would do the sampling weekly. Skyline would continue to cover his certification costs. Samantha will talk with him further on this. Sam asked about who should be contacted about a pine tree blocking vision and needs trimming near crest of hill. Mayor Javens said the lot is in Skyline, but the right-of-way is in Mankato. It's an issue for seeing pedestrians. There is a tree overgrown into the street that a fire engine hit. She wondered about tree clearance for emergency vehicles. Subject referred to Dean Rengstorf. A resident spoke to Samantha getting speed bumps on Skyline city streets.

**Street Department** - Dean Rengstorf reported French drains are done and working. H called AmLawn about snow plowing contract. They sent Dean a one-page contract. He recommends going with AmLawn because they know about where things are in the city. Mayor Javens would like to see one more price to compare. Dean will get one from Thomas Tree and Landscape and he will find one more.

**Parks & Playgrounds Department** - Wayne Bishop reported 2 reservations have already been made for November 22, 2018 and June 8, 2019 and these should be grandfathered in to current rental rates. Mayor Javens agreed that these will be grandfathered in. \$145 in rental income in the last month. Water is turned off to sprinklers at park. Porta Potty will be removed after Halloween. He will be putting tennis court nets away in the next couple weeks when it gets colder. Samantha said the new surfacing is really nice. Mary Dowd said a family volunteered to take care of little library. Wayne said city had nothing to do with the little library; it was a resident's idea and expense.

**Public Safety Department** – Mary Dowd reported only medical assist reports in the last month. Someone was on top of pump house roof again even though garbage can was moved and chained to pole. They found another way to get on top of the porta potty and onto roof. Dean Rengstorf said we had discussed a surveillance camera previously. Mary will look into solutions to pump house issue.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Water tower – Samantha wondered about who to go to for another engineering report; she doesn't think it needs to be done yet at this point. Wayne Bishop asked about how Bolton and Menk deals with conflict of interest when they work for both cities involved. Samantha brought up how Mayor Javens has always stepped back when any previous work was done with Bolton and Menk. Dean Rengstorf mentioned there would be additional cost to us having a separate engineering firm. Further discussion of how engineering firms work. Samantha thought about talking with Bolton & Menk, who made report 2 years ago, to get updated cost estimates. Mary Dowd asked if anything has to be done with cell tower leases at this point. Mayor Javens said no. It would be handled by engineering firm hired.

City hall rentals – Draft policy presented by Mayor Javens. Mary Dowd made a motion to table the city hall rental policy until new newly elected council is in place in 2019. Discussion – Dean Rengstorf said no reason to rush and added that Wayne Bishop has done a good job of it. Dean Rengstorf, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Further discussion. Vote – All in favor, 3, opposed, 2. Motion carried.

Water testing – nothing new.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Samantha Erickson wondered if we should put draft on minutes from last meeting. Clerk will start to put draft on minutes. Clerk will call league of MN cities what happens if Skyline has no clerk - who swears in new council members without a clerk? Discussion of possibly advertising for city clerk position. Mary Dowd will look into advertising.

Motion to adjourn, Wayne Bishop, Dean Rengstorf, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Cathy Dahl  
Skyline City Clerk

  
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Mayor

11-12-2018  
date

Catherine Dahl  
City Clerk

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date