

Minutes
May 17, 2011
General Meeting

1) The meeting was called to order by Charles Neff/Mayor at 7:00.

a) Council Members present were Charles Neff/Mayor, Burl Ingebretsen, Mark Hanson, Bob Dablow and Shelley Poehls.

b) Others Present were Wendy Otte/Clerk, Norm Nyland, Rich Hayes, Dan Hanson, Richard Schenck, Renee Wolf, Bob Gregor, Karla Hansen, Troy Puetz and Aric Saign.

2) The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

3) Previous Minutes

a) General Meeting – April 19, 2011

A **MOTION** was made by Shelley Poehls to approve the General Meeting Minutes for April 19, 2011. It was 2nd by Bob Dablow and the motion carried.

4) City Attorney – Zenas Baer – Not Present to report.

5) City Engineer – Dan Hanson – Mark and Charley will meet with Dan on Thursday to look over roads that will need work next year.

6) Building Permits – Roland Holm – Not Present to report.

7) Amendments to Agenda – none.

8) Citizens concerns – Karla Hansen is still having issues with brown water. Karla is concerned that the water is unsafe to drink and that it could be ruining her fixtures in her home. Karla has been in contact with Rich and was told after flushing the hydrants on April 29th the water should clear up, it cleared up for a few weeks, then the brown came back. Rich informed Karla and the Council that he will be adding Ortho Polyphosphates this week which is supposed to sequester the iron build up to keep the water from turning brown. Charley told Rich he'd like that started tomorrow. Rich said our main problem is the town has hard water which has a lot of iron in it, adding chlorine to the water discolors it. Karla asked about a time line for clearing up, Rich informed her that by this weekend we should see some clearing and hopefully in June a permanent fix will be made. Problems are hit and miss in town, not everyone has an issue. Karla would also like to see another letter sent out with updates on the water issues, Charley let her know he plans on sending something out after we pinpoint and fix the issues. Rich will take a sample at Karla's and send it in for testing.

Renee Wolf came in to ask if the Lioness could beautify the space around the welcome sign coming into town to remove railroad ties and add flowers. Council agreed that would be fine.

17) New Business – moved up at council request.

a) **Lions Unpaid Hall Rental March 11, 2011 & Power to Park Concession Stand** – Troy Puetz came in to clarify whether or not the Lions had to pay to rent the Community Center. Lions thought that last year they were told that as long as they cleaned up after themselves they could use the Community Center free of charge. The meeting charge has been eliminated, but rental is still charged they do not have to pay the \$100.00 cleaning fee any longer as long as they are cleaning up after each use.

The non-profit groups have been talking to each other the last few months about getting power to the concession stand. It could then be used by whichever groups would like to use it for fund-raising during softball games. Troy read from the minutes from July 21st 2008, stating the city would pay for the slab and to hook up electric to the stand. We had also decided at a later not to hook up electric as it is much too expensive to hook it up and the monthly costs are not justified for as little it would be used. When the stand was in it's original spot Sabin softball was paying the cost for the electric. There was some discussion on what the monthly cost would be for the power to the stand. The non-profits would like to know if they could take care of the cost to hook up power to the stand would the City cover the monthly electric bill to for the stand. Charley feels that it is not worth the cost to the City for as little as it will be used, Renee added that it would be used more if there was electric hooked up, because now nothing can be done in there without power. Charley would like for other council members to voice their opinions, Charley is concerned about coming up with \$11,000.00 to cover snow that has went above what is budgeted and for the rest of the year and doesn't feel that this is the time to be adding expenses to the City that aren't absolutely essential. Shelley feels it's worth checking into, she'd like to see the stand have power. Burl checked into the hook up a few years ago and the cost to hook up was too expensive, so we didn't bother checking what the monthly fee would be at that time. Troy added that he believes the non-profits would be willing to pay for the hook up cost if the City will pay monthly expenses after that. Burl will check into the monthly expenses and report the findings at the next Council meeting. Bob Gregor added that he doesn't see any reason that Sabin softball couldn't pay the monthly expenses if it is minimal, Renee added that she didn't think that would be a problem either except that the City made it clear that they would have sole discretion on the stands use. We will look into it at the next meeting.

b) Establish Fee & Application for Gambling Permits – After the Ordinance was established we now need to approve an application and a fee for City Gambling Permits. Council looked over the proposed permit application; it's a pretty straightforward basic form.

A MOTION was made by Mark Hanson to approve the permit application for charitable gambling. It was 2nd by Bob Dablow and the motion carried.

We are also allowed to levy a fee for permits up to \$100.00. If we establish a fee it will go into the general fund. Permits will be issued per event and charged per permit. There was some discussion about what amount to charge per permit, \$25.00 was agreed for the permit fee.

A MOTION was made by Mark Hanson for a \$25.00 permit fee. It was 2nd by Bob Dablow and the motion carried. Bob Gregor asked if anyone is eligible to get a permit, Council informed him that you have to be approved from the state first.

c) Harvest Days Raffle for FM Crusaders – Harvest Days would like to apply for a permit to hold a raffle for FM Crusaders to raffle off a rifle.

A MOTION was made by Charles Neff to approve a gambling permit for Harvest Days. It was 2nd by Shelley Poehls and the motion carried.

d) FM Crusaders 61 for 61 – FM Crusaders would like to hold the 61 for 61 in Sabin again this year using the Community Center and closing Main Street for the event on September 24, 2011. **A MOTION** was made by Burl Ingebretsen to approve FM Crusaders 61 for 61 request. It was 2nd by Bob Dablow and the motion carried. FM Crusaders will contact the county as well for approval of closing Main Street.

Chad Byram also asked Burl if they would be able to have a horseshoe tournament in the alley behind the Community Center. Council said that would be fine, but they need to block all of the entrances.

9) Maintenance Department – Aaron Mayry – Not Present to report – Charley read from a list Aaron left on what he's been working on. Aaron has filled some ruts in the park and the around EMS building. Aaron flushed hydrants with Rich, worked on the floor in the community center, put the fountain in the pond, and has been looking into algae control for the pond. Checked prices on a loader for the tractor

prices ranged from \$100.00 to \$1,500.00. He took some samples to RMB, and has been numbering hydrants. After the hydrants have been numbered we should start on a maintenance schedule and keep records on them. Garbage cans have been put out in the park and some branches have been cleaned up. Mark said we have some faded out stop signs that need replacing. Aaron will be told to order some replacements for the signs.

10) Water Department – Rich Hayes – 988,000 gallons were pumped last month, 143,000 of those were from flushing hydrants. Rich will be flushing hydrants again to try to keep clearing the water. He will contact Steve from Moore Engineering to see what the next step is to get the treatment center working properly.

a) **Past Due & Shut Off Rates** – Tabled until next month.

11) Sewer Department – Norm Nyland – 4.22 million gallons were pumped out to the lagoons last month, 3 million gallons of that were fresh water and rain. The ponds are over 8ft and should never be higher than 6ft. The discharge tests came back bad, Norm called pollution control and was told to do what he needed to do to get it out of there. The first discharge was started and the next two tests were much better. Norm thinks we need to do two more discharges before the June 30th deadline. Typically we do two discharges in the spring and fall, but this year we will need three in the spring and hopefully only two in the fall. 7,530,599 gallons have been discharged so far from the secondary lagoon, that was about 6.2 inches per day. Norm will start the transfer it will take about a week then 1 or 2 weeks to settle then the second discharge will be started. Norm will check into the manhole inspections we have \$15,000.00 budgeted for surveys this year. Electric DMRs are being done now. Norm will also check with Jet Way about doing the annual clean up. There was some discussion on whether or not to do some video taping again after the clean up, Dan is estimating the cost to be about \$15,000.00 to video tape the whole town.

a) **Sump Pump Update** – We have a lot of sump pumps hooked directly into the sewer system. Discussed what our options are to finding out which residents are illegally running pumps into the sewer. If we don't stop the pumps from running into the system the MPCA can force us to dig another lagoon or not allow anymore building until we do. We may also have a leak in the system which would help explain why so much is being pumped to the lagoons. Dan thinks the number one thing to do is find the sump pumps hooked directly into the system and get those running outdoors. Bob will look over the data collected last year to find out who is in violation and we will go from there. Charley added after Bob gets that information that he, Bob and Norm should get together and discuss where to go from there.

12) Mayors Minute – none.

At this time Shelley left.

13) Treasurers Report – Ice and snow removal is already \$5,000.00 over budget for this year and we still need to make it through the end of the year for snow removal. Charley informed the council that the garbage fund has built up a \$15,000.00 reserve and he has checked with Heather about transferring that amount over to the general fund to cover snow removal and some other overages for the year. Heather told Charley that we shouldn't, but she didn't say couldn't, so Charley recommends shifting the money to the general fund.

A MOTION was made by Bob Dablow to transfer \$15,000.00 from the garbage fund to the general fund to cover snow removal through the end of the year. It was 2nd by Burl Ingebretsen and the motion carried.

14) Receipts & Disbursements – were looked over. There is a claim for \$1,285.90 for the Fire District that was from a 2009 LMC Dividend that the city received, but the Fire District portion was not passed on to them at that time.

A MOTION was made by Burl Ingebretsen to approve the Receipts & Disbursements. It was 2nd by Bob Dablow and the motion carried.

15) Water/Sewer/Garbage Bills & Past Dues – There are 4 that need to be shut off this month unless payments are made by May 25th. Rich will check in for an updated list after the 25th.

16) Old Business – none.

18) Commissioner Reports

a) **Health & Weeds** - Charles Neff – Nothing to report.

b) **Emergency Management Director** - Randy Schmidt – Not Present to report.

c) **Planning & Zoning** - Aaron Skattum – Not Present to report.

d) **Fire District** - Bob Dablow – Brought in copies of the recent minutes, treasures report, and invoices. Lots of burning permits have been purchased recently.

e) **Rescue Squad** – Shelley Poehls – Left a little earlier – A copy of the minutes was looked over. Charley had talked to Katie about the wireless modem and told her they could go ahead with it, but the current problem is the AnyConnect people took our antenna off the water tower. We will get the antenna replaced on the tower. The AnyConnect people will be sent a letter that they will need to take care of what is needed for the lease with the City by June 1st or remove their equipment.

f) **Parks** - Burl Ingebretsen – Burl did some checking around the park and 3 stumps need to be ground down and removed. The stakes look like they can be removed from the newer trees by the pond, there are a few dead trees that will need to be replaced. We will check into getting the trees donated. The park equipment looks good, but the soccer net needs to be tied to the frame and the tether ball is broken again.

g) **Recycling** - Mark Hanson – Nothing to report.

h) **Streets** – Mark Hanson – Discussed earlier that Mark & Charley will meet with Dan on Thursday to see what needs to be done.

19) Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Bob Dablow to adjourn. It was 2nd by Mark Hanson and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Wendy Otte, City Clerk

Approved 6-21-11