

Minutes

December 20, 2011

General Meeting

1) The meeting was called to order by Charles Neff/Mayor at 7:03 pm.

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

b) Others Present were Wendy Otte/Clerk, Aaron Mayry, Norm Nyland, Becky Nyland, Dan Hanson, Del Lass, Peggy Rezac, Don Martin, Bob Klien and Richard Schenck.

2) The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

3) Previous Minutes

a) **General Meeting** – November 15, 2011.

A **MOTION** was made by Shelley Poehls to approve the General Meeting Minutes for November 15, 2011. It was 2nd by Bob Dablow and the motion carried.

b) **Special Meeting** – December 8, 2011.

A **MOTION** was made by Bob Dablow to approve the Special Meeting Minutes for December 8, 2011. It was 2nd by Burl Ingebretsen and the motion carried.

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

5) City Engineer – Dan Hanson – Dan brought in the 2012 Street Project Report. The project is broken down by individual projects and costs. The Council will look over the report more before any decisions are made.

10) Water Department – Moved up - Norm Nyland – 964,000 gallons were pumped last month. Dan Hanson brought in a summary report from Steve Ahlschlager explaining to the council changes that have been made in the water plant. Sweeney Controls has yet to get back to Steve, so we may look elsewhere to get the scada system running. Norm and Aaron have been spending a lot of time working with Moore Engineering on the plant and doing tests. We are running on 1 well right now until we straighten out the water, but hope to be switching between both in the future. We noticed today that we have a leaking shut off that Norm has checked into replacing Randalls and Key were contacted for quotes. We will inform the homeowner of the cost options for replacement and get it fixed. A pump was found in the plant that we may be able to use to replace the one we rent monthly if it is not needed elsewhere. Norm look into using RMB for out bacteria testing due to it being closer and the sample has to be tested within 30 hours. Steve Peterson will be here in January, so Norm can go over what we are doing in the plant. We may call a special meeting at the treatment plant to meet with Steve when he is here.

11) Sewer Department – Moved up - Norm Nyland – We pumped 812,000 gallons were pumped to the lagoons last month. Norm will be attending a training in March for his Waste water certification hours. Fitzgeralds has put the rip rap in the south end of the primary 2 pond.

a) **Sump Pump Update** – Bob will be ready to go with sump pump reporting by May 1st.

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

7) Amendments to Agenda – none.

8) Citizens concerns – none.

16) New Business

a) Rescue Squad - Moved up- The reason the Rescue Squad is here is Charley had been approached by 2 different residents about whether there was a need for both a Rescue Squad and Fire Department or if it would be more cost effective to merge them. Charley quietly did some investigating, but somehow it got out and the Rescue Squad was understandably upset, so Charley met up with the Rescue Squad last week. The basic question Charley is bringing up for the Council to look into is there an economic savings to the City if the departments merge and would we still get the same service for less money. Charley has talked with the Rescue Squad and they have some valid arguments, but Charley is presenting it to the Council so they can make a decision. Richard was asked if the training is the same, which he said it is not even close. Charley was told that the Fire District members are also trained as first responders. Becky informed the Council that the Fire District only train as first responders if there is no Rescue in the area then they have to be. Shelley told the other Council members that the Fire District trains with fire equipment and Rescue Squad trains with rescue equipment. Don Martin a field supervisor and Bob Klien the liaison coordinator with FM Ambulance also explained some of the training they do with the Rescue Squad. The first thing we need to decide is whether we want to even look further into this issue. Is there is enough of a difference to justify having two separate entities and if there would be an economic savings to merging them. The Rescue Squad members donate their time they are not paid for any of their time. Mark and Burl feel it is best to keep them separate. Bob feels for the little bit of money we'd save that it's not worth changing things, maybe we can work towards someday attaining a joint group. The Rescue Squad will continue to train with the Fire District. Norm said an asset to the Rescue Squad if they were merged would be being able to offer the relief end to the Rescue Squad members could entice new members. At this time Charley made a statement about citizenship: “There are some people in this room I want to mention, I was at the Fire District meeting a couple of weeks ago and they were discussing about hiring or promoting some Assistant Chiefs and there was discussion about how they were going to split the salary, since the Assistant chief is a salaried position and Norm offered to divide his current salary with the new ones and to me that was an example of citizenship. Norm does a lot in this town and doesn't get compensated for about half of what he does and this reflects over to the Rescue Squad also. Doing something for the sake of the community without expecting compensation is one of the keystones of good citizenship and the Rescue Squad does reflect that, Norm you do that to, the work you've done since taking over the water I know we're not compensating you fully for that. I just appreciate it all of you that you're willing to do this for the community”.

9) Maintenance Department – Aaron Mayry – Aaron reported on what he has been working on with maintenance and water. Aaron has also checked into adding a remote door opener for the Rescue Squad doors with the cost being around \$120 for the parts to add 1 opener and Aaron said he could install it.

10) Water Department – Norm Nyland – moved up.

11) Sewer Department – Norm Nyland – moved up.

12) Treasurers Report – The financial statements were looked over. The 2nd half of LGA should be here by the 27th. We have around \$10,000 left over in snow removal after we had transfer \$15,000 to snow removal earlier this year from the garbage fund, but we are also short \$10,000 in property taxes this year.

13) Receipts, Disbursements & Claims – were looked over.

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

10) Water Department – came back to.

a) Past Due & Shut Off Rates – There was some discussion on whether to change the monthly late fees and shut off rates. It was decided to leave them as is at this time.

14) Water/Sewer/Garbage Bills & Past Dues – There are few people on the shut off list this month and all have made payments this month, so we will not shut anyone off this month.

15) Old Business

a) Credit Cards – We are missing some receipts for the statements this year and need make sure we are turning in the receipts, this is one of the items the auditors cite us for every year. Technically the City is not obligated to pay the costs for items missing receipts.

16) New Business

a) Rescue Squad - moved up.

b) Property Tax Levy – **A MOTION** was made by Bob Dablow to approve a resolution setting the general levy at \$97,152 and the special levy at \$39,297. It was 2nd by Shelley Poehls and the motion carried.

c) Equinox Software Maintenance Contract – The contract is for \$750 for the maintenance. **A MOTION** was made by Burl Ingebretsen to approve the maintenance contract. It was 2nd by Shelley Poehls and the motion carried.

17) 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 – Minutes and financial information was looked over.

e) Rescue Squad – Shelley Poehls – The new radio systems were brought up many times, but no dollar amounts were discussed. The new radios have been purchased with a county wide grant the Rescue Squad new radios cost \$23,000.00 with the Rescue Squad paying 5% of the cost, the cost for the infrastructure will be an additional \$750.00. We have looked through the minutes and there was no approval of the grant by the City and the City Council should have been involved in the decision to apply for the grant. The Rescue Squad has also decided to leave the Joint Powers rate at the same rate as last year. **A MOTION** was made by Bob Dablow that the Rescue Squad Joint Powers rate will be \$14.25 per household next year. It was 2nd by Mark Hanson and the motion carried.

f) Parks - Burl Ingebretsen – Nothing to report.

g) Recycling - Mark Hanson – There had been a schedule change one Saturday that Mark approved of for the hours. There have been some complaints of the Recycling Center not being open on time up to 30 minutes late at times. We will keep track of the hours turned in.

h) Streets – Mark Hanson – The street project was discussed earlier with Dan.

18) Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:28pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Wendy Otte, City Clerk

Approved 1-17-12