

August 18, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Schmiedeberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Council members present were Cindy Adams, Jim Erickson, Dan Goldstrand and Joyce Storeby. Also present were city employees Robert Anderson and Megan Hanson. Darlene Brown, Bob Haugen, Ardell Larson, Barry Olson, Gayle Olson and Tim Undeberg were also present.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Clerk reported one additional building permit application for Farmers Union Oil Co. **M/S/P – Storeby/Goldstrand** to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC FORUM: Darlene Brown was concerned about water rates. Clerk reported four water shut-off's: Jason Olson owes \$211.36, Brady Schmiedeberg owes \$291.11, Tony Shablow owes \$209.19 and Tim Undeberg owes \$223.61. Water will be shut off on Thursday, August 21, 2014 if payment is not received in full.

2015 PROPOSED BUDGET: Council reviewed and discussed the 2015 proposed budget and tax levy. Clerk must certify the levy amount to the County by September 15, 2014. The final budget will be approved in December, the levy can be lowered at the time but not increased. The proposed budget shows no increase in the levy at \$62,000. **M/S/P – Erickson/Storeby** to approve the 2015 Proposed Budget and Tax Levy.

WATER & SEWER RATES: Council reviewed information from the Clerk regarding water and sewer rates. Sewer rates were last increased on January 1, 2011 and water rates were last increased on August 1, 2009. The City has gone five years without an increase in water rates while the cost of water has increased by 27% in that time. Clerk expressed concern with both funds and mentioned that Minnesota Statutes require that there be a separate fund for each utility and that the fund must charge enough revenue to cover its expenses. Revenues and expenses for each fund were reviewed. There was discussion about changing the percentages of wages which are figured for each fund and also discussion about Anderson getting his sewer license which would eliminate the need to pay an operator. **M/S/P – Erickson/Goldstrand** to increase water rates by 5% effective immediately and to look at cutting back hours or saving somewhere else. Storeby voted in favor of the motion while Adams opposed.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND COMMITTEE: Council had tabled an application from Ardell Larson for Kick'n Up Kountry at last month's meeting. Larson mentioned the various volunteering and fund raising she has done over the years for events in Lake Bronson. She also mentioned that the City can apply for more funding through USDA Rural Development once the money has been lent out. She stated that she is current with her payments and has the collateral to cover the loan of \$30,000 she is requesting. Barry Olson and Bob Haugen were present on behalf of the American Legion Post #315 to also submit a RLF application requesting \$25,000 for repairs on the building. There is currently \$31,690.72 in the Revolving Loan Fund. There was a lot of discussion on the matter. **M/S/P – Erickson/Goldstrand** to table the applications until next month. Several people left the meeting to attend a meeting at the Village Square for the 110 year celebration planning for next year.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Council reviewed the revised June 16, 2014 minutes. Erickson asked to add an explanation as to why there was a motion to suspend Blair Schmiedeberg from the fire department and added that it was for unauthorized use of city equipment and liquor involved. Clerk will make that correction. **M/S/P – Goldstrand/Erickson** to approve the June 16, 2014 Minutes with the mentioned correction. Council reviewed the July 21, 2014 minutes. **M/S/P – Storeby/Adams** to approve the July 21, 2014 Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

• **Policy for City Equipment Use** – Clerk provided the Council with responses she received from neighboring clerks regarding equipment policies. She did not receive any response from the Cities of Greenbush, Kennedy or Hallock. The City of Karlstad does allow personal use of their equipment. Council reviewed policies from the cities of Warren, Grygla and Lancaster. They also reviewed the Conflict of Interest/Code of Ethics policy for the City of Lake Bronson which does address the use of public resources but only by Council Members, not employees of the City. Council was interested in adopting the same policy that Lancaster has governing their volunteer fire department. Clerk will check with the attorney who drafted it to see if it can be used for Lake Bronson as well. Ardell Larson left the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

• **Building Permit Applications** – Council reviewed building permit applications from Doug Turn and Farmers Union Oil Co. Doug Turn wants to build on the riverbank and so he may need approval from the watershed district. **M/S/P- Adams/Goldstrand** to approve the building permit application for Doug Turn on the condition that it is approved by the watershed district. Farmers Union Oil Company wants to build a storage shed on their property. **M/S/P – Adams/Storeby** to approve the building permit application for Farmers Union Oil Co.

• **Other** – Clerk has registered Anderson for water training in Warren on September 3, 2014 and for wastewater training in Hallock on September 17, 2014. Both training sessions are free and put on by Minnesota Rural Water Association. Clerk mentioned that Mike Sollund had stopped to ask about dumping in the lagoon. Clerk mentioned she had asked Shaun Jevne whether or not the City's permit allows it, if the City should allow it and if they should charge for it. Jevne stated as long as it's not often (don't want extra water in ponds when close to maximum capacity) and also need to know where it's coming from (don't want phosphorus, etc.). He will get back to the Clerk with an idea of what should be charged.

MAINTENANCE REPORT: Anderson reported that the lagoon and lift station are working good. He will be collecting lead and copper water samples along with WQP and Bacti samples this month. Rick Paulson has a water leak in front of his house. It is his responsibility as it is between the curb stop and his house. Anderson reported that he keeps the water off as much as possible until it is repaired. Paulson's curb stop needs a new cover. Breiland's curb stop needs

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to be replaced. The curb stop at 106 S. State Ave. may need to be replaced, Anderson will try digging down first. Curb stops and fittings need to be ordered as there are none on hand. Anderson ordered paint for the sidewalk curbs, they will need to be pressure washed before they are painted. Anderson needs a pickup or trailer to haul the tv's to the landfill, he can take the white pickup in the firehall. There was a table turned and three lights broken at the Village Square. The blades were reversed on the grader, Anderson will try it out tomorrow. The parts for the Dixon are in at Titan in Thief River Falls. Anderson suggested the Council seriously consider getting a different pickup with a plow before winter.

BILLS TO BE AUDITED: The council reviewed the claims list for bills. Total claims were \$5,682.54 for the month. Fire Department bills totaled \$3,241.86. **M/S/P – Adams/Erickson** to approve the claims list and pay bills.

ADJOURNMENT: M/S/P – Storeby/Goldstrand to adjourn until the next regular scheduled council meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 15, 2014. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Megan Hanson, City Clerk