

October 21, 2013

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schmiedeberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Council members present were Jim Erickson, Dan Goldstrand and Joyce Storeby. Absent was Cindy Adams. Also present were city employees Robert Anderson and Megan Hanson. Darlene Brown was also present.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** A building permit application may be needed and a fire department application. **M/S/P –Storeby/Goldstrand** to approve the agenda.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Darlene Brown voiced concern over some people storing garbage in their yards or vehicles. Clerk stated that Environmental Services could be contacted if it is in fact garbage, if it is cans or junk Environmental Services will not get involved.

**MAINTENANCE:** Robert Anderson updated the council on projects he has been working on. He needs help getting the brushes on the sweeper. He has drained the water heater at the village square but the lines still need to be drained and blown out. Storeby will check with the Improvement Committee to make sure they have everything out of the village square so that the power can be shut off there for the winter. Anderson reported that the water heater at the ballpark restrooms is not working. It is not leaking so it probably needs an element or thermostat in the spring. Hydrants need to be winterized, Schmiedeberg will show Anderson what needs to be done with them.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council reviewed the September 16, 2013 minutes. **M/S/P – Goldstrand/Storeby** to approve the September 16, 2013 Minutes with no corrections.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Fire Department** – Council continued discussion from last month regarding replacing a couple of trucks. Being that there were only four members present, council decided to table it again until next month. Clerk had contacted the League of MN Cities by email prior to the meeting once she discovered that Adams would be absent for the meeting. Clerk read the reply she received regarding quorums, voting, and conflict of interest, the city attorney needs to decide if there is an official conflict for council members who are also fire department members to vote on matters involving the fire department.

- **Other** – The city received only one offer for the fridge at the community center from James Erickson for \$250. There were no other inquires on the sale. Clerk had sent out nuisance letters to four different property owners, two of them complied with the city's requests, one has not responded and the other sent a letter stating their intent to comply. Clerk spoke with Wikstroms about the webcam at the village square. They stated that they could turn the camera and zoom in so that it will only record movement in front of the doors. Clerk did check to see that they had moved it and reported that it does appear to be better.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

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- **Kittson County Historical Society** – Council reviewed a letter asking for donations. The city is authorized to appropriate funds for the preservation of historical data under Minnesota Statutes 471.93. **M/S/P – Erickson/Goldstrand** to donate \$500 to the Kittson County Historical Society.
- **MN DOT** – Council reviewed a letter that the Department of Transportation will be increasing the speed limit on State Highway #59 from 55 to 60 miles per hour effective October 21, 2013.
- **Other** – There was concern that someone may be putting on an addition without a building permit. Schmiedeberg will talk to them and the Clerk will send out a building permit application. Council decided that there would not be a skating rink this year due to lack of interest. They also noted that there is the gym to use. Clerk reported that Wynne Consulting had contacted her regarding a project they will be doing, the city will use up roughly \$11,000 of the Housing Rehab funds for this. A company who will be working in the area called the Clerk to ask if they could haul wood chips to the compost site. Council decided no as they don't burn or break down well. Clerk will notify the company that they will need to make other arrangements. Someone from Canadian Pacific Railroad stopped at the shop and visited with Anderson about closing the Hill Street crossing in town. He stated that the railroad would give the city \$50,000 and the state would give the city \$25,000 to close the crossing. He left his card with Anderson. Council briefly discussed which issues the city would want to be aware of. Clerk will contact the city attorney to see how to proceed on the matter. It was decided that the school gym will not be opened and closed each day but rather there will be a key at Cenex that can be signed out by an adult. Clerk will need to get the key back from Denise Johnson. The door at the gym needs repair.

**BILLS TO BE AUDITED:** The council reviewed the claims list for bills. Clerk reported one addition to Postmaster for \$138.00 for three rolls of stamps. Total claims were \$7,324.69 for the month. Fire Department bills totaled \$1,587.51. **M/S/P – Storeby/Erickson** to approve the claims list and pay bills.

**ADJOURNMENT:** **M/S/P – Goldstrand/Storeby** to adjourn until the next regular scheduled council meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2013. Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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Megan Hanson, City Clerk