

Mercer City Council Meeting August 14, 2014

The Mercer City meeting was called to order by Mayor Kathy Schon with all council present and many guests from the community.

The minutes from the last meeting were read and approved with a motion made by Randy, seconded by Joe.

Financial were studied and approved with a motion made by Bryan, seconded by Steve.

Marlene Wardner was recognized. She wanted to inform council that the county wants everyone on the Vangaard system by 2018. There was discussion on Kathy and Marlene updating the measuring in town to cut down cost and whether the city could get grants to help pay surveying costs. No further discussion.

The moving permit for Jessie Schlichmeyer was discussed. It was agreed that the property must be cleaned up before permit would be approved, a stipulation of time frame for getting the new roof and siding was also agreed on. Jessie will contact the auditor when that is done. Council will then look again at the permit.

Kathy was contacted by a gentleman wanting to buy property from Rod Schilling to put up a storage unit. The property is zoned residential not commercial. There was discussion on an ordinance stating for any storage unit a house must accompany it, since the city does not get any income from storage units themselves. For now it was agreed to follow the city's zoning policy it does have.

Joe made a motion to decline the police contract, seconded by Bryan. Motion passed.

It was decided to put the grader up for sale by sealed bids. Auditor will take care of the advertising.

Discussion on getting someone on retainer for backhoe work. Randy contacted a couple of contractors. It was decided they would be invited to the next meeting and Kathy would write up a contract.

There was discussion on people getting water from the fire hall. The auditor explained it was basically on the honor system that they write down how much water they take. Then they are billed at the end of the year. Everyone felt it should be monitored closer. Also, possible higher rate charged. No decision made.

Joe made a motion to pay the dues to the North Dakota League of Cities, seconded by Bryan. Motion passed.

The lagoon situation was discussed. Valve to the slough is rusted open so pumping to the slough does no good it comes right back into cell 2. Jerry Evinsen has been hired to take the valve out. Kathy will need to get another sample before the pumping can resume. Faudskar's withdrew their offer for the city to pump out to their land, as their land is already saturated. Barb Stute expressed concern that when the city pumps into the slough it raises the one on her side of the road bringing the water closer to her house. It was discussed that the water table is so high right now that it is more than likely ground water coming up than the pumping, but the culverts under the road could be shut off if needed.

Moore Engineering was in town to look over the problem. There will be a special meeting called so they can bring their ideas for a permanent solution to the lagoon being inundated. There will be time for a question and answer session with the public. It will cost around \$30,000.00 to hire them. They will help the city get the financing for any projects.

Kathy mentioned they have a helping hands day at the Lutheran church and she would like to have the fire hydrants and message board painted then. Steve made a motion for Kathy to pick up paint and supplies, seconded by Joe. Motion passed.

Randy made motion to accept the 2015 budget as presented. Seconded by Bryan. Motion passed.

It was decided that the trailer court be charged as a residential rate for water since there is only one curb stop.

No one has been to Towner yet.

Bills initialed.

Meeting Adjourned.

JoLene Rust, Auditor

State Auditor \$500.00, WM \$1295.42, Ottetail Power \$502.38, BHG \$106.40, Jacob Rust \$60.00
MEC \$59.57, Hardware Hank \$13.76, Hawkins \$204.52, Joe Jerkovich \$160.49, Marge Laib \$167.50
Wagon Wheel \$1492.26,

Next meeting Oct. 8, 2014 @ 7pm