

City of Mercer Minutes

October 15, 2015

Council members present were Randy Zinke, Allan Laib, Kathy Schon, and Marlene Wardner. Special guests were A. J. Tuck and Mike Dora with Ulteig engineering, Jane Tesch and Scott Davis with Rural Development, Ward Heidbreder with rural water, Jim Wilson with Wilson Law firm, and Lynn Oberg with McLean Sheridan rural water.

Asked for public participation and no one had a question.

Randy Zinke made a motion to issue the Turtle Lake Rodeo Club a permit to hold Texas Hold'em poker tournament at Chester's tavern January 30, 2016 and Allan seconded. Motion Carried.

Randy made a motion to approve previous minutes and Allan seconded. Motion carried.

Allan made a motion to approve finances and Randy seconded. Motion carried.

Allan made a motion to pay bills as presented. Randy seconded. Motion carried.

Randy made a motion to accept Joe Jerkovich's resignation as a council person. Allan seconded and motion carried.

Ulteig engineer's explained we will not have to pay \$3500.00 for work that was done in January on water break. Allan had a question on his corner lot that was surveyed a few years ago at it being different than what present surveyor had done. Ulteig to check on difference. The corner block survey is to help with street, sewer and water improvements.

A.J. Tuck discussed some of the proposals and where they are at, at the present time. Standard committee is put on hold. Cost estimate was to evaluate streets and fire hydrants and this project was over by \$10,000.00 but Ulteig is writing this amount off. Water building estimates done on evaluation at what is in water building. This is put on hold until a decision is made to stay with the well water and we continue to treat water or go to rural water. Would like information figures on redoing water house and or going to rural water. The lift station as of now Ulteig has \$83,600.00 in design and construction; so far we have only been billed \$4,180.00 for research at where the main would drain to. Soil boring is for \$4,000.00 and we will be able to pay this. Ulteig to check with state health department and state water commission about pumping down a wetland at obtaining a permit. The permit will probably take 7 – 9 months to complete. Water system testing of fire hydrants needs to be finished.

Jane Tesch from Rural Development talked that we need to get our application in and then Rural Development does the underwriting to see if city is eligible for grant, second at how much of the loan city is able to repay, and third at how much grant is eligible based on medium house hold income. City is below poverty level. In order to get low interest loan rates and 75% grant; both medium house hold income and project has to alleviate a health issue. After we get approved from grant then we will be able to decide which project we can afford to do. We do not have to build anything before we get funding. City can apply for sewer or water only projects or sewer and water projects combined. Need to do identify a project before we can apply for grant. It was also stated that Rural Development grant can be done on line. Poverty rate repaying loan is 2% for 30 years. Intermediate rate is 2.65% for 30 years thru Rural Development. Maximum grant is 75% thru Rural Development but there are other places to get grants.

City was given a list of On Call Company's to contract with two different companies.

Standards committee needs an open meeting and advertise for 10 -14 days. Put a notice at city hall and in public bulletin board. Need to read through previous minutes and then adjourn the meeting. It is considered public records and legal. Mark Johnson took minutes, will check with him.

Preliminary engineers report first phase is rough numbers for construction costs. Block survey 80% complete to send and record at county. City will receive a boundary map of city, parcel numbers and areal lot lines and city shut offs.

Rural water stated water building is adequate and can replace holding tank with two 10,000 to 12,000 poly tanks for about \$6,000.00. Adding a new control panel would be about \$10,000 - \$12,000. Plus miscellaneous it would be about \$30,000 to redo system. As we may need a new pressure tank and a new overhead door to remove old tank and install new. As of now different cities are paying approximately \$3.80 to \$4.16 per thousand after base rate is established. South of Washburn they are paying approximately \$6.00 per thousand. If we use well water and rural water we will have to have two separate buildings since we cannot mix well and rural water in same tank.

We would also be able to put water meters in proposal for grant money. Also need to know number of meters and water usage. Then this would need to be broke down between commercial and residential use. This would be for sewer and water break down for grant.

Need to get an idea from lawyer or League of Cities weather to have Council make a decision on type of water to use, rural or well. Or if it needs to be put to a city vote. State Health Department would come to meeting and explain all the new changes that will need to be done to treat well water.

Tving Company was unable to Jet or T.V. on east end of town because of high water into cell one. Rural water explained that it is not a great idea to do Jetting when water is in lines or man holes. Tving costs can be or cannot be in on sewer proposal? Some sewer lines were considered failed but they are not all bad.

Pre-development planning grant needs to have application filed before project. Need to have a local attorney and bond council attorney. City was given a list of Bond council attorneys. Grant is for total project costs.

Rural water Ward H. will help set rates at no charge and we will need to start with fixed cost base and add man charges to deliver water and rate per thousand. No two systems are the same at charging for water rates. Base rates would include replacement costs, etc.

Allan made a motion to adjourn and Randy seconded. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be November 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Marlene Wardner, Auditor

BILLS:

BHG (Newspaper)	\$122.75	Northern Technologies	\$4000.00
Farmers Union Oil (Propane)	\$285.30	Otter Tail	\$494.03
Farmers Union Oil Garrison (tire)	\$375.46	Rust Hardware (MCC)	\$21.67
HAWKINS	\$256.77	Tom Brewster (PARK)	\$329.44
Hydro Klean	\$28,466.48	Ulteig	\$49,554.10
Java Rose	\$58.85	USPS (Stamps)	\$49.00
League of Cities (Conference)	\$225.00	Waste Management (2 Months)	\$2,243.06
McLean Electric	\$54.18	West River Telephone	\$88.85
ND Dept. of Health	\$16.00		