

City of Mercer Minutes November 19, 2015

Mayor Kathy Schon called meeting to order with council members Randy Zinke, Allan Laib, Bryon Brewer, and Marlene Wardner, Auditor present. Additional guests were Lynn Oberg with McLean Sheridan rural water, Darwin Saari Turtle Lake Auditor, and A. J. Tuck representing Ulteig.

Allan made a motion to except agenda and seconded by Randy. Motion carried.

Public participation - Steve Mickelson asked council if his two parcels could be combined since one parcel is very small and the alley runs through it. Tracy Schilling had a question about removing bleachers in the Community Center and replacing that area with chairs when needed. Advised to check with MCC committee and they should make the decision about selling bleachers and replacing with chairs. Mozel Murray gave council a letter explaining about water break at their house in September and was under the impression that the city would pay for this \$4,000.00 bill. There was discussion on who was responsible for this bill and finally Randy made a motion that the city would pay half and Mozel Murray was responsible for half. Seconded by Bryon and motion carried.

City will propose a new ordinance that city is only responsible for main since old curb stops were not placed by street to start with. Chet Faudskar would like the water turned off at the old Beierle house and there will be a \$5.00 fee for turning it back on.

A. J. Tuck had a correction to minutes about paying Ulteig \$49,554.00. Some of this bill was written off but all bills will not go away, we only need to pay \$17,759.00 at present time until we receive grant money. Allan then made a motion to approve previous minutes. Seconded by Bryan and motion carried.

Bryan made a motion to pay city bills and Randy seconded and motion carried.

Bryan made a motion to move money from street funds to water funds and seconded by Randy. Motion carried.

Bryan made a motion to except resignation of city auditor Marlene Wardner effective December 31, 2015 and Allan seconded. Motion carried.

Council is checking a few options at replacing one council member that resigned in October. Someone mentioned that a person needs to be a resident of the town nine months before they can be on city council. We will check with league of cities.

Mayor will be checking with Waste Management, Circle Sanitation, and Dakota Sanitation concerning garbage rates.

Allan made a motion to make an amendment to ordinance to change utilities due the 10th of the month instead of the 20th. Seconded by Bryon and motion carried. Change is being made so council can see who is behind on paying their utilities before the regular meeting. There is a \$20.00 penalty assessed per month if a household is behind two months on payment. Then a letter is sent and if no

payment is made in 10 days water will be shut off and it will cost \$50.00 to turn water back on and full payment is received at that time. At present, there are eight letters being sent to individual homes.

Randy made a motion to pay \$100.00 per month for whoever is mayor checking water, getting samples to State Health, and going to water school. First ordinance was read. There are going to be things to check concerning water in 2016. Bryan seconded and motion carried.

Council received a quote from Rud Oil about getting a gas tank from them to use instead of hauling gas. A 560 gallon tank would cost \$3250.00. Council will check other options.

Allan made a motion to down size mail box since the city has to pay rent. The carrier drives on the back side of the city building and we could put up a box on the street. Seconded by Bryan and motion carried.

Ulteig, A. J. Tuck discussed what it would cost to hook up to rural water. We need to get and estimate from McLean Sheridan Rural Water on a new building, etc. Allan asked Lynn O'Berg about quality of rural water. It was also stated that water having a film on could easily be associated with copper pipes. The treatment plant north of Turtle Lake will need some update if Mercer decides to go that direction.

There has been nothing done on the lift station at this point.

Council would like to have Ulteig do cost estimate for all fire hydrants at 6" pipe.

Bryan made a motion to adjourn meeting seconded by Randy and motion carried.

Next meeting will be December 17, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.

Marlene Wardner, City Auditor