

**City of Mercer
Regular Meeting
August 20, 2018**

Mayor Ron Schatz calls meeting to order with council members, Derek Fiedler, Julie Wagner, Randy Zinke, Lynn Oberg and Ann from McLean Sheridan Rural Water and Auditor Ashley Fiedler in attendance.

Randy Zinke and Julie Wagner went through their oaths. Derek makes motion to except oaths. Auditor Ashley read minutes from the July city meeting, the Special Budget meeting, the Special Recall meeting, and also the canvassing meeting. Council member Fiedler makes a motion to approve minutes, Randy Zinke seconds motion. Motion carried.

Resident Katherin Volochenko has some questions regarding water bills for Ann at Mclean Sheridan Rural Water. Kathrin was wondering why she was charged a late fee when she paid her bill on time and the check was cashed before it was even due. Ann, stated that there was just a delay between Ashley and myself, the late fee was waived. Volochenko was also questioning why from the time residents receive their bill and when they are due is it only 15 days and wondering if we can switch it to 30 days. Ann, responded by saying she can change it on her part it's up to the board if they want to change the date. Kathrin would like to know why the late charge fee is 10% of the bill when it used to be only a \$5 charge. Ann, wasn't sure if that was ever talked about in a meeting and that it can be changed on her end. Lynn Oberg stated that the 10% late charge was set up 30 years ago when McLean Sheridan went into business. It was set up that way to help force residents to pay on time and second to generate a cash flow. Julie makes a motion to keep the billing date as the 15th of every month and the late charge is 10% of bill. Randy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council member Randy asked how many water bills are past due. Auditor Ashley stated we have six residents that are 61+ days past due. The residents that are the 61 plus days past due owe anywhere from \$300 to \$800. Auditor Ashley stated she had mailed out letters to the residents after the July city meeting regarding their bills. Resident Kathy Schon stated letters have been sent to those residents in the past, and they have also tried certified letters, but the residents would just ignore the certified letters. It became a waste of money to send them, they started just hand delivering them to their doors. Kathy also stated that in November we should have them put on their taxes. Resident Alan suggested those residents that are 61+ days past due and who haven't responded to the letters their water should be shut off. Randy makes a motion to send letter to residents that are past due and give them 10 days to make payment arrangements or water will be shut off. Julie seconded it. Motion carried.

Resident Jason Meidinger owns some property in town which has a road that crosses a piece of his property. He would like to look into getting it moved over. Council member Zinke would like to go look at the property with Meidinger first. Mayor Schatz tabled decision until they can go look at the property.

Allan Laib, resident asked council member Derek Fiedler if the fire department notified Mclean Sheridan of the fire. Laib states that should be the first thing they do. Fiedler wasn't around for that fire so he's unsure if they called. He states the chief or the assistant chief would be the ones to call. Laib wants to make sure they know they need to be calling when there is a fire in case they need more water let out.

Also, resident Laib wants to make sure the Fire department is keeping track of how much water they are using to fill. Mayor Schatz said they used 9,300 gallons. Laib stated that was incorrect, and they used at least 12,000 gallons. They had four tankers going out. Fiedler stated the amount that was reported might have just been from the hall reading. Fiedler recommended that this topic should be brought up at one of their meetings and that there should be a phone number posted over there that they need to call.

Laib also would like to know how auto pay can be set up for water bills. Ann from McLean Sheridan has the program to set up auto pay, just need to check with City of Mercer's bank to see if they are able to do the auto pay and if she can get the mechanic part of the system to work with the cities. Auditor Fiedler will contact bank to see if auto pay is possible for residents. If it's possible Ann will also do some checking on her end.

Councilwomen Julie wants city to be aware of a dog in town that has been kicked out of the city of Mandan. The dog had gotten out of its residents here in town and bit Wagner's son, not bad but enough to have left a mark on his leg. At the time she wasn't aware this dog had been kicked out of Mandan so she didn't report it to the Sheriff's Department. It was brought up that an individual that works in town was considering taking it to his farm. However, Wagner is afraid the dog will still end up in town running around. Board suggested writing resident a letter saying dog needs leave the city. Randy makes a motion to write resident a letter saying she has 30 days to get rid of dog, Fiedler seconded motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Schatz talks about change order #2 for North Street. With the change order the increase of \$58,000 in the final price would be \$1,512,176 compared to original contracted price of \$1,453,763. Council member Zinke questioned how many feet this is adding. Mayor Schatz stated 900 feet of 6 inch water main. Lynn Oberg stated the new water pumps should be arriving in Fargo this week. Oberg questioned if they are able to pressurize in Mercer yet without any problems. Ann from McLean Sheridan stated yes they are still able to pressurize. Fiedler makes motion to accept change order, Zinke seconded it. Motion Carried.

Zinke brought up Weisz cleaning up the rocks and fixing the washouts. Oberg suggested an e-mail be sent to AJ Tuck regarding the issue. Auditor Fiedler will send an e-mail to AJ regarding the issues.

Mayor Schatz asked council how much the election board should be paid. Schatz suggests we pay those \$10/hr. Zinke makes motion to pay election board \$10/hr., Fiedler Seconded motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Schatz suggests we pay the canvassing board the same as the election board, \$10/hr. Zinke makes motion to approve, Fiedler seconded it. Motion carried.

There are three centennial books in the office, and a few residents were wondering if they could purchase them for \$20. Zinke makes a motion to keep all 3 centennial books, Julie Wagner Seconded motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Schatz reads an e-mail from Chester's Tavern wanting to be open on Sundays during hunting season. They would not open till noon. Wagner makes motion to approve, Zinke seconded it. Motion carried.

Update on Main Street Loan, the last payment was made May 1st, 2018 for \$4,024, the next payment is due November 1, 2018 for \$437. The last payment should be May 1, 2023. There is about \$44,095 left on the loan.

Finances were reviewed. Zinke makes motion to approve, Fiedler seconded it. Motion carried.

Resident Kathy Schon asked how much the Park Board Fundraiser brought in. They raised around \$1207.

Mayor Schatz appoints Randy Zinke new President, and Derek Fiedler Vice President.

Board looks over bills to be paid. Council woman Julie asks what we paid Job Service for. Job service was paid for quarterly reports. Zinke makes motion to pay bills, Fiedler seconded it. Motion carried.

Mayor Schatz, AJ Tuck, and Lynn Oberg went to speak with Lloyd Westerlind and got an easement to put pipeline on his land to pump to that slough. Rent would be \$20 per acre and there will be 5.7 acres fenced out. Grant money would be used for this. This easement is a lifetime easement. The other option we have to move the water would be buying the land by the railroad from BNSF. The price for that land is \$37,000. Wagner makes motion to record Lloyd Westerlind easement, Fiedler seconded it. Motion carried.

Fiedler makes motion to not purchase railroad property, Zinke seconded it. Motion carried.

Council member Zinke would like to know if there is an ordinance on keeping grass mowed in town. Mayor Schatz is unsure of that ordinance but will keep looking and let council know. Wagner would like to study the ordinances as well.

Fiedler makes motion to adjourn, Zinke seconded it.