

## **City of Mercer Minutes August 12, 2021**

Mayor Ron Schatz called the meeting to order at 7 pm with Council members Randy Zinke, Ken Thomsen and Derek Fiedler Also in attendance Ashley Fiedler, Auditor.

Councilmembers look over July minutes and preliminary budget minutes. Ken Thomsen makes motion to approve minutes, Derek Fiedler seconded it. Motion carried.

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

Bills were reviewed by council. Thomsen makes motion to approve bills, Zinke seconded it. Roll Call: Fiedler- yes, Zinke- Yes, Thomsen- Yes. Motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

Water payments are good.

Councilmember Thomsen would like the liquor license on the final budget to be \$500, as that's what the ordinance states they should be paying. Send Chester's Tavern a letter stating the new price for license.

### **New Business:**

Thomsen would like to possibly look at changing City shut off policy is for water. He states instead of waiting 2 months before shutting off water, we should look at only giving residents 30 days before shutting off. At this time the policy is, letter is sent to resident after 30 days of no payment, then 10 days after letter is sent if we have not received payment we shut water off. Council will look into ordinance again and see if water shut off will be changed to 30 days.

Few residents have contacted council members regarding a council member not having to pay water and sewer for their property. When this was allowed by city council, the deal was the water and sewer line needed to be dug up and capped. No council members have seen this process happen. Auditor will try to get numbers of what resident would owe if lines were not dug up, a letter will also be sent letting them know what the plan is.

Resident Robin Brewster addressed the council regarding his property which isn't livable and he still has to pay water and sewer. Robin would like to possibly work with the city on his past bill, as he had a water break last year due to a meter freezing in his basement. He stated when the meter was put in there was no power and he was concerned it may break. Due to the water break he had damage to his personal property, and to the basement of the house. He

suggested instead of going with lawyers and figuring out what the city would be liable on the damages, just take a wash on his bill. Council member Thomsen suggested the City file a claim with insurance regarding Robin's damage. Robin will need to get Auditor pictures of damage, as well as quotes of work, then we can go forward with claim.

Erika Lorenz, from Mercer Park Committee, addressed the City Council on adapting Title 6, which is a nondiscrimination policy. Thomsen accepts Title 6 policy, Zinke seconded it. Ken Thomsen nominates Auditor Ashley Fiedler for coordinator on Title 6 Policy, Fiedler seconded it. Motion carried.

Lorenz also brought up that the Park Committee would like to advertise for electrical bids in the park. Fiedler makes motion to approve Park committee requests to get bids for electrical work, and open and award at City meeting. Thomsen seconded it. Motion carried.

Zinke makes motion to take bills the city has had to pay for issues that have come up since the water project to a lawyer to see if we can pursue getting some of the money back, Fiedler seconded it. Motion carried.

Council members have been cleaning up some abandon lots in town, but need a dumpster to move forward. Auditor Fiedler will call and get some quotes for roll off dumpsters.

Steve Laframboise is requesting a building permit for moving a trailer on to his lot. Fiedler makes motion to approve building permit, Thomsen seconded it. Motion carried.

Our saviors WELCA is requesting a raffle permit for their annual benefit. Thomsen makes motion to approve raffle request, Zinke seconded it. Motion carried.

There is some old pumps and pipes by the city shop that the city no longer needs. The council decided to put pipes and pumps up for sale.

League of Cities conference is coming up in September, Auditor Fiedler would like to go, is there anyone else who would like to attend. Zinke makes motion to approve Fiedler and Thomsen going to conference, Fiedler seconded it. Motion carried.

Fiedler makes motion to adjourn meeting, Zinke seconded it. Motion carried.

**Bills to Pay:**

701 Dirtworks - \$660

Ashley Fiedler - \$923.50

Bank of ND (ATM) water revenue Bonds - \$6,312.50

Conference \$250

Derek Fiedler - \$69.26

Gary Volochenko - \$69.26 – Special Meeting August

Ken Thomsen - \$69.26

McLean Sheridan Water

(Water) \$1,068.53

(Billing) \$227.72

ND Chemistry Lab - \$251.58

ND Depart of Health - \$16

ND Rural Water Systems Association Membership dues - \$355

OtterTail - \$671.22

Randy Zinke - \$69.26

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Ron Schatz - \$138.52

Tonya Wellington - \$300

Waste Management - \$1,272.79

West River - \$187.69

Wyatt Wagner - \$105