

City of Mercer Minutes October 14, 2021

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

Councilmembers look over minutes. Gary Volochenko makes motion to approve minutes, Ken Thomsen seconded it. Motion carried.

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

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

Old Business:

Water payments are doing well so far for the month.

Water loss went up from last month. Council members suggested there may be a few residents who don't have meters hooked up and we need to get that checked out.

A couple months ago a letter was sent to Mr. Volochenko regarding is water and sewer being disconnected, and they would stop paying. It was never talked about in the meeting where they needed to dig up the lines. Council members stated that Gary is on the board and should know that it needed to be dug up on the main. Council will look over ordinances to see what they say about disconnection of water lines. Volochenko did not disconnect his sewer liked stated. Volochenko will back pay for sewer, and pay going forward. Water was not dug up when it was supposed to, will look over water ordinance before billing water. Thomsen makes motion to bill Volochenko for sewer, Zinke seconded it. Roll call Thomsen – yes, Fiedler – yes, Zinke – yes, Volochenko – no. Motion carried.

Fiedler suggests no more disconnects as City will lose money, and will be unable to pay loan payment. Council suggests that we look over ordinances and adjust it if need be. There are many residents that are upset that a board member was able to opt out of water and sewer, but other residents aren't able to. Board will look at options.

Council is looking for getting a furnace in the pump house, to help save on electric bill. Council members will call around for tank quotes.

New Business:

Council will flush hydrants on October 17th.

Chester's Tavern requests to be open on Sunday's at her discretion going forward. Chester's is also requesting a temporary transfer liquor license for November 27th, at the Mercer

Community Center. City received Chester's liquor license request and check of \$500 for 2022. Thomsen makes motion to approve Chester's requests, Volochenko seconded it. Motion carried.

Mayor Ron Schatz opens bid from Shipley electric for park project. Shipley bids \$19,750 for project. Shipley's bid was rejected at this time. Park committee would like to hold off on electrical work as the equipment price has went up 15% since last quote. Park committee has hired an advisor to help with paper work and bids. Advisor would be \$3,000. Thomsen makes motion to approve advisor, Zinke seconded it. Motion carried.

Rhonda Stradinger, with MCC committee was present to let council know the community center has about 12 leaks in the roof. The roof was patched about 3 years ago. Council suggests we notify insurance for a claim. Could look into getting a loan to fix roof possibly in the summer.

Council member Thomsen suggests that City look at card processing for water payments. He got a card from someone at conference, should call and see what could be done.

There are 4 residents that are behind on utility payments, as well as yard clean up. Fiedler makes motion to put those residents past due amounts on taxes, Zinke seconded it. Motion carried.

City received letter from Farmers Union to pre-buy propane at \$1.99 a gallon. Volochenko makes motion to pre-buy 1,000 gallons, Thomsen seconded it. Motion carried.

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

Bills to Pay:

Ashley Fiedler - \$923.50	- (Billing) \$230.80
BHG – (Park) \$310.68 – (City) - \$261	- (Software) \$1,149
Derek Fiedler - \$69.26	- (Water) \$1,198.78
Gary Volochenko - \$69.26	ND Chemistry Lab - \$198.60
Hardware Hank - \$31.98 – (MCC) \$113.94	ND Department of Health - \$16
Ken Thomsen - \$69.26	Ottertail - \$582.64
McLean Sheridan Water	Randy Zinke - \$69.26

Ron Schatz - \$138.52

Waste Management - \$1,311.83

West River - \$187.40

Wyatt Wagner - \$120