

City of Mercer Minutes

May 9, 2024

Interim Mayor Ken Thomsen called the meeting to order with council members Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz and Randy Zinke and Tonya Wellington-Auditor all present.

Ken Thomsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ken Thomsen read the minutes from April 22, 2024. Barb Stute made the motion to approve the minutes and Erika Lorenz seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, and Randy Zinke all voted Aye. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Gary Volochenko made the motion to approve the Financial Report and Barb Stute seconded.

Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, and Randy Zinke all voted Aye. Motion carried.

Bills

Erika Lorenz made the motion to approve the bills for the month and Randy Zinke seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, and Randy Zinke all voted Aye. Motion carried.

Water Bills

Tonya Wellington will mail shut off letter to account #21 if not paid by May 15, 2024.

Park Minutes

Erika Lorenz stated the park committee has not met. Erika Lorenz stated that the new park tables are in the park shelters.

Old Business

Reserve Requirements at this time there was no decision.

The board discussed where gravel would need to be placed in town and putting in a water valley on main street by post office.

The garbage services contract with Waste Management ends December 1, 2024. Erika Lorenz is working with the League of Cities on the request for proposals and the posting to receive bids from other companies.

Ken Thomsen read an email from William Raywalt. Mr. Raywalt is being charged for water usage from Mclean-Sheridan Rural Water. There should be no charges for water usage as water service to his property has never been turned on. Mr. Raywalt was informed when he purchased the property that he would be charged a base rate of \$53.00 for water and \$18.00 for sewer for a total of \$71.00 a month. Erika Lorenz made the motion to determine the dollar amount for water usage and refund that amount back to Mr. Raywalt and Barb Stute seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, and Randy Zinke all voted Aye. Motion carried.

The board discussed having the tree dump open for residents. The City is required by the State Health Department to have someone on-site when the tree dump is open. The city is not allowed to leave the gate open anymore. City of Mercer residents can contact any of the board members or Tonya Wellington, Auditor, to open the tree dump. Willa Murray stated that if the city could set up a designated time to have the tree dump open one evening per week, she would be willing to be one of the volunteers to be on-site while the tree dump is open.

Erika Lorenz asked if we could return to Mr. Raywalt. Erika Lorenz moved to void her previous motion for clarification on how to proceed with refunding Mr. Raywalt water bill through the county. Randy Zinke seconded the motion. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, and Randy Zinke all voted Aye. Motion carried.

New Business

Ken Thomsen stated that the curb stop at Ed's Service needs to be fixed. There are another curb stops in town that are not working properly. Tonya Wellington will check with Natalia Heck with MidWest Assistant Program and see if we can use the ARPA Funds on the curb stop fixes. Natalia Heck will also be here the first week in June to do the mapping of all the curb stops in town. Randy Zinke made a motion to start with fixing Ed's Service curb stop first and Gary Volochenko seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, and Randy Zinke all voted Aye. Motion carried.

The Mercer Market application for inclusion in the ND Farmer's Market and Growers' Association was presented to the council. Trista Rust contacted Erika Lorenz because she tried to apply for a grant for her kids that participate in the Mercer Market, Trista was told that she cannot apply for the grants because the Mercer Market is no longer a member anymore in the ND Farmer's Market and Growers' Association. Trista Rust and Anita Laib

will be the contacts for Mercer Market. The application fee is \$75.00. Tonya Wellington will print a check and send it in with the application.

Ken Thomsen read the bids for Mercer Park picnic tables. The first bid was \$50.00 by Bobby Schatz, second bid was \$75.00 by Duane Johnson, and third bid was \$61.00 per table by Turtle Lake Wildlife Club. One table will go to Duane Johnson and the three remaining tables to the Turtle Lake Wildlife Club.

Gary Volochenko made the motion to adjourn, and Barb Stute seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, and Randy Zinke voted Aye. Motion carried.