

City of Mercer Minutes

June 13, 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 May 9, 2024. Gary Volochenko made the motion to approve the minutes with change made and Erika Lorenz seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, and Randy Zinke all voted Aye. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Randy Zinke made the motion to approve the financial report with change made to Mercer Market 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.

Park Minutes

Erika Lorenz stated that the park is putting in a camera in the park. The hosting fee per year is \$120.00 and would like to have it put on the cities credit card and the park will reimburse for the cost.

Old Business

Ken Thomsen stated that William Raywalt's curb stop needs to be replaced and sense the city is going to have a backhoe contractor come into town to do other work we need to put Mr. Raywalt on the list to be fixed. Mr. Raywalt will be billed for the cost of the curb stop sense he damaged the curb stop. Mr. Raywalt will be billed for the cost and if not paid will be added on to his property taxes. Tonya Wellington-auditor stated that she had checked with Mclean County if Mr. Raywalt has paid up on his property taxes. At this point he has not paid his property taxes. The board has agreed to pay him for water usage that he should not have been charged for from Rural Water. Once Mr. Raywalt pays his bill the City of Mercer will send a check for \$419.82.

Gravel

Gary Volochenko stated that there will be 6 loads of gravel being put around town next week.

New Business

Ken Thomsen stated that he met with Bryce Peters. The city needs to install a Lagoon sign and a lock on the gates.

Building Permit

Dan Gardner presented a building permit to the board to build a shop on his property. Gary Volochenko made the motion to approve the building permit and Randy Zinke seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz and Randy Zinke all voted Aye. Motion carried.

Tree Dump

Ken Thomsen asked Willa Murray if she would be willing to have a key for the tree dump sense, she is in town most of the time. Willa Murray did agreed. Tonya Wellington-auditor will make a sign with name of board members and Willa Murray that will all have keys for the tree dump and post at City Hall.

Lead & Copper

Ken Thomsen stated we are required by the North Dakota Health Dept. Residents need to let us know what kind of piping they have coming from there system either lead, copper or other. Tonya Wellington-Auditor will send out letter to residents to be turned in with their water bills.

ARPA Funds

Ken Thomsen stated that we need to allocate our ARPA funds. There is \$15,810.88 available. Erika Lorenz made the motion for \$6,000.00 for the drain valley and 3 curb stops at \$3,000.00 and Barb Stute seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz and Randy Zinke all voted Aye. Motion carried.

Electronic Payments

Erika Lorenz stated that the League of Cities there is a program named Gov Card. There is a convenience fee to residents that would like to pay their water bills. If it is an electronic check or an ACH debit card, the cost is \$1.75. If it's a credit or debit card, and the bill is over \$60.00 it would be three percent of the bill. This program does online payments or phone call payments. Once the payment is made the resident and auditor would get an update. The one-time cost to the City of Mercer is \$199.99. Barb Stute made to motion to get signed up for this program and Erika Lorenz seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz and Randy Zinke all voted Aye. Motion carried.

Car Show

Randy Zinke made the motion to approve the 50/50 raffle and for the car show to use the city lot by the shop and Gary Volochenko seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, and Randy Zinke voted Aye. Erika Lorenz abstained because she is part of the car show. Motion carried.

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