

GOOD THUNDER COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting

January 13, 2025

Mayor Robert Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm at City Hall at 130 S Ewing Street in Good Thunder, MN 56037. Councilors Scott Stoltzman, Amy Klammer, and Jim Day were present. Councilor Jon Brude was absent. Sue Petty, City Clerk-Treasurer and Brian Severns were present.

The pledge was recited, immediately followed by a moment of silence.

Oath of Office for Newly Elected Officials: Clerk Petty administered the Oath of Office to the following newly elected Officials

- **Mayor – Robert Anderson**
- **Council Members – Amy Klammer and Jim Day**

Agenda: Councilor Stoltzman made a motion to approve the agenda, Councilor Day seconded; motion carried.

Minutes: Councilor Stoltzman made a motion to approve the Dec. 9, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried.

Bills: Check # 18338 to #18377, EFT#56782 to #56795, payroll EFT# 500144E to 500150E, Councilor Day made a motion to approve the bills, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried.

Community comments: None

Sheriff's Department – 54 hours. Welfare check, animal complaint, parking violation, traffic stop, paper service, directed patrol

Fire Department – 11 calls: 9 medical, 1 assist law and 1 grass fire

Streets Update – Raece Johnson handed in his resignation Dec 27, 2024, with his last day Jan. 10, 2025. Councilor Klammer made a motion to accept Raece's resignation, Councilor Stoltzman seconded; motion carried. Councilor Klammer made a motion to declare the vacancy and to post the Maintenance Supervisor position, Councilor Day seconded; motion carried. Brian Severn's offered to step in on a very part-time temporary basis, approximately 20 hours a week, until the right candidate can be found. Brian spent the last 2 weeks with Raece learning the water meter reading system including leak detection, collecting 24-hour data, how to do locates and basic things that need to be done. He will also work on cleaning and organizing the shop and shop office. Discussion on repair/replacing damaged tools at the city shop. Brian will make a list of items that are damaged. Brian suggested they add the Class C Water license and Class D Wastewater license as a preferred qualification for the City Maintenance Supervisor position. Council will add this information as preferred or with a willingness to obtain the licenses. The start wage was discussed and council decided to add a wage of \$26-\$30 depending on qualifications and willingness to work towards their water and wastewater license.

Water/Sewer Update – Brian has submitted the quarterly water samples. Brian explained the process of obtaining the Class C Water License and Class D Wastewater license. Mayor Anderson asked about water usage for the city. Previously the city was pumping approximately 43,000 gallons a day and now we are currently pumping approximately 33,000 gallons a day. The new water meters are helping to catch water leaks and frozen, non-working meters. The cost of meters was \$305 when we replaced all the meters, and now the new meters we just purchased are \$310 apiece.

Unfinished Business: Spring clean-up – Clerk Petty received some information regarding curb side clean up and drop site clean-up. With Curb side pick-up, residents are limited to what they can dispose of. With drop site clean-up, there are more items residents can dispose of. After some discussion regarding the benefits of each, council would like to have a monthly clean up from April to October with rotating months between curb side and drop site. Clerk Petty will bring this information to LJP and report back at the February meeting. Clerk Petty will add information to the monthly water bills regarding the clean ups. **Ordinance update** – Councilor Klammer made a motion to have a schedule a special meeting for Feb.10 at 5:30pm to go over the ordinance updates, councilor Day seconded; motion carried. **Increase in Property Taxes** – Last month a resident brought concerns regarding increase in business property taxes to council. The response from BEC is as follows: *The value increases for 2024 assessment year, payable in 2025 were due to sales of properties in small cities last year. We had 6 sales in the small cities last year which led to that change. Our sales study period that set those values was from October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023. Here are the sales of the properties that we used.* Council would like to move forward with renovating city hall and opening the garage up to usable space. Council will give Clerk Petty some names to contact to get bids. The cement at city hall needs to be replaced. Clerk Petty will get some quotes. **Dakota Mart** – Dec 13 Request for Order for Disclosure and Proposed Orders were filed with the court. If the owners do not respond a court hearing will be set at the beginning of February to issue an order for disclosure.

New Business: 2025 Council Committees as follows:

Water, Sewer, Garbage – Amy Klammer, Scott Stoltzman

Streets, sidewalks & Alleys – Robert Anderson, Scott Stoltzman

Recreation & Parks – Jon Brude, Jim Day

Personnel Committee – Jim Day, Jon Brude

Administration Committee – Amy Klammer, Jon Brude

Acting Mayor – Scott Stoltzman for February, Jon Brude

Fire Chief – Philip Klammer

Official newspaper: Maple River Messenger

Official Bank: US Bank

Official Posting places – City Hall, Good Thunder Post Office, Red Iron Mercantile

Councilor Klammer made a motion to approve the 2025 Council Committees, official bank, newspaper, and official posting places, Councilor Day seconded; motion carried.

Councilor Stoltzman made a motion to allow Clerk Petty to make payments up to \$3500 in between meetings, when necessary, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried.

Strategic Planning – Council would like to add a building for the chemical at the ponds, and to redo the parking lot. Clerk Petty will update and bring it to the next council meeting. The LPL CD termed 12/31/24, it has been sent to 4M Mutual. Council decided to not reinvest it at this time. Will review in a few months. The Xcel Energy Agreement is up for renewal March 2025. Council asked for clarification on the name Northern States Power and not D/B/A Xcel Energy. Clerk Petty will contact Xcel Energy for clarification. Councilor Klammer made a motion to approve the Xcel Energy Ordinance Agreement contingent on clarification from Xcel Energy. A few months ago, council asked Clerk Petty to review the employee insurance and see if there are better ones available. Clerk Petty contacted the Public Employee Insurance Program and received a quote for \$1500 a month for health coverage. The current coverage is cheaper and offers better coverage.

Misc. Business: Clerk Petty is working on the new website for the city. This should be up and running mid-May. Municipal Impact (new website company) suggested we do not list the council meeting on the website and instead put a click button to the city YouTube page. This will make the website cleaner. Currently the council meeting videos are unlisted per motion made in 2023 and the residents need to go through our website to access them. Council Klammer made a motion to make the change to list the council meeting videos and put a click button on the new website to the city YouTube Channel, Councilor Day seconded; motion carried. Clerk Petty asked for a motion to attend the MCFOA Conference March 18-21, 2025, in Brooklyn Center. Councilor Day made a motion to have Clerk Petty attend the MCFOA Conference March 18-21, 2025, Councilor Stoltzman seconded; motion carried. Burkhardt and Burkhardt will be at city hall to do their field work for the audit Feb 27, 2025. They will present the audit at the April 14 Council Meeting.

Adjourn: Councilor Klammer made a motion to adjourn the council meeting, Councilor Day seconded; motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 8:41pm.

Next Regular Council Meeting June 10, 2025, at 7pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Petty, City Clerk/Treasurer