

GOOD THUNDER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of the Meeting
March 11, 2024

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

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

Mayor Anderson asked for a motion to approve the agenda, Councilor Brude requested to add evaluations for city employees under new business, Mayor Anderson requested to add Special Olympics Wagon Train in Good Thunder, under new business as well. Councilor Stoltzman made a motion to approve the agenda with said changes, Councilor Froehlich seconded; motion carried.

Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve the minutes from February 12, 2024, council meeting and February 21, 2024, special council meeting, Councilor Brude seconded; motion carried.

Councilor Froehlich suggested moving some funds from future improvements to expense accounts that are showing negative due to expenses over the budgeted amount. Councilor Brude highlighted some accounts and would like to go over these items with Clerk Petty and try and balance the accounts better. The auditors have suggested this be done in the past. Mayor Anderson asked about the bill for \$500 for Affordable Jetting to clean the sewer line behind Thunder Bar and Restaurant. He asked if the business has a grease trap at all. Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve the bills, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried.

Sheriff report – 71 hours of patrol for February. Some of the calls include juvenile nuisance, suspicious circumstance, OFP service, animal complaint, MVA, harassment, traffic stop, welfare check, disturbance, directed patrol.

The Good Thunder Fire Department had 7 calls in February; calls were medical, carbon monoxide alarm, 2 MVA, and 1 lift assist. FEMA grant collaboration with Blue Earth County, LeSueur County and Nicollet County for the fire departments. St. Clair will be the handler of the funds if any are awarded.

Street update – Thunder Valley Park has about 13 ash trees. There are approximately 39 ash trees in the city, 7 are the county's responsibility and the rest are the cities. There is one at Thunder Valley Park that is in rough shape and can be taken down. So far there is no evidence of ash Borer disease in the city. Raece is asking for guidance on what the council wants to do with these. The cost of having the trees treated can get very spendy. The cost for the materials for Raece to do the treatment is approximately \$4000-\$5000. There is no special chemical license to treat the trees. The trees should be treated every 2-3 years. Councilor Froehlich asked Raece to get an estimate of the actual cost to have someone treat the trees and the cost to remove the trees.

Seal coating will cost \$98,350. After some discussion on all the projects that need to be done this year, council decided to postpone seal coating for 2024. Councilor Froehlich made a motion to hold off on seal coating for 2024 and revisit the project and timeline January 2025, Councilor Brude seconded; motion carried.

Building Permit GT-02-24 – Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve Building Permit GT-02-24, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried.

Kenton Giese was present to give an update on the Archery Range and improvement requests. Handouts were included in the council packets. There were 42 visitors in 2023, bow hangers were added, and the old shooting line was replaced improving the area for the archers. In 2024 Kenton and volunteers would like to rebuild frames around each large archery target, add a solid fence between the archer range and compost pile. The fence will be built out of donated poles from Benco and Xcel. Others have stated they would donate labor or resources for the materials needed. They have a volunteer that will donate their time and saw the logs to create the fence panels. There are some trees that will need to be removed to make way for the continued fence. The fence will take approximately 1-2 years. They would like to add a third tower that is higher and of the approximate height used when hunting. The goal is to complete the projects with as much donated material and volunteers as they can. The council had approved last year up to \$500 for materials for the archery range. They are not asking for more funds, as the remaining balance should be more than enough to complete the improvements. Councilor Froehlich suggested they complete a building permit with any sketches they have for the April council meeting.

Water/Sewer Update – Raece shared a photo of samples Brian obtained from Pemberton Wastewater and Good Thunder Wastewater. The Good Thunder sample was very red in color, indicating there is a lot of blood in the sewer. Once the platform and building is ready, the chemicals can be brought in for the ponds. Bolten and Menk will be at the April meeting for an update.

Resolution 2024-02 – Easement with Bret Winters. Councilor Brude made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-02 for \$7500 for an easement on Bret Winters property, Councilor Froehlich seconded; motion carried. Clerk Petty will email the easement to Bret for review and will set up a time for signing. Clerk Petty will contact Kennedy and Burkhardt and Burkhardt regarding the check.

Community comments: None

Unfinished Business: Water meter installation will start April 1, 2024. Midwest Testing will provide the letter the city will need to send out early next week. There is a \$7 charge per account for sump pump inspection. They will ask the homeowner if they have one and check it but will not go looking for them. There may be some houses that Raece will have to revisit to check on. Midwest Testing will also do the lead line inventory at no additional cost. Councilor Froehlich suggested Midwest Testing do it all that way it's done and on the same forms for reporting. Clarification on the grounding wires was discussed, Council Froehlich suggested they make a note of it for council and the homeowner. Council made a motion last year to use the COVID

money for the new meters. Council reviewed the letter that will be sent out. Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve the letter and the April 1, 2024, start date for meter installation, Councilor Brude seconded; motion carried. Midwest Testing will dispose of the old meters. There are a few houses in town that do not currently have water, they will not be getting a new meter until their water lines are fixed.

New business: Councilor Brude discussed the evaluation forms and would like to have a personnel meeting to go over employee evaluations. After some discussion, Councilor Brude made a motion to have a closed personnel meeting Friday March 15, 2024, at 3pm for evaluations followed by individual reviews with each employee, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried. Mayor Anderson met with John Davis from the 2024 Friendship Wagon Train; they will be ending their trip in Good Thunder June 28, 2024. They will be having a final ceremony Saturday Jun 29, 2024. They are asking if the city would sponsor supper Friday night and breakfast Saturday morning. They would like to spend the night at Thunder Valley Park on Friday evening and have the ceremony there on Saturday. They inquired about showers; however, the city does not have a facility for them to use. Mayor Anderson offered his shop in case of rain. The council would like to get more information on their needs, Clerk Petty will contact John Davis and get more information on times and needs and bring to April's meeting.

Misc. Business –Mayor Anderson asked about the fences, buildings that are on the right of way. If property owners sell their property and there are fences or buildings on the right of way, how do the new property owners know this. Is it included on the title, and unless the property owner discloses the information, there is no way for the new property owner to know. Mayor Anderson asked Clerk Petty to check with our city attorney on this.

Auditors were here February 29 and will be presenting the year end audit at the April 9 council meeting. City hall will be closed March 19-22 while the clerk is at the MCFOA conference in St. Cloud. Clerk Petty turned in a PTO request for April 12-19, 2024, Councilor Froehlich signed as the President of the Personnel committee. Clerk Petty verified the brick house on the East end of town has sewer hookup only. There is a question as to what the ordinance states, Clerk Petty will review the ordinance. Clerk Petty stated there needs to be a resolution to change the utility billing from cubic feet to gallons, and a resolution as to the cost per gallon of water and sewer. We will continue to do quarterly billing until we have completed the transition from cubic feet to gallons.

Clerk Petty asked about no parking signs on the East side of N Halladay by the Red Iron Mercantile. When cars are parked on both sides and can get very narrow. Council will take it under advisement at this time.

Councilor Brude made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

March 11, 2024

Closed Personnel Meeting March 15, 2024, at 3pm for employee evaluations

Next Regular Council Meeting April 8, 2024, at 7pm

Submitted Respectfully by:

Susan Petty, City Clerk/Treasurer