

GOOD THUNDER COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting

May 13, 2024

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, Tom Froehlich & Jon Brude were present. Raece Johnson, City Maintenance, Sue Petty, City Clerk-Treasurer were present, Brian Severns was absent.

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

Councilor Stoltzman made a motion to approve the agenda, Councilor Froehlich seconded; motion carried.

Councilor Brude made a motion to approve the April 8 and April 15 Council Meeting Minutes, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried.

Mayor Anderson asked for a motion to approve the following bills: Check # 18081 to #18123, EFT#56656 to #56674, payroll EFT# 50076E to 50086E, Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve the bills, Councilor Brude seconded; motion carried. Councilor Froehlich asked about the negative interest on the Revenue Report, Clerk Petty will review and report to council the findings.

Sheriff's Department – 80 hours of patrol. Calls include domestic, traffic stop, disturbance, theft, paper service, suspicious person.

Fire Department – 13 calls: 7 medicals, 1 carbon monoxide alarm, gas leak, electrical fire, grass fire, vehicle fire, structure fire.

Streets Update –The approach by the Post Office has been redone, the only added cost for the city is the portion of sidewalk in front of Lyra Township Hall that was replaced. WW Blacktopping submitted an updated bill for paving the alley by the Post Office of \$13,958. Raece received bids for concrete work on Ewing St from City Hall to the north property line of 110 S Ewing: bids came from Jim Schmidt Concrete \$11,518.62, Clint Adams Concrete \$11,291.00, MK \$12,000, and WW Blacktopping \$11,000. The county will reimburse 50% of the cost. Council discussed other cement work that needs to be done, Raece will make a list of the cement that needs repair/replace. Councilor Brude made a motion to approve the bid from WW Blacktopping, with the addition of other cement work in town to be done at the same time, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried. There is also street work that needs to be done on the West end of Main Street where there was a previous patch that is now catching water.

Bolton and Menk will be soliciting quotes for the phosphorus removal project. The quotes will be due June 13th. The 7x7 concrete slab that was included in the quote will be removed per council and WW Blacktopping will be pouring that when they are doing the other concrete work. The city will need to put up an enclosed structure around the tank and improve the fence around

the ponds. Raece asked for clarification of the bids for Dust Control that were approved at the last meeting.

Mayor Anderson and Councilor Froehlich discussed the water run off issue on S. Houk St. Council discussed having Bolton & Menk engineer the area as it has been problematic for a while and a permanent solution is needed. Councilor Froehlich made a motion to have Bolton & Menk engineer repairs on S. Houk to redirect water going down the hill to Chapel St, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried. Raece will reach out to Joe at Bolton and Menk and set up a time for him to come out. Councilor Froehlich is available to meet with him as well.

All water meters have been installed. Brad from DSG will be onsite Tuesday May 21 to train Raece and Clerk Petty on the new equipment. Brad did a trial read last week and there were only 2 meters that were not read. Mayor Anderson asked if we needed to update our ordinance to reflect the change from cubic feet to gallons and monthly billing. Clerk Petty stated we changed from cubic feet to gallons via Resolutions and when we are ready to go to monthly billing, we will need to update the ordinance. Councilor Brude stated we should have a meeting with residents prior to changing to monthly billing for any concerns they may have prior to switching. Clerk Petty asked for direction from council on how to handle the water bills on accounts that have only been billed for minimum usage because the meters were not able to be read with the handheld device. Discussion continued regarding doing an average of usage for the 4-5 days from the last read to when the new meters were installed. Council advised Clerk Petty to work with Banyon to figure out the cost of the 4-5 days of usage prior to the new meters. Councilor Froehlich discussed raising the minimum charge for water and raising the usage \$.02 per gallon, Councilor Brude suggested we have Jeff Dale from DSG out to help us figure out if we are charging the correct amount of water and sewer. Discussion was tabled until budget meetings.

The International is at Gartner Garage in Mapleton for DOT inspection. The truck needs a new fuel tank. They found one in Illinois for approximately \$2000. Mayor Anderson asked if Raece found out anything from the die tablets he put into the catch basins. Raece did not find any definite areas, he feels there may be field tiles that are draining into the sanitary sewers from the northwest part of town. Councilor Froehlich suggested there are farm tile that are dumping into the sanitary sewer which is causing increased phosphorus levels.

Water/Sewer Update – no update

Community comments: Tim Stromer asked about the sign for the food shelf the city was going to put up outside and remodeling the garage. Mayor Anderson asked Clerk Petty if the food shelf is being utilized. Clerk Petty stated at this time there is very little traffic. Councilor Froehlich stated the long-term plan for St. John's Lutheran church was to take over the food shelf. Mayor Anderson asked if the red door in the garage could stay open during the day, Councilor Brude stated he did not think that was a good idea.

Unfinished Business: MN Valley Council of Governments has been working on updating the Personnel Policy. It has been ready for council review. Clerk Petty suggested the Personnel Committee set up a meeting to go over the updates. Councilor Brude suggested a personnel Committee meeting be held June 3, 2023, at 5pm, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried.

Councilor Brude asked council to set up a meeting with Chris Kennedy regarding Attorney/Client Litigation. Council stated they could make either May 20, 2024, or 22, 2024. Councilor Brude made a motion to set a tentative closed meeting with Chris Kennedy either May 20 or May 22 for attorney/client litigation, councilor Stoltzman seconded; motion carried. Clerk Petty will contact Kennedy and see which day will work and schedule the closed meeting and contact council.

Mayor Anderson asked for an update on the streetlights Xcel Energy was going to install. Raece stated they have been out a few times and are installing lights according to the map Raece and Clerk Petty submitted to them.

Mayor Anderson stated when the auditors were here, they suggested we review the investments and see if we are going in the right direction. Council directed Clerk Petty to contact the auditors for contact information and to contact League of MN Cities regarding this. The auditors also stated the Fire Department Relief Association should be audited by an actuary not another auditor. When the city needs to obtain bonding or grants for future projects without an actuary it hinders the amount the city is approved for. The city will have to pay the cost for this.

New Business: Discussion on reimbursement of flowers on Main Street, Councilor Froehlich made a motion to reimburse up to \$350 for flowers on Main Street, Councilor Brude seconded; motion carried.

Misc. Business: Dilapidated properties – Clerk Petty received an email from a resident about a rundown property on Hubbell where animals have taken over the house. Council directed Raece to take pictures of the properties in question with addresses and bring to council for direction. Councilor Brude and Raece drove around town looking at yards. Council directed Clerk Petty to send nuisance letters to those properties. This is a work in progress, so letters will be going out throughout the summer. Discussion on the follow through and cost of nuisance properties continued, council will ask Chris Kennedy if the city can fine the resident and assess to taxes if needed.

Mayor Anderson asked Raece to spray for weeds on city property. Clerk Petty is working on sending out rental renewal letters.

Mileage and parking reimbursement was submitted for Brian Severns for wastewater continuing education and mileage reimbursement for Clerk Petty to and from the Clerk's Institute, Councilor Brude made a motion to approve the reimbursement for mileage and parking for Brian Severn's for \$75.61 and mileage reimbursement for Clerk Petty of \$171.52 councilor Stoltzman seconded; motion carried.

Council went over a letter from FEMA regarding National Flood Insurance Program. At this time the council did not take any action.

Councilor Brude made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilor Stoltzman seconded; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm.

Closed Personnel Committee Meeting June 3, 2024, at 5pm

May 13, 2024

Next Regular Council Meeting June 10, 2024, at 7pm

Submitted Respectfully by:

Susan Petty, City Clerk/Treasurer