

GOOD THUNDER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of the Meeting
February 12, 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 & Jon Brude were present. Councilor Tom Froehlich was absent. Raece Johnson, City Maintenance was present via Zoom. Sue Petty, City Clerk-Treasurer was present, Brian Severns was absent.

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

Councilor Brude made a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried.

Councilor Brude made a motion to approve the bills, Councilor Stoltzman seconded; motion carried.

Mary Cassem from Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota was present to discuss the possibility of using City Hall Tuesday and Thursday mornings for approximately an hour and a half, for a 55+ exercise class. There is a class in Mapleton, and they are hoping to expand to Good Thunder. Mayor Anderson asked about class size and if there is enough room. Class size would be approximately 10 and if they outgrew it, they would have to find other space. Councilor Brude inquired about residents coming and going during the class and how disruptive the class would be for the city clerk. Mary stated there is music, but it doesn't have to be that loud. They would like to be able to leave their equipment cart in the garage. Mayor Anderson asked Clerk Petty how she felt, and Clerk Petty was willing to allow it on a trial basis and see how it goes. Councilor Stoltzman made a motion to allow SAIL to hold an exercise class in council chambers Tuesday's and Thursday's from 9am-10am on a trial basis, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried.

Joe Smith from Bolton & Menk presented an update on the 2024 Halladay Sanitary Sewer Project. They have identified the property lines and easement lines. A permanent easement on 201 N Front St would be the best route. The permanent easement would include 10 feet on the south side of the property and 15 feet on the west side of the property. The property owner asked about building setbacks, the easement will be in the setback requirements. Land value for the easements that will be required was discussed. Joe explained the process of figuring out land value for an easement. The easement would be for 1/10 of an acre with a land value of \$2000. Currently there is no easement for the current sanitary sewer. There is, however, a prescriptive easement, meaning the pipe has been in the ground for more than 15 years, the city has a right to maintain the pipe where it is located. The project will reroute the sanitary sewer to the edge of the property line making it easier to access the pipe as needed. Mr. Bret Winters expressed concern with his property being the only property affected by the sewer project. There is an easement on the west side of the sewer pipe, however property owners have built on the easement. The council is unsure if there were appropriate zoning permits or not. Mr. Winters asked if anything was found in past zoning permits regarding the residents that have built on the

easement on the west side of the project. Clerk Petty will look into past city records and see if there are zoning permits and who is responsible. Mr. Bret Winters feels he should be compensated for the use of his land since it's the "path of least resistance". Councilor Klammer asked what amount of compensation he was looking for and suggested \$2,000.00. Mr. Bret Winters asked the council to make him an offer and he would consider it. Councilor Brude suggested the council think about an offer and Mr. Bret Winters think about what he wants as compensation and have a special council meeting in a week or so. Mayor Anderson asked if \$10,000 would be enough. Councilor Brude made a motion to hold a special council meeting February 21, 2024, at 7pm to continue the discussion, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried.

Sheriff report – 56 hours of patrol for January. Some of the calls include traffic stops, assist ambulance, suspicious persons, theft, disorderly, domestic.

The Good Thunder Fire Department had 8 calls in January; calls were medical, and mutual aid. The Fire Department had their annual meeting last week. The rescue truck has saved 2 lives in town. The fire department is looking at the possibility of getting a newer used rescue truck.

Street update – Resolution 2021-01 to sell the Western plow that was on the F450 truck that was purchased in December. Councilor Brude made a motion to approve the resolution, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried. Building permit GT-01-24 – Councilor Stoltzman made a motion to approve Building permit GT-01-24, Councilor Brude seconded; motion carried.

Water/Sewer Update – No update from Brian Severns.

Community comments: Resident Rhonda Barnard thanked the council and employees for doing a good job.

Unfinished Business: Discussion on installation of new water meters, lead pipe inspection and sump pump inspection will be continued at the Special Council Meeting February 21, 2024 at 7pm. Clerk Petty reported final notices for past due water bills went out. Most of them have been paid, there are a few that have done a payment plan that is due the end of February. Council was pleased with the process and instructed Clerk Petty to try and stay on top of the past due water bills, so they don't get out of hand again. Councilor Brude discussed employee reviews and raises. Being the end of the year and the first of the year are usually busy, he would like to do reviews in March and have any pay raises effective April 1st instead of back dating raises. The Personnel Committee will meet in March and start the review process.

New business: Clerk Petty suggested the Fee schedule for requesting and paying for documents be reviewed and updated as needed. The fee schedule should not be included in the Ordinances, but rather on its own with council updating as needed. The ordinance should be listed as Data Practices Act and not FOIA. Clerk Petty will check with League of MN Cities on how to update/correct an Ordinance.

Misc. Business – Clerk Petty submitted a request for PTO and inquired about reducing hours as she was hired at 32 hours per week but working 40 hours per week until things got caught up. Mayor Anderson suggested Clerk Petty take a day or two once in a while and work on reorganizing the storage room so old documents are easier to find. Clerk Petty will start working on that and review cutting hours in the Spring. Clerk Petty presented Council with 4 options of Holiday lighting as the Holiday decorations on Main street are getting old and worn. Being Councilor Froehlich was absent, Mayor Anderson suggested tabling this discussion until February 21, 2024 Special Council Meeting. Mayor Anderson asked for an update on the Dacotah Mart discover, Clerk Petty will contact Kennedy as we have not heard anything more.

Councilor Brude made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilor Klammer seconded; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

Special Meeting February 21, 2024 at 7pm for Easement for Halladay Sewer project

Next Regular Council Meeting March 11, 2024, at 7pm

Submitted Respectfully by:

Susan Petty, City Clerk/Treasurer