

GOOD THUNDER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
Minutes of the Meeting  
January 8, 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 Tom Froehlich, Scott Stoltzman, & Jon Brude were present. Councilor Amy Klammer was absent. Raece Johnson, City Maintenance, Sue Petty, City Clerk-Treasurer, and Brian Severns were present.

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

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

Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve the bills, Councilor Stoltzman seconded; motion carried. Mayor Anderson requested expenses for the Fire Department be marked with a red F so council can see is easier.

Mike Drummer and his associate Dan were present to discuss the tax rate for the old elementary school. Blue Earth County has the property appraised at \$2 million with taxes at approximately \$40,000. The assessors were out Monday morning to reassess the property with Dan and Mayor Anderson. He has contacted a property tax firm in the cities for assistance in how to update the actual true value instead of the replacement cost which is what it has been valued at. Area schools that have been turned into other property type are listed no where near the amount the Good Thunder school is. The building is currently listed as an apartment building; however, no remodeling has been done. Mayor Anderson offered the city's assistance with any help need to have the property properly evaluated. Clerk Petty will contact our attorney and see if there is anything we can do to help with this.

Joe Smith from Bolton & Menk presented an update on the 2024 Halladay Sanitary Sewer Project. They have identified the property lines and easement lines; however, the current sewer runs approximately 10-15 feet east of the easement. Joe and Raece met with the property owners where the current sewer line runs, one property owner is willing to give an easement, the other property owner will not give the city an easement. It was discussed to install a new sewer line in the 12-foot right-of-way, however there are trees, brush, and a fence in the right-of-way. The council decided to continue with the Sanitary Sewer Project and put a manhole where the existing sewer pipe goes onto the property at the North end of Front Street, which will add an additional \$10,000 for the manhole. Bolton & Menk will obtain a permanent easement from 200 N Front St. The existing sewer line that runs on the property on the North end of Front Street can be lined, which will help. The cost of lining a sanitary sewer pipe is considerably cheaper if there are more sewer lines to line. Bolton and Menk suggested the city look at other sanitary sewer lines that could be lined and do multiple at the same time. Mayor Anderson asked Brian Severns if he noticed a spike in the I & I during the December rains. Brian stated the I&I spiked for 2 days during the rain and came back down. There was some discussion regarding the possibility of a field tile connecting to the sanitary sewer in the cul de sac on the northwest part

of town. There is also a sink hole on the north side of the Catholic Church that sinks in the spring, that should be televised as well. Mayor Anderson suggest Joe televise the sewer lines from Halladay up Shaubut St and see if lining will help with the I & I. Joe will review what has already been televised on Shaubut and see where lining would be beneficial.

Brian Severns and Joe discussed the ponds and the chemical and structure that will need to be built to cover the chemical tote. The building will need to be approx. 12x20 to hold the chemical tank, an eye wash system, ventilation, and the pumps that will inject the chemical into the pond. Brian suggested the city install a gate with a fence that is around the ponds to deter any vandalism with the chemicals. The ponds will be treated spring and fall. The slab for the generator at the pond is ok as long as there is no digging into the dike around it. The generator is in and ready to be installed once the groundwork has been completed.

Sheriff report – 77 hours of patrol for December. Some of the calls Ordinance violations, assist law, disturbance, fraud, welfare check, domestic, suspicious vehicle, and paper service. Deputy Hagen has been helping with ordinance violations and has been more present in town. There is also an increase in patrols at the bus stops in the morning and afternoon.

The Good Thunder Fire Department had 4 calls in December; calls were medical, lift assist, and 1 mutual aid structure fire. The Fire Department will be hosting a blood drive January 23 from 12:30pm-6:30pm.

Street update – The plow and sander that were on the truck the city purchased in December were not worth as much as the city thought. The plow needs more work than Crysteel originally thought and would only give us a trade of about \$350. Raece feels the city can get more than that by selling it outright. Mayor Anderson suggested trying to list it for no less than \$1200. The plow needs new cutting edges and a few welds, it's a Boss plow and about 9ft. Councilor Froehlich made a motion for Raece to list the plow for no less than \$1200, Councilor Brude seconded; motion carried. Raece and Clerk Petty will work on getting the plow listed. The new truck needs a logo, Raece showed the council a photo with a new logo on the truck. Cost is \$170, Raece will contact Sharp Line in Lake Crystal. Raece showed the council the bid from Garman Construction for the City Shop to insulate the cold side, and also the bid for city hall to knock out a wall and open up the garage for useable space. The council asked Raece to obtain another bid to satisfy the necessary requirements. Raece completed the map for Xcel to add more streetlights. Clerk Petty emailed Damon at Xcel. Clerk Petty will contact Damon for an update. Council asked Raece to obtain another bid for the electrical remodel for the cold side of the shop. He will look for a local electrician and obtain a bid.

Water/Sewer Update – Amy Lynch will be coming out tomorrow to do water samples at the well house. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter water samples for bacteria and fluoride all came back good. Raece and Brian checked the top of the filters, and the header pipe is torn free. Which is why the pipes are shaking. The welds have broken loose. They braced it up as best they could, but it is time to start thinking about a new filter system.

Community comments: None

Unfinished Business: A resident of Good Thunder asked Clerk Petty why the city is sponsoring a food shelf. The neighboring towns do not. There is a food shelf in Mapleton, Winnebago and Mankato that are open. Clerk Petty asked what kind of liability the city has regarding the food shelf. There has not been any traffic at the food shelf in several weeks. There was a donation a week ago. Councilor Brude asked the clerk to contact our attorney and find out what sort of liability the city has. The residents that wanted the food shelf have not been in to check on the food shelf and any expired food. The council is still looking into opening the garage to make the library and food shelf more appealing. Past due water bills went out and were due at the end of December. There were some that paid, but the ones that owed \$1000 or more are still unpaid. Council asked Clerk Petty to bring a list of the accounts to the Strategic Planning meeting to discuss the next step and how to send the final notices. Clerk Petty suggested posting a notice on Facebook regarding past due notices. The council didn't think that would get much attention.

Councilor Brude would like to have a Strategic Planning meeting to discuss the installation of the water meters, sump pump and lead pipe inspection and other projects that will be happening this summer. The meeting will be January 22, 2024.

Clerk Petty showed council the logo wear she purchased from BStark a few months ago. The council discussed having safety vests with the city logo on when the water meter installation and sump pump inspections will be taking place. Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve the purchase of 6 safety vests, logo wear for Clerk Petty, and for Raece, Councilor Brude seconded; motion carried.

New business: 2024 Council Committees

Water, Sewer, Garbage –Amy Klammer, Scott Stoltzman

Streets, Sidewalks & Alleys –Robert Anderson, Scott Stoltzman

Recreation & Parks – Tom Froehlich, Jon Brude

Personnel Committee – Full Council

Administration Committee – Tom Froehlich, Jon Brude

Acting Mayor – Tom Froehlich

Fire Chief – Philip Klammer

Councilor Brude made a motion to approve the 2024 Council Committee list, Councilor Stoltzman seconded; motion carried.

Official Newspaper: Maple River Messenger

Official Bank: US Bank

Posting Places – City Hall, Good Thunder Post Office, Red Iron Mercantile, and City Website

Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve the official Newspaper, Official Bank and Posting places, Councilor Brude seconded; motion carried.

Councilor Brude stated the auditors requested the council give Clerk Petty the authority to pay bills up to \$3500 in between meetings. Councilor Brude made a motion to give Clerk Petty authority to pay bills up to \$3500 in between meetings, Councilor Froehlich seconded; motion carried.

Clerk Petty contacted Consolidated Communications regarding the internet options and costs. The city can increase the internet speed and lower the monthly cost by entering into a 1-year contract with Consolidated Communications. Councilor Froehlich made a motion to approve the upgrade in internet options, councilor Brude seconded; motion carried.

NetMedix came out and installed more RAM on the clerk's computer which will help with speed.

Miscellaneous business – Clerk Petty inquired about the evaluation and raise process. Councilor Brude received a few evaluation forms for review from COG. More discussion will be had at the Strategic Planning meeting. The MCFOA conference is coming up in March. Clerk Petty would like to go, Councilor Froehlich made a motion to have Clerk Petty attend, Councilor Stoltzman seconded; motion carried.

Mayor Anderson went over the letter the city received from Burkhardt & Burkhardt. They will now be charging a fee for technical support starting December 1<sup>st</sup>. Clerk Petty has reached out to them for support with various accounting questions.

Clerk Petty brought to council a request to use city hall Tuesday and Thursday from 9-10 for Stay Active & Independent for Life program. Council is unsure if there is enough room at city hall and with it being open, it may not be the best. Mayor Anderson offered a room at the Red Iron Mercantile. Clerk Petty will relay this information.

Councilor Froehlich made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilor Stoltzman seconded; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:04pm

Special Meeting January 22 at 7pm for Strategic Planning of City Projects

Next Regular Council Meeting February 12, 2024, at 7pm

Submitted Respectfully by:

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Susan Petty, City Clerk/Treasurer