

City of Hill City
Regular Council Meeting
August 10, 2016

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

- A. Deputy Mayor Nate Rollins called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. The following persons were present: Deputy Mayor Nate Rollins, Council members Dave Lange, Audrey Baratto and Tina Haugen. Mayor Larry Baker was absent.

2. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Haugen to pull the bill from Lange's Nursery and Landscaping for further discussion and approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Baratto. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

3. Public Forum

A. Harlan Kingsley

Harlan Kingsley from the ATV club was present requesting a small change on the current ATV trail out in the Quadna area due to the DNR logging off a storm damaged area in which the ATV trail currently runs through. Harlan requested that the ATV trail be rerouted for approximately 3 weeks **from** the area being logged off **to** the road past QMP and then alongside of the airport where the snowmobile trails runs. The County already has said that would then become the designated ATV trail while the Quadna area is being logged off.

Motion by Rollins to agree to the rerouting of the ATV trail while the Quadna area is being logged off, second by Baratto. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

B. Nancy Grabko-Small Cities Development Program Grant

Nancy Grabko was present to give the Council an update on the grant. The official contract is being mailed out and the effective date of the grant is August 8, 2016. So far there has been 15 fill applications turned in for the grant, the goal is to get 17. Inspections of the homes should be getting started within a week. Nancy also went through the grant funds disbursement procedures.

C. Tom Fasteland

Tom Fasteland said that he would like to see a Tree Board appointed so that tree grants could be applied for. It is late in the year now for any grants but would like to get everything together so that when the grants become available again they could be ready to apply for the grants. Also, this Tree Board could decide on how to distribute/plant the 1,000 trees that were donated to Hill City from the Itasca Greenhouse. Council member Haugen volunteered to be on the Tree Board and there was discussion on who else should be on it.

Motion made by Rollins to start a Tree Board and appointed Council members Haugen and Lange to the Board along with George Casper, Tom Fasteland and any other citizens that may be interested to be on the Tree Board, second by Baratto. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

4. Addition or Corrections to the Agenda

Langes Nursery and Landscaping bill and McNeil Excavating's billing were added as C. under New Business.

5. Reports

Maintenance/Water/Sewer/Parks/Airport/Streets

- Head Maintenance/Public Works, George Casper, wanted to thank everyone involved with the recent storm clean-up. He wanted to give the Fire Dept. a “big” thank you for helping in opening up the streets. Scheff Logging Co. was a huge help. The majority of the storm clean-up is completed with some small things to still be taken care of.
- Casper stated that plug ins for the generator at all of the lift stations so Bunes Septic Services had to come and pump the lift stations during the power outage.
- Casper also thanked all of the city staff and the citizens of Hill City for all of their help during the storm clean-up.

Fire Department

- Fire Chief Jeremy Nelson reported that July was a very busy month for the Fire Department with the 2 storms and other calls that came in. They had over 12 calls for the month.
- The Fire Dept. also is going to purchase a larger chainsaw. With the storm clean-up they discovered that a larger chainsaw was definitely needed.

Police Department

- Police Chief Josh Kimball reported that the Police Dept. also had a very busy July. Josh read off the stats for the month of July.
- Police Chief Kimball reported that the old squad car is ready to pick-up. It was taken in to have it gone over for needed repairs. The squad is a 2005 with over 100,000 miles on it and the repairs needed will be \$1,200.00. Kimball said that Baxter has a 2010 squad that they are going to be putting up for sale and Kimball is waiting a phone call from them with the price. The car would need to be re-decaled but a lot of the equipment can be transferred from the old squad car into this one.

Motion made by Lange to allow Kimball to purchase the squad for a price of up to \$5,500.00, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Mayor

Deputy Mayor Rollins said that everyone did a great job with storm clean-up, etc.

Clerk

- Clerk Diana McManigle said that they had received a letter from a citizen in regard to if the Council would credit her back her late fee from July. She admitted that she had forgot to pay the bill on time but with the storm on July 21, 2016 her roof was taken off and her and her 4 children had to move out and are homeless for the two months that it is going to take to repair her roof and the inside of her place. Her payment history shows that she has always been timely with her water/sewer bills.

Motion made by Baratto that due to the extreme circumstances of this situation the fee will be waived, second by Lange. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Clerk McManigle reported that on Aug. 17, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. there was going to be meeting in Aitkin for State Preliminary Damage Assessment for the storm of July 21, 2016. The city will be meeting with the State in regard to damages/repairs that the city needs. They want location of damage maps, photos, estimates, invoices, etc. Clerk McManigle said that she and George Casper would go to fill out the necessary paperwork. Council member Haugen also stated that she would go along also.
- Clerk McManigle reported that at 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 17, 2016 there is also a Storm Debriefing meeting in the Community Room with Aitkin County agencies and all department heads of the city. The Mayor and Council member Lange were invited to this meeting also. Aitkin County said that the City Council could hold a meeting with the citizens of Hill City in regard to storm assessment and such at a later date.
- Clerk McManigle reminded the Council that the **proposed** 2017 levy is due in September and asked them how they wanted to go about setting the proposed levy. Council stated that they would just set the

proposed levy amount without going through the full budget process at this time. The final levy amount is due in December at which time the full budget process will be done.

Council

- Council member Lange stated that were a couple of really good articles in Minnesota Cities publication that the League of Minnesota Cities puts out. The latest magazine had articles about community gardens, fund balances for reserve funds, etc.

- George Casper reported that there are 2 lift stations in town that are set-up and were pumped with the generator.

- The Hill Lake Park only lost about 5 trees from the storm.

- Casper said that Bear Park is now “bare”.

- Casper also reported that the backhoe windshield had been busted by a tree branch. The cost of new windshield is \$147.00 and Joe Major is going to install it when it arrives.

Committees: Personnel, Facilities/Equipment and Land Use

- There were no committee reports from the Personnel Committee, Facilities Committee or the Land Use Committee.

6. Old Business

A. Fire Hall Addition

Ron Saxton from the Fire Department gave an overview of the Fire Hall addition versus building a new building. The Fire Department feels that an addition is still the way to go. Council member Haugen said that she had researched grants for a new building and that they were far and few between. Since the city did not want to borrow \$400,000.00 to the Fire Dept. as it would leave the city’s reserves too low, Ron Saxton suggested that the Fire Dept. borrow \$200,000.00 from the city and borrow \$200,000.00 from Woodland Bank. The Fire Dept. has \$200,000.00 which they are also going to put into the project.

Motion made by Haugen for the city to borrow \$200,000.00 towards the Fire Hall addition and to borrow \$200,000.00 from Woodland Bank for the addition, second by Baratto. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

7. New Business

A. How many sites can someone reserve over the 4th of July 2017

The number of sites that someone can reserve over the 4th of July has become an issue. There was discussion of this and it was decided that one person can only rent three sites.

B. Approve Participation Agreements for Bargaining and Non-Bargaining Employees through the Operating Engineers Local #49 Health and Welfare Fund.

Motion made by Lange to approve the Participation Agreements for Bargaining and Non-Bargaining Employees through the Operating Engineers Local #49 Health and Welfare Fund, second by Rollins. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

C. Lange’s Nursery and Landscaping and McNeil Excavating bills

These bills were turned into the city for storm clean-up but Lange and McNeil were never authorized by the city to perform work on the city’s behalf. Council member Lange explained that Sheriff Scott Turner had told them to keep track of all of their expenses and turn them in. There is a meeting in Aitkin on Wednesday, Aug. 17th for the city to meet with the state for possible storm relief funds for extra expenses that the city had incurred from the recent storm. Clerk McManigle said that she would take Lange’s and McNeil bills to the meeting and see what can be done with them.

Misty Christensen was present and stated that McNeil Excavating had done damage to their mailbox and to one of their vehicles while they were cleaning up trees. Since McNeil was never hired by the city, they would need to deal with McNeil themselves.

Motion made by Rollins to table the Lange's Nursery and Landscaping and McNeil Excavating bills until there is some answer from the state, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor (Lange abstained).

Motion made by Lange to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m., second by Haugen.

Respectfully Submitted:

Diana McManigle, Clerk/Treasurer

Nate Rollins, Deputy Mayor