

**City of Hill City
December 8, 2015**

Truth in Taxation Meeting

Mayor Larry Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present: Nate Rollins, Audrey Baratto, Tina Haugen, Dave Lange and Larry Baker.

There was discussion on raising the 2016 levy or not. The city's tax levy has not been raised in seven (7) years and some of the council felt that it should be raised some to alleviate a large raise down the road. Others on the council wanted to leave the tax levy the same as the past seven years, and use reserve money to cover the shortfall in 2016 and to see how next year goes before raising taxes.

There were some citizens present that felt that the city should abolish the Police Dept. to save money. They also felt that the city needs to be "cleaned up" as it reflects on property values. There were other citizens present that felt that lakeshore taxes were too high. Their taxes in the city were approximately double of the taxes in Hill Lake Township. There was talk of possible forming a Lake Association to deal with this.

Motion made by Baker to approve the tax levy for 2016 at \$243,922.45 (the same as it has been for the past seven (7) years), second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting yes.

Motion made by Rollins to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting

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

A. Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

B. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. The following persons were present: Mayor Larry Baker, Council Members Tina Haugen, Audrey Baratto, Dave Lange and Nate Rollins

Staff present: George Casper, Diana McManigle and Michael Boleman.

2. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Rollins to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

3. Public Forum

A. Jonathan Bishop – Water/Sewer at 331 Stoner Ave.

Jonathan Bishop was present to request that the billing be dropped on the house he bought from Lonnie Lee and the sewer line is disconnected 4 feet from the house and there is no bathroom or other facilities for the water. Jonathan said that the Fire Dept. was going to burn the house down for him as soon as they were able to do so.

Motion made by Lange to drop the billing on the property located at 331 Stoner Ave. for 6 months since there were no water/sewer facilities in the house and the house is going to be used as training in a controlled burn by the Fire Dept., second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

4. Addition or Corrections to the Agenda

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

5. Reports

Maintenance/Water/Sewer/Parks/Airport/Streets

- George Casper reported that they are still fighting a lift station that keeps getting plugged up. It has been getting plugged up every month needing the pump to be pulled and cleaned out. Public Works is trying to pin point where exactly the problem is coming from as they know that it is adult depends that is causing the plug-ups on the lift station.

- Casper stated that he wanted to start hauling fill into the park for the new RV pads this year yet. He had gotten verbal hauling quotes from three different individuals. The quotes were: \$12.00 per yard from Craig McNeil, \$6.75 per yard from Mike's Bobcat and \$6.50 per yard from Lange's Nursery. Casper figured it would be for approximately 300 yards. Casper stated that he would also like to rent a skid steer for a week when the fill is hauled in.

Motion made by Baker to approve Casper having the fill brought in this year and to rent a skid steer, second by Rollins. Motion carried with all members but Lange voting in favor. Lange abstained from voting.

- Casper said that he had gotten the streets graded as it was snowing and that had taken care of most of the pot holes.
- Casper said that he and Pat Jordan had been putting up Holiday lights and had gotten the snowmen put up in Bear Park.

Fire Department

- Assistant Fire Chief Michael Boleman said that there had need a couple of calls last month.
- Asst. Chief Boleman said that the Fire Department had done elections for officers for next year that they wanted the council to approve. The voted in officers were: Jeremy Nelson for Fire Chief, Michael Boleman for Assistant Fire Chief, Alan Myers, Greg Payment, Ron Saxton and George Casper for Captains. Also, Boleman said that Fire Chief Nelson had made a mistake at the Nov. council meeting and that the wage for the Asst. Fire Chief should be \$75.00 per month and not \$50.00 per month. Clerk McManigle stated that it had been brought to her attention that there was an issue with the voting on the Assistant Fire Chief position. There had been a tie for that position between Adam Johnson and Michael Boleman and that the fire department just did a re-vote for the Asst. Fire Chief position just with the Fire Dept. members that were present, not using the absentee ballots. Clerk McManigle had contacted the League of Minnesota Cities who stated that this did not sound right, you normally cannot "throw out" the absentee ballots and re-vote. Clerk McManigle also has a call into the City Attorney for his recommendation on this.

Motion made by Baker to approve all of the Fire Dept. officers except the Asst. Fire Chief and table the Asst. Fire Chief position until the Jan. 2016 meeting pending the City Attorney's determination, second by Rollins. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Police Department

No one from the Police Department was present.

Mayor

- Mayor Baker said that everyone was doing a nice job.

Clerk

• Clerk McManigle wanted to know which of the Council wanted to go to the Experienced Officials Conference Jan. 22nd and 23rd in Brooklyn Center. Haugen, Lange and Rollins want to go. Baker needs to check his schedule and Baratto has prior commitments and cannot go at this time.

Council

• Council member Haugen had some concerns and wanted hours and scheduling for the Police Department monitored more closely as she has been receiving phone calls in regard to the Police Department.

Motion made by Haugen to mandate the part-time Police Officers work on Holidays and if Chief Madsen is called in that it has to be verified with Aitkin, second by Baker. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Committees

There was nothing reported

6. Old Business

A. Union Contract

Motion made by Rollins to approve the 2016 through 2018 Union Contract as presented, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

B. Chief of Police Contract

Motion made by Rollins to approve the 2016 through 2018 Chief of Police Contract as presented, second by Baratto. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

7. New Business

A. Approve Resolution #2015-20 Finalizing 2016 Tax Levy and 2016 Budget

Motion made by Baratto to approve Resolution #2015-20 Finalizing 2016 Tax Levy and 2016 Budget, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

B. Pay raise for part-time Police Officers

Police Chief Madsen had given the Council a letter requesting a pay raise for the part-time Police Officers as they are at \$14.00 per hour and have not had a raise in 5-6 years. Madsen stated that he would like to see the part-time Officers get \$16.00 per hour, but he had budgeted for \$15.00 per hour. There was discussion amongst the Council on this.

Motion made by Lange to approve an increase to \$16.00 per hour for the part-time Officers effective January 1, 2016, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Motion made by Rollins to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m., second by Baratto..

Respectfully Submitted

Diana McManigle, Clerk/Treasurer

Larry Baker, Mayor

