

**City of Hill City
Regular Council Meeting
February 9, 2016**

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

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

2. Consent Agenda

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

3. Public Forum

A. John McManigle

John McManigle was present to explain a situation that happened out at Quadna last weekend that he felt was a safety issue and he didn't feel the situation was handled properly by the Hill City Police Department. Police Chief Madsen said that if John wanted to file a complaint against a Peace Officer, John would have to file it in writing for investigation. John stated that he did not want to file a formal complaint against anyone but he did have a couple of other issues with the department that we would like to talk to someone about. Mayor Baker stated that he was the Public Safety Commissioner and that he would be the one that John would talk to.

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 said that they have been working on the insulation and tin in the Maintenance shop. Casper said that he would like to add another layer of plywood to the floor in the mezzanine of the shop building for more strength. He also would like to "box in" the railing with plywood.
- The transducer had gone out in the ground storage water tank that was replaced at a cost of approximately \$900.00.
- The City Hill City is being given an award for turning in all paperwork on time and having no violations in a year for sewer. 285 other facilities in Minnesota also received this award. George Casper, Pat Jordan and Dave Lange will be going to Brooklyn Park to receive this award on March 24th.
- The Lions Club annual Fishing Contest is this coming Saturday and Maintenance will be plowing the Hill Lake Park. There will be **no** parking on the lake this year.
- There will be an inspection on the airport coming up.

Fire Department

- Assistant Fire Chief Boleman reported that there had been one call last month. He also reported that the ice rescue suits had arrived that they had ordered.

Police Department

- Police Chief Madsen stated he had been working on a couple of bigger cases.
- Madsen stated he did not get the PD report done for the month of January.
- Police Chief Madsen said that he would like to take 4 or 5 days off towards the end of March.

- Police Chief Madsen said that he would like to attend the Chief's Conference in St. Cloud April 17th through April 20th and the money for the conference can come out of the Drug Fund.

Motion made by Baker to approve Chief Madsen attending the Chief's Conference in St. Cloud April 17th through April 20th, second by Lange. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Council member Lange asked Madsen if he had heard any more from Remer in regard to the Hill City Police Dept. providing some coverage in Remer. Madsen said that Remer was still trying to figure things out. Council member Lange told Madsen that he should get on the Hill Lake Township agenda in regard to proving some coverage to them also.

Mayor

- Mayor Baker said that he was very proud of George Casper and Pat Jordan for getting the wastewater award for having all of their reports in on time and having no violations.

Clerk

- A letter was sent to City Hall from Braden Moos in regard to waiving a \$100.00 turnoff/on charge for an unpaid water/sewer bill. The Council discussed this and said that they cannot set a precedent by waiving the turnoff/on charges for nonpayment.
- Northland Securities had sent the city a proposal to refinance the city's Bond on the sewer pond. Currently the city is paying 4.375 % interest and there is 29 years left on the loan. The rates have been dropping and are currently at 3.4%. With the cost involved with the refinancing, the city could still save over \$100,000.00 in the 29 years left on the loan. The process would take approximately 1 ½ months. Northland Securities had sent a Letter of Engagement to be signed so that they could begin the process of the refinancing. The Letter of Engagement is non-binding and the City would be under no obligation to undertake the issue. The letter just gives Northland Securities permission to start the process.

Motion made by Lange to approve Clerk McManigle to sign the Letter of Engagement with Northland Securities, second by Baker. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Clerk McManigle let the Council know that her and Deputy Clerk Meyer had been going through all of the past records of the city (since 1910) and "cleaning house" with the new records retention schedule. George Casper and Pat Jordan had been burning all of the old records that did not need to be kept.
- Clerk McManigle also reminded the Council that the regular Council meeting in March needed to be changed from March 8th to March 9th because of Hill Lake Township elections being held in the Community Room on March 8th.

Council

- Council member Lange reported that he and Council members Haugen and Rollins had all attended the Experienced Officials Conference in January. Lange said the conference was all based around "love your city". Lange stated that different cities were stating that they had a walking/biking trail in their town, other cities had a Vets Memorial Park, some cities had a lake, some cities had access to snowmobile/ATV trails, etc. Lange and Haugen said they were pretty proud of Hill City as Hill City had all of the things that most all cities only had one thing to attract people to the city. Haugen said that the conference was really quite educational.

Committees

- George Casper stated that he would like to see the Welcome signs on the edges of town lit up at night. Casper said that he could put LED solar lights on each sign for approximately \$300.00 each. There is enough money in the Lodging Fund for this but Dan Kingsley thought that since the Lions Club had

their sign on the Welcome sign that maybe they would be willing to donate some money towards this also.

6. Old Business

A. Animal Control

Police Chief Madsen stated that Aitkin is interested in working with Hill City on a per animal basis. They do not accept cats though. They charge \$40.00 for an animal pickup (in Aitkin) and \$20.00 a day for the dogs stay. They are a “no kill” shelter. If Hill City goes with them for Animal control, we would have to take the dogs to them.

B. Campground Host/Park Attendant – Approve Contract

A Hill Lake Park Campground Host Contract was developed and had been run through the City Attorney for approval (which he approved). The one thing in the contract that needs to be changed is that the city will be putting the Host’s liability insurance under the city. LMCIT stated that we cannot do this for a contracted position. This issue will be checked into further and the contract will be brought back for approval at the March 9th Council meeting.

C. WiFi in Hill Lake Park

This was tabled until the March 9, 2016 meeting.

7. New Business

A. Possible expansion of Fire Hall

Ron Saxton from the Fire Department was present to get approval from the Council to have an Architectural Plan Drawing and Bore Samples done for 50’ x 60’ expansion on the existing Fire Hall. There were quotes to do the Plan Drawings of \$25,000.00 from SEH, \$15,000.00 from Doerr Architectural and \$7,500.00 from Baratto Brothers. The cost of the soil borings from Braun Intertec would be \$4,350.00. The Plan Drawings and borings need to be done before the project could be put out for bids. There was discussion on this and Council member Lange had some possible issues with storm water runoff, parking issues, etc.

Motion made by Haugen to approve the Fire Department to spent up to \$14,000.00 to get an Architectural Plan Drawing done and to have the soil borings done, second by Baker. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

B. Darrell Norell late fees

An owner from the Quadna Townhouse Association had been into City Hall and wanted it brought to the Council to see about waiving the late fee on Darrell Norell’s sewer bill as he had been moved to the Cities and has been given approximately 3 weeks to live. The Council felt terrible about not being able to waive the late fee but it would be setting a precedent and there would be too many variables on when and when not to waive late fees.

Motion made by Baker to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m., second by Haugen.

Respectfully Submitted:

Diana McManigle, Clerk/Treasurer

Larry Baker, Mayor