

**City of Hill City
January 12, 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, Audrey Baratto and Nate Rollins. Dave Lange was absent.

Staff present: George Casper, Diana McManigle, Jeff Madsen, Jeremy Nelson and Michael Boleman.

2. Consent Agenda

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

3. Public Forum

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 the 1 ton needs new rear tires.
- Casper stated that with the cold weather one resident had frozen up and the meter had frozen.
- Casper said that Rural Water gets new locators every three years. New locators cost \$4,000.00 and Rural Water had a used one for sale for \$1,250.00. Casper stated that he had \$1,700.00 in the budget for other equipment and it could be used to purchase the used locator.

Motion made by Rollins to approve Casper to purchase the used locator for \$1,250.00, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- George stated that the one sewer pump is still plugging up.
- The dirt for the new RV sites has been hauled in. Casper explained that it took 172 yards more than the 300 yards that was previously approved.
- Casper asked for permission from the Council to pursue an OSHA grant. The grant could go up to \$10,000.00 with matching funds. Casper said that he would like to look into getting a Tommy Gate for the truck and some other items that would make the city more OSHA compliant. The Council approved Casper pursuing this grant.

Fire Department

- Fire Chief Jeremy Nelson reported that the Fire Dept. had decided to pursue the purchase of water rescue suits and accessories at a cost of approximately \$3,600.00 that can be paid for out of the Fire Dept. Equipment fund.

Motion made by Rollins to approve up to \$4,000.00 for the Fire Dept. to purchase water rescue suits and accessories, second by Baker. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Fire Chief Nelson told the Council that the Fire Dept. had budgeted for 4 sets of turnout gear for approximately \$8,000.00 and wanted permission to purchase the gear.

Motion made by Rollins to approve the purchase of 4 sets of turnout gear, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- The issue with the tied vote for Assistant Fire Chief was resolved with Adam Johnson withdrawing from the election. Michael Boleman is the Assistant Fire Chief.

Police Department

- Police Chief Madsen had given the Council the Police Department annual report for 2015 and explained that the report is not 100% accurate as a new system had gone into place half way through 2015 so everything is not showing on the annual report.
- Madsen explained that Hill City was spending approximately \$2,300.00 a year on an Animal Control Facility Agreement with the City of Grand Rapids. In the past two years Hill City has only taken 3 dogs and 2 cats to the facility. Chief Madsen felt that this cost was too high and he had been checking into a cheaper way to house animals running at large. The City of Aitkin was willing to help Hill City out until Spring at which time Chief Madsen suggested the City building an 8' x 10' building that could be divided in two to house two animals at once. According to the state the enclosure just needs to be a shelter from the elements with a roof. Heated mats would provide warmth and heated water dishes would keep the water from freezing. The Star of the North Humane Society could help out by supplying blankets and food. Madsen thought that this enclosure could be located out at the airport so that barking dogs would not disturb anyone in Hill City. There was discussion on this and Madsen was to contact the City of Aitkin to see if they would be willing to house our animals at a fee versus renewing our contract with the City of Grand Rapids. Council member Haugen was also going to talk to other kennels to see if there some other options that Hill City could look into.

Mayor

- Mayor Baker said that we are just coming into the coldest part of the year and for everyone to keep up the good work.

Clerk

- Clerk McManigle let the Council know that she had completed all of the month end, quarter end and year reports that were due. Also, the Pay Equity report that is due every three years has also been completed and submitted.

Council

The Council had nothing to report.

1st Responders

- Police Chief Madsen reported that there is talk of combining the 1st Responders with the Fire Department. There are a lot of things that need to be looked into so it will probably take some time to get this done. To date, Meds 1 has been donating all of the training for the 1st Responders so this would

need to be checked into also to see if they would continue to do this. (The original training for a 1st Responder is \$600.00 per person which Meds 1 has been donating).

Committees

There was nothing reported

6. Old Business

A. Asst. Fire Chief

This was taken care of under Fire Dept. reports.

7. New Business

A. Approve Resolution #2016-02 – Setting 2016 Appointments

Council member Rollins had this item moved from the Consent Agenda to New Business to discuss if anything needed to be changed from prior years. Rollins said that he would be interested in the position of Acting Mayor if Council member Baratto wanted to give the position up. Baratto said that she did not care. Mayor Baker then asked Council member Haugen if she might be interested in the Acting Mayor position. Haugen said to go ahead and let Rollins have the position. Mayor Baker then asked the Council if there was anything else that they would like to see changed. Everyone said they were happy with the Commissioner appointments. Rollins suggested checking into pricing on Auditors. It will stay as it is for this year and then RFP's will be put out next fall for an Auditor.

Motion made by Baker to approve Resolution #2016-02 Setting the 2016 Appointments with the Change of Acting Mayor from Baratto to Rollins and everything else remaining the same, second by Rollins. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

B. Motion acknowledging Haypoint Jackpine Snowmobile Club as owner of new groomer being purchased with the City of Hill City as fiscal agent only.

Motion made by Rollins that the Haypoint Jackpine Snowmobile Club is the owner of the new groomer being purchased and the City of Hill City is the fiscal agent only, second by Baratto. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

C. Animal Control Agreement w/Grand Rapids

This was discussed under Police Department reports.

D. Campground Host/Park Attendant

Council member Haugen said that she would like to advertise for a Park Host that would have a seasonal site with free hook-ups and a \$50.00 cell phone reimbursement. There was also a sample Park & Campground Manager Contract from Akeley that spelled out that the position was a contracted position and not an employee of the city, the duties of the Park Manager, pay, etc. This contract would need to be revised to fit the Hill City Park position.

Motion made by Rollins to advertise for a Campground Host/Park Attendant, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

E. Wi-fi in Park

Council member Rollins said that they needed to check into getting wi-fi in the park again especially if the city gets a fulltime Campground Host for taking reservations and running credit cards. This is just “food for thought” right now and will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

F. Ray Sport & Cycle late fee

Ray Sport and Cycle had requested that a late fee be reversed from their water/sewer bill and that they would send in a letter stating the reason. Nothing was received from them, but the Council said that they were going to stick with the policy of not reversing late payment fees.

George Casper requested that a meeting of the Park Committee be set up to go over things before the advertising of the contracted Park Manager. Council member Haugen said that was a good idea and that her and George would get together with Deputy Clerk Meyer for a meeting.

Motion made by Baker to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m. second by Rollins. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Respectfully Submitted

Diana McManigle, Clerk/Treasurer

Larry Baker, Mayor