

City of Hill City
Regular Council Meeting
July 14, 2015

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 Nate Rollins, Dave Lange, Tina Haugen and Audrey Baratto.

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

2. Consent Agenda

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

3. Public Forum

A.

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 had been working on getting the tin up in the maintenance shop.
- Casper requested replacing the leaf blower and the older weed whip. He also wants to buy a new sprayer for weeds.
- The water project is completed and the tower has been cleaned inside and out. After the tower was cleaned the hatch has been leaking. Casper contacted the cleaning company and they said they would be back and repair it. It was decided to withhold the payment of the tower cleaning until the hatch is repaired. Casper also reported that the water tower needs to be painted within the next 5 years.
- The hydrant at the park has been repaired.
- The sewer line on Ione has been repaired and there were two quotes on having the sewer line lined versus replacing the line. Subsurface, who was recommended by MN Rural Water, bid the lining at \$39,750.00 and HydroKlean, who was recommended by City Engineer Bob Beaver, bid the lining at \$11,571.80.

Motion made by Rollins to approve HydroKlean to reline the Ione Ave. sewer line, second by Baker. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Lake Country Power is replacing some 3 phase lines down Hwy 200 and up Main Street. The lift station down by Hwy 200 had to be placed on a generator while Lake Country Power was changing lines. Lake Country Power is now working on the line on Main Street and will need to put lift station # 1 on a generator when they switch the lines. Lift station # 1 does not have a plug to plug in a generator. Casper felt that he could get a plug put on the lift station for under \$2,500.00.

Motion made by Baker to approve up to \$2,500.00 to put a plug on lift station #1, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Casper reported that everything went pretty good over the 4th of July in the Hill Lake Park with the exception of a confrontation between a camper and the park attendant. There was also a complaint made in person to City Hall and City Hall also received a complaint in an email. These complaints were all on different subjects but were in regard of the park attendant. There have also been some consistent complaints from other campers also. The Council directed George Casper, supervisor of the park attendant, to have a “sit-down” with the attendant and once again go over the times that she needs to be in the park and a reminder that she needs to be courteous to everyone. If Casper is unable to resolve the issues with the park attendant then the Council will take whatever action is necessary.
- The Hill Lake Park is also short on parking. Casper showed the Council on a map of the park where he would like to put in a small parking lot to hold approximately 4 to 5 vehicles/trailers.

Motion made by Baratto to put in a small parking lot at the cost of \$1,000.00, second by Haugen.
Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Casper also reported that he had gotten the site markers in at the Hill Lake Park marking out each site.
- The repairs on the walking trail were done before the 4th of July and the only thing left to complete is to bring in some black dirt and seed along the repaired areas.
- The chloride was put down on all of the street within the city before the 4th of July at a cost of \$3,600.00. The cost of chloride for 1 mile of street is normally \$3,600.00. The city has the chloride put on the streets in a “lighter” coating which reduces the price to the city.

Fire Department

- Assistant Fire Chief Boleman reported that there was 1 call last month that was cancelled before anyone reached the fire hall. The Fire Dept. has purchased 6 new air bottles, the painting of the fire hall is about done and the new lockers are in.

Police Department

- Police Chief Madsen stated that the Mud Nationals and the 4th of July holiday went well.
- Madsen feels that Aitkin County needs to be petitioned to allow ATV’s on Co. Rd. 74 and on Summit Ave. This is something that the ATV club could do.
- Madsen also had a bill that he had not turned to be paid in the amount of \$504.00 for DARE tee shirts and wanted permission from the Council to have Clerk McManigle pay the bill.

Motion made by Rollins approving the Clerk to pay the bill for the DARE tee shirts, second by Haugen.
Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Chief Madsen also let the Council know that he had purchased a laptop computer for under \$750.00 on the PD credit card that can come out of the drug fund.

Motion made by Baker to approve the purchase of the laptop computer and to take the funds from the Drug Fund, second by Baratto. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Council member Baratto stated that they have missed receiving the PD monthly reports for some time now. Madsen said that he would start getting them to the Council.

Mayor

Mayor Baker stated we had survived another 4th of July and that everyone had done an excellent job.

Clerk

- Clerk McManigle stated that the city had received the 1st 1/2 of the levy on June 25th.
- McManigle also let the Council know that the Deputy Clerk was on vacation for two weeks.

Council

There was no report from the Council.

Committees: Personnel, Facilities/Equipment and Land Use

Land Use permits have been coming in and everything was going well.

6. Old Business

A. WiFi in Hill Lake Park

SciCable has not been returning calls made in reference to putting WiFi (internet) into the Hill Lake Park. Clerk McManigle was asked to get ahold of CenturyLink to see what it would cost to get internet access to the Bathhouse with a modem.

B. Trail Info

Deputy Clerk Meyer has not had the time to get down to the Maintenance shop and look for the Trail Project box to find out the contact for the walking trail to see if a trail can be built alongside the walking trail for motorized vehicles.

C. Quadna motel/campground reports & 2013 lift station numbers

The Council wanted the occupancy of the Quadna campground and the Quadna motel for a one year period to help determine proper sewer rates. Currently the Quadna motel is being charged \$420.00 per month for sewer only (\$5,040.00 per year) for 20 rooms. For a one year period, it was rented out 650 nights out of 7,300 possible nights it could have been rented. This figures out to \$7.75 per night per rented room for only sewer. The Quadna campground is being charged \$645.00 per month for sewer only (\$7,740.00) for 31 camp sites. For a one season period (April 25, 2014 thru Oct. 10, 2014 – 168 days), there were 833 nights of rentals out of a possible 5,208 rentable nights. This figures out to \$9.29 per night per rented camp site. Currently a residential home is paying \$46.50 per day for sewer only (\$604.50 per year) occupied 365 days. This figures out to \$1.66 per night for sewer. George Casper had also supplied the Council with the number of hours that the lift station pumps ran at both the Quadna Lodge and at the Quadna motel in an attempt to help split the costs of the Lodge, campground and motel. The problem with this is that the lift station that pumps at the motel also includes the campground, laundry building, 200's timeshare units, 600's timeshare units and Roll-in docks. The Council wants to table this until clarification can be gotten from the City Attorney if they could charge the campground and motel a sewer rate of \$46.50 for every five units if this could have any "backlash" from past billings, etc.

D. New ordinance to replace Ord. #126

Council member Rollins stated that the city needs an ordinance stating that manufactures homes (or stick built homes) that are moved into Hill City must be built during or after 1976. Aluminum wiring was no longer used and also this was when mobile homes were being built to new and higher HUD safety standards.

E. Cost of additional RV sites in Hill Lake Park

The city is looking into adding more RV sites at the Hill Lake Park, some with full hook-ups (water, sewer & electric) and some with partial hook-ups (water & electric). George Casper to figure out how many more sites that can be placed in the park and to get estimates on the cost of these new sites.

7. New Business

A. Park Grant Denial – do we want anything that the city had applied for?

A list of the items that was included in the grant was present and the Council talked about items on the list that the city would still like to get for the park even though the city did not get the DNR grant applied for. Casper is to check with the school to see if the school would build some picnic tables for the city if the supplied the lumber. Casper also to check on the price of more trash receptacles and on the price of a larger, nicer grill for the pavilion.

Casper also asked the Council if he could hire the tree trimmer to come back for 2 to 3 hours to trim the trees that they were unable to trim when they were here because there were campers in the camp sites where the trees needed trimming. The Council agreed to this.

B. Quadna unit #309 – late fees reversal

The Quadna Townhouse Association had foreclosed on townhouse unit #309 and was forced to write off over \$38,000.00 for assessments and related costs that were unpaid. They wrote the city a letter asking if the city would be willing to remove the late fees from this account. The Council discussed this and decided to deny the request due to the fact that the city has not removed late fees in the past for foreclosures and did not want to set a precedent to do so in the future.

Motion made by Baratto to deny the request of removing the late fee for townhouse unit #309, second by Rollins. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

C. Approve Part 1 of the Wellhead Protection Plan

Motion made by Lange to approve Part 1 of the Wellhead Protection Plan, second by Rollins. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Also, there will be a Public Hearing on September 8, 2015 on the Wellhead Protection Plan.

D. 2015 Water Project – Pay Estimate #1

Motion made by Baker to approve Pay Estimate #1 – FINAL with a Change Order totaling \$55,254.95 payable to Anderson Brothers Construction, second by Haugen. Motion carried with Haugen voting yes, Rollins voting yes, Baker voting yes, Baratto voting yes and Lange abstaining.

Motion made by Rollins to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m., second by Haugen.

Respectfully Submitted

Diana McManigle, Clerk/Treasurer

Larry Baker, Mayor