

City of Hill City
Regular Council Meeting
March 11, 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 Dave Lange, Tina Haugen and Audrey Baratto. Nate Rollins was absent.

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

2. Consent Agenda

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

3. Public Forum

- A. Frank Scherf, TZD Liaison for the N.E. Region of the Dept. of Public Safety was present and gave an overview of the TZD (Towards Zero Deaths) program. The TZD program is a new version of the Safe and Sober program. There are four regions within the state of Minnesota and every year each Region nominates two police departments as Outstanding Law Enforcement Agencies. This year the Hill City Police Department was awarded a new Stalker XLR LIDAR for being one of the two Outstanding Law Enforcement Agencies in the N.E. region.
- B. Neal Roettger was present with a request that the city consider having non-motorized watercraft rentals at the Hill Lake Beach. The rentals could include canoes, kayaks, paddleboats, etc. This was discussed and Council member Haugen said that she would check into this along with lifejackets.

4. Addition or Corrections to the Agenda

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

5. Reports

Maintenance/Water/Sewer/Parks/Airport/Streets

- Head Maint./Public Works, George Casper, reported that he had gotten a quote on the cost of materials to insulate the Maintenance Shop. The total cost for materials from Latvala Lumber came to \$3,177.68. Casper stated that he and Pat Jordan (Maint. Asst.) would be doing the work of installing the insulation.

Motion made by Baratto to approve purchasing the materials to insulate the Maintenance Shop, second by Lange. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Casper reported everything has been fine with the water. There has been one freeze-up where the people had been gone for one week and the water froze.
- A couple of the sewer pumps have been running an extra hour a day due to the infiltration from the snow melting.
- Casper reported there is a free Playground Safety, Compliance and Maintenance Seminar in Mt. Iron on April 8, 2015 that he would like to attend. Eric Hill from ISD #2 will also be attending. Council member Haugen said that she would like to attend and also Deputy Clerk Tami Meyer would like to attend. Due to the fact that Clerk McManigle will be on vacation on April 8th, the City Hall office will be closed that day.

- The city has received the 2015 Clarke Mosquito Control Contract. The city usually only has the Hill Lake Park sprayed once a year, but it was discussed to have it sprayed twice this year.

Motion made by Haugen to have the Hill Lake Park sprayed for mosquitos on June 1st and on July 1st this year, second by Lange. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Council member Haugen would like to see what the revenues versus the expenses are for the Hill Lake Park. Clerk McManigle will supply this to the Council and it will be discussed at the April 14, 2015 meeting.
- Casper stated that as soon as the roads dry up some more, he will be working on the potholes.

Fire Department

- Assistant Fire Chief Boleman reported that there had been one call last month. The Fire Dept. is getting the trucks ready for grass fires. Next month all of the trucks should be getting certified.
- Council member Lange stated that burning restrictions had started today and you need to get a permit if you want to burn.
- Boleman also reported that the Fire Relief's annual fish fry is April 18, 2015.

Police Department

- Police Chief Madsen reported that there is letter from Attorney Haberkorn that a Council member has received and that everything in the letter has been dealt with.
- Madsen stated that the Hill City Police Dept. needs training on the use of the new Stalker XLR LIDAR handheld unit that the department was just awarded. The training is free from the State Patrol and Madsen would like to hold a training on it in the Community Room. Madsen will also be holding a training class on car seats and a liquor servers class this year. Madsen stated that he would like to purchase a screen projector to have for these classes. The screen projector will cost between \$500.00 and \$800.00 and could come out of the Drug Fund. Council member Lange felt that since the screen projector will only be used a couple of times a year that possibly Madsen could talk to the school and partner with them. Council member Haugen suggested that Madsen check into leasing a screen projector for the times that he may need one.
- Madsen stated that the annual Chiefs Conference is in April and would like to attend. The total cost of room and registration is approximately \$670.00, which can come out of the Drug Fund.

Motion made by Haugen to allow Madsen to attend the Chiefs Conference in April, second by Lange. Motion carried with all member present voting in favor.

Mayor

- Mayor Baker stated that winter is almost over thanked everyone for all of their hard work.

Clerk

- Clerk McManigle gave a report on the credit/debit cards usage since the city begin accepting them in December, 2014. There were 8 cards used in Dec., 11 used in Jan., and 17 used in Feb. There currently are 4 recurring accounts.
- Clerk McManigle stated that Lori Jellison had contacted City Hall again about her giving the city the Kendrick property. The Council had discussion on this and told Clerk McManigle to contact Lori Jellison and tell her that the city was not interested in the property.
- Phillip Gerber, who was unable to attend the meeting this evening, had contacted Clerk McManigle in regard to finding out from the Council if the city would be willing to do a tax abatement on an addition that he hopes to add onto his existing business. He wants to put up a 30' x 80' addition to manufacture hydraulic power units. Phillip has been meeting with Ross Wagner and a couple of Commissioners from Aitkin and it sounds like Aitkin County may be willing to do a tax abatement on their share of the taxes for this addition also.

Motion made by Baker to approve a tax abatement of the city's portion of the taxes for Phillip Gerber's business, Northland Hydraulics, addition, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor of.

- Clerk McManigle let everyone know about the Constitution Alive sessions that Lisa and Pat Jordan are facilitating at the Hill City School. These are free to everyone and anyone wanting to attend needs to sign up with Community Ed. At the school. Dates and times are posted in the entry way of City Hall.

George Casper had just received a phone call about another water line that was frozen. The people had just been gone overnight and this was a house that has never froze before. Casper asked the Council if the Council wanted to have the residents run their water again or just on a case by case basis. At this time the Council elected to deal with the water freeze ups on a case by case basis.

Council

- Council member Lange reported that he had attended "Day on the Hill" at the Capitol with the Landscapers Association on Wednesday, March 4th and "Day on the Hill" Thursday, March 5th for townships, cities and schools. He said it was quite informative.
- Council member Baratto said that she was upset because a staff member from Representative Nolan was at the school last week and no citizens except Ben and Audrey Baratto were there. Council member Baratto said that in the future when "political figures" come to Hill City to meet with the citizens, that notifications need to be posted so that people know about it.

1st Responders

There was no report from the 1st Responders

6. Old Business

A. Insulation quotes for Maintenance Shop

This was addressed previously in the meeting

B. Kendrick House – Lori Jellison

This was addressed previously in the meeting

7. New Business

A. Council pay for Workshops or just for Special Meetings

Clerk McManigle wanted clarification of if the Council got \$25.00 for Workshops or just for Special Meetings. The Council said that they would get \$25.00 just for Special meeting but not for Workshops.

B. Park Attendant Job Description

Council member Haugen presented the Council with the Park Attendant's job description that she had made a couple of changes to for the Council to approve. Haugen also wanted to know if the Council wanted to advertise for this position or just offer it to the person who has done it for that past couple of years. There was discussion on this.

Motion made by Baratto to approve the changes to the Park Attendant's job description and to advertise for this position, second by Lange. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

C. Approve Liquor license for Harry's Midtown Liquor LLC

Motion made by Baker to approve liquor licenses for on sale, off sale, Sunday and 2:00 a.m. for Harry's Midtown Liquor LLC upon a successful background check and all necessary paper work is completed, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

D. Clarke Mosquito Control Contract

This was addressed previously in the meeting

E. Letter of support for Villa I and Villa Dock Owners Associations

The Villa I Association and the Villa Dock Owners Association are purchasing land from Partners in Action (Quadna) and need a letter of support from the city to split a parcel of land and obtain new parcel numbers from Aitkin County.

Motion made by Baker to have the city attorney draw up a letter of support for the Villa I and the Villa Dock Owners Association to split a parcel of land and obtain new parcel numbers from Aitkin County, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Motion made by Baratto to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m., second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

Diana McManigle, Clerk/Treasurer

Larry Baker, Mayor