

**City of Hill City  
Regular Council Meeting  
November 10, 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 Tina Haugen, Audrey Baratto, Dave Lange and Nate Rollins

Staff present: George Casper, Diana McManigle, Jeff Madsen, Michael Boleman and Tom Fasteland. (Jeremy Nelson arrived at approximately 6:30 p.m.)

Public present: Neal Roettger, Nancy Grabko, Andy Nintzel and Britta Arendt.

**2. Police Chief Madsen**

Police Chief Madsen had to attend the Council meeting in Remer at 7:00 p.m. so he had asked to “move up” on the agenda.

- Remer had expressed an interest in possibly having the Hill City Police Dept. working approximately 10 hr. per week in Remer to enforce their city ordinances. (Madsen had met with Remer’s Clerk and the Remer Mayor had given Hill City a letter about this). Madsen had contacted the League of Minnesota Cities and said that they had sample contracts for this sort of thing. Madsen felt that a committee should be formed with 2 of Hill City’s Council members, 2 of Remer’s Council members and the Clerks from both cities to see if this is feasible and to work some details.
- Madsen gave the Council a copy of the Police monthly report.
- Madsen also let the Council know that with contract for the Police Chief that Madsen just wants it to follow suit with what the rest of Hill City employees receive in their contract in the Union.

**3. Consent Agenda**

Motion made by Rollins to approve the Consent Agenda noting that Resolution #2015-118 really is #2015-18, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Council member Rollins and Mayor Baker agreed to be on the Police Department committee in working with the city of Remer.

**4. Public Forum**

**A. Andy Nintzel & Britta Arndt – Grand Rapids Herald Review**

Andy Nintzel and Britta Arndt from the Grand Rapids Herald Review were present to introduce themselves to the Council. They stated that they wanted to improve communications with Hill City and to try and get more coverage for the Hill City area. Andy and Britta will be serving as the “point people” for the Herald Review and Hill City. They would like to be notified of any items that are of interest, such as the possibility of Hill City providing some police coverage for the city of Remer, so that they can provide coverage of this.

**B. Nancy Grabko – Housing Rehabilitation Grant**

Nancy Grabko from CFS (Community Fundraising Solutions), was present to go over the DEED Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) grant which she is writing for the City of Hill City to fund owner occupied rehabilitation of homes in Hill City. The pre-application for grant funds is due in by Thursday, November 12, 2015. It should be known by mid-December if CFS can go forward with the full grant application. If the grant is approved, the grant will be funded in early summer

2016. If the grant is approved Hill City is looking at rehabilitating 17 homes in Hill City with up to \$21,500.00 towards each home. To make the grant more comprehensive, Aitkin County HRA will be partnering with the City of Hill City for rehabilitation of their 12 low income homes in Hill City also. An inspector did a "curb side" inspection of 139 home in Hill city and discovered that 47 homes were in standard condition, 84 homes were suitable for rehabilitation and 8 house were dilapidated. The amount of leveraged resources plays a significant role in determining whether the project is funded or not. Aitkin county HRA has committed \$50,000.00 towards this grant, Lakes and Pines has committed approximately \$10,000.00 towards this grant and Hill City has \$6,752.78 in reserve from the last SCDP grant that the city had. Nancy Grabko asked the Council if the city could commit \$20,000.00 towards this grant.

Motion made by Lange to commit \$20,000.00 towards the SCDP grant, second by Baratto. Motion carried with all member present voting in favor.

Motion made by Rollins to approve Mayor Baker to sign the application for the SCDP grant, second by Lange. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Nancy Grabko also stated that she gets paid out of the Administrative funds of the grant that is no cost to the city.

**C. Jonathan Bishop – Water/Sewer at 331 Stoner Ave.**

Jonathan Bishop was not present so there was no action on this.

**5. Addition or Corrections to the Agenda**

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

**6. Reports**

**Maintenance/Water/Sewer/Parks/Airport/Streets**

- George Casper reported that the new chlorine pumps are in and that the State would like to see the levels a little higher. Rural Water will be coming here to assist in this.
- There will be one more water hydrant flushing done next week (11/18/15). The plan is to flush every hydrant in town.
- Casper stated that a full sewer discharge has been done.
- Casper said that he was checking out the two new proposed RV sites on the north end of Hill Lake Park by Water Street. Per the State, no RV site can be within 25 feet of a Public Street. It is believed that Water Street at the north end of the park is considered a cart-way and not a street.
- Casper said that the culvert replacements and the dishing of the streets have been done.

**Fire Department**

- Fire Chief Nelson reported that the Fire Dept. had made some changes. They eliminated the Fire Marshall and added a 4<sup>th</sup> Captain. The four Captains will be in charge of training next year. Fire Chief Nelson also passed out the pay scale for the officers and the Captains to the Council.

Motion made by Baker to approve the Fire Dept. eliminating the Fire Marshall position and adding a Captain, second by Rollins. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor,

Motion made by Rollins to approve the new pay scale for the Fire Dept. Officers and Captains, second by Baker. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Fire Chief Nelson also reported that there were 3 calls last month and 1 so far this month.

## Police Department

This report was made at the beginning of the meeting.

## Mayor

• Mayor Baker state that we had made it through summer and now George's busy time for plowing was about to begin. Baker also said that everyone was doing a great job.

## Clerk

• Clerk McManigle let the Council know that her computer backup/surge protector had quit working and did the Council want her to try and get it fixed or purchase a new one. The Council told her to purchase a new one.

• Clerk McManigle said that with the newsletter going out later this month, and the office having the new credit/debit card program up and running, that the office needed some assistance in getting the credit/debit card link loaded onto the city's web site. Mayor Baker will be coming in to get this link on the web site.

• Clerk McManigle let the Council know that the State had notified the city that the Pay Equity report for the city will be due Jan. 31, 2016 for wages and benefits paid as of Dec.31, 2015.

## Council

• Council member Haugen wanted to thank everyone for their work with the Hill Lake Park as the parks numbers were up from prior years.

• Council member Baratto stated that the offices were not being cleaned as they should be. Clerk McManigle was to email all of the Council of who the "cleaning person's" supervisor was.

## Committees

There was nothing reported

## 7. Old Business

### **A. PD coverage in Remer**

This was already discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

### **B. Union Contract**

• Neal Reottger was present and had questions for the Council about the levy amount of the city and the fact that it hasn't been increased the levy in 7 to 8 years. He also wanted to know if the Council knew how much over levy the city was spending each year. Neal stated that he did not believe that the Council should try to cover part of the overage of spending through the employee's Union contract. There was more discussion between the Council and Neal.

• The Council had met previously in a closed meetings to make changes to the proposed Union Contract submitted to them. (Mayor Baker was absent from these meetings so was not aware of what the changes were). Another closed meeting needs to be set-up with the Council and with the Union for further negotiations.

Motion made by Rollins to approve the changes that the Council had made to the Union Contract, pending Mayor Baker approves the changes, and submit the changes to the Union for further negotiations, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

## 8. New Business

### **A. Approve Liquor licenses**

Motion made by Lange to approve all Liquor licenses pending all necessary paperwork, information, etc. has been submitted, second by Rollins. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**B. Water/Sewer Assessments**

Motion made by Rollins to approve the delinquent Water/Sewer assessments be submitted to the County if not paid before November 24, 2015, second by Baratto. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**C. Police Chief's Contract**

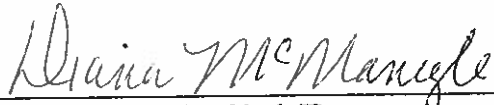
• The Police Chief's contract will be looked at when the Union employee's contract is looked at.

**D. Building Permit – Harry's Bar**

• Motion made by Rollins to approve the Building Permit for Harry's Bar, second by Haugen. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Motion made by Rollins to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m., second by Haugen.

Respectfully Submitted



Diana McManigle, Clerk/Treasurer

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Larry Baker, Mayor