

**City of Hill City  
Regular Council Meeting  
October 11, 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 Audrey Baratto, Nate Rollins, Tina Haugen and Dave Lange.

**2. Consent Agenda**

Motion made by Rollins to pull the bill from PC Refresh from the bills for later approval and approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Baker. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**3. Public Forum**

**A. Dan Kingsley**

Dan had called earlier in the day to say that he could not make it to the meeting.

**B. Bub Pierce – Fence at Hill Lake Park**

Bub Pierce was not present but Clerk McManigle explained that he wanted the city to put up a 10 foot fence between the Hill Lake Park and his property because of the noise from the RV air conditioners and because they were trying to sell their house and the park seemed to be an issue with potential buyers. The Council discussed this and decided that Bub Pierce should be at the meeting and that the city would not pay for a fence to be put up.

**C. Jane Bristow – disputing water/sewer base rate charges**

Jane had called and said that she had more research to do before she would be addressing the Council.

**D. Tom Fasteland**

Tom Fasteland reported to the Council that the Tree Committee had been meeting and that they wanted Hill City to obtain a Tree City USA status in order to have a better chance in getting a tree grant. Tom gave Clerk McManigle a sample tree ordinance that he would like to see the city adopt (or a similar tree ordinance). The city also would need to allocate \$2.00 per capita for tree management annually. This can be put in the 2017 budget as a line item.

Tom also spoke about Aquatic Invasive Species inspections at the boat landings in Hill City. There is a grant that pays 90% of the wages for inspectors/educators throughout the summer. (10% paid in cash or in-kind by the sponsoring entity, i.e. \$800.00/\$7,200.00 grant). The grant application for this needs to be submitted by the end of December. This was tabled until the November 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

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

**5. Reports**

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

- Head Maintenance/Public Works, George Casper reported that only ½ of the sign at City Hall was working. Wagner Electric fixed the sign and we have not yet received a bill for the cost.

- Casper had been called out 2 or 3 times to the water shed which had been reporting power outages. Wagner Electric discovered that when the electrical pole had come down in the July 21<sup>st</sup> storm and had been repaired that there some wires that weren't properly reconnected.
- Casper stated that some hydrants had been flushed on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> and the remaining hydrants would be flushed on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>. Casper said that hydrants had not been flushed all year and that this year was the best year yet with no complaints about dirty water.
- Casper said that he has been called out by sewer lift station #1 and discovered that a pump had come loose and destroyed the pump so that it could not be repaired. A week later a different lift station pump kept kicking out. This pump can be repaired at a cost of approximately \$3,000.00. The new pump for lift station #1 is going to cost approximately \$9,000.00.
- Casper reported that the fishing pier has been moved out for the season. There were approximately 150 seedling trees planted around town. Casper thanked everyone who came to help with "Hill City Arbor" day and the 1200 seedlings that were donated to Hill City from the Itasca Greenhouse. Casper especially wanted to thank the Girl Scouts and the other kids that helped as they did an excellent job!
- The Hill Lake Park will remain open through this coming weekend. Casper is waiting to have more dirt hauled onto the new RV sites and the plumbing plan has been approved from the State.
- Casper reported that the State did their 3 year inspection on the airport last week. Casper, Maint. Asst. Pat Jordan and Clerk/Treasurer McManigle all met with the State at the airport to go over a few things that needed to be addressed at the airport. According to the State, the snowmobile trail is **on** the runway and will need to be moved, the Aitkin County K9 agility course will need to be moved to the outside of the fence and there are some trees that will need to be removed. We are just waiting for the actual report to come back to address these issues. Also, Clerk McManigle, who is the current Airport Manager, had asked to change the Airport Manager to George Casper as he has more knowledge and dealings with the airport on a daily basis. The State was fine with this change. For longer term planning, the State suggested that the city erect a "pilots lounge" at the airport. There is a grant out there that would pay for the majority of this and it would not have to anything much more than just a shelter type of a building, without electricity, heat or water. This would also serve another purpose as there has to be a telephone at every airport and a bulletin board for required posting. At this time our telephone and bulletin board are outside with a small roof over them.
- Casper reported that Class 5 is getting sparse and difficult to obtain at a reasonable price. There is a 1,000 yard pile of Class 5 out at Dropps' pit that can be bought currently and Casper felt that the City should purchase it for next year. This Class 5 could probably be bought for \$7.50 a yard.

Motion made by Haugen to purchase the 1,000 yards of class 5 at \$7.50 per yard, second by Rollins. Lange abstained from voting but motion carried with all other members present voting in favor.

**Bub Pierce** arrived at this time to talk to the Council about a fence between his property and the Hill Lake Park. The Council explained to Bub that he can get a building permit and mark where he wants a fence and if approved he can put up a 6 foot fence. Bub explained that because of noise he would like a 8 to 10 foot fence. The Council explained that only 6 foot fences are allowed in residential areas which he is in. Bub said that he thinks there might be "something" out there that states you can have a 10 foot fence if it separates commercial from residential properties. The Council said that if he could find it they would be more than happy to see it.

### **Fire Department**

- Asst. Fire Chief Mike Boleman said that there had been one call last month and that there were 7 firefighter enrolled in Fire Fighter 1 training. This training is being paid for through the State.

### **Police Department**

- Police Chief Josh Kimball reported that the Police Dept. also had an average month last month. Josh read off the stats for the month of September.

- Chief Kimball also reported that the used squad car that the city is looking to purchase has finally been put up for auction. As of today, Hill City was the highest bidder at around \$3,000.00. There is 6 days left of the auction and Chief Kimball has been authorized to bid up to \$5,500.00.
- Police Chief Kimball said that the Hill City Police Department is participating in the annual prescription drug drop off. This is where people can bring their old prescription drugs to the Police Department and they will be disposed of properly.
- Council member Rollins asked Police Chief Kimball if he has received all of the passwords from former Chief Madsen for the many needed accounts. Not all of the passwords have been received. The Council felt that this is gone on long enough with not being able to obtain the needed passwords from Madsen and to contact the City Attorney, if necessary, to send Madsen a letter to release the passwords.
- Chief Kimball said that he is looking into 2 speed signs at \$2,500.00 each to be placed on the 30 mph signs on Hwy 169 at both ends of town. Kimball wrote a letter to the Hill City Lions Club for assistance in paying for these.

### **Mayor**

Mayor Baker thanked the Girls Scouts, Itasca Greenhouse and everyone else who helped with the tree planting and tree give-away on October 1, 2016.

### **Council**

The Council wants a letter of thanks to go to Itasca Greenhouse for their generous donation of 1200 seedlings to the Hill City area and also an ad of thanks to be put in the newspaper.

### **Clerk**

- Clerk Diana McManigle had given the Council a quote from Marco in regard to leasing a different copier/fax/scanner for City Hall. The lease is up on the Xerox copier/fax/scanner in November and the office has had nothing but problems with the Xerox machine for 5 years.

Motion made by Rollins to approve the 60 month lease of a Konica Minolta Bizhub C3350 through Marco at the cost of \$107.63 per month, second by Baker. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

- Clerk McManigle let the Council know that the Small Cities Development Program Grant is moving right along. Nancy Grabko, grant Administrator, has and will be at City Hall (Community Room) on specified hours Tuesdays and Thursdays where she is doing paperwork, meeting with different individuals, etc.

### **Committees: Personnel, Facilities/Equipment and Land Use**

- There was no report from the Personnel Committee.
- Facilities/Equipment Committee – Casper reported that someone from Case was finally down to look at the Case backhoe. There is an issue with the backhoe of when it is in 4-wheel drive it is like the brakes are on. The individual who looked at the backhoe said that he would be getting back to Casper.
- Land Use – There will need to be a Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. before the November 9<sup>th</sup> regular Council meeting for a variance for William Norenberg on Park Ave. Also, Casper and Council member Baratto will go and look at the shed placement at the Methodist Church.

## **6. Old Business**

### **A. Fire Hall Addition**

Ron Saxton from the Fire Department let the Council know that the first payment of \$95,389.00 has been made to the Baratto Bros. for work already completed. The total project is looking at coming in at around \$600,000.00. The Fire Dept. has picked out colors for the addition which are tan with red trim, cabinets have been picked out and a divider for the conference room has been ordered. Casper will be able to have however much dirt for the new RV sites that he wants that is stock piled on the Hill Lake Township lot, which will probably be hauled on Wednesday. Saxton said that the Baratto Brothers and their workers have been awesome to work with.

7. **New Business**

**A. Tree Grant**

This was discussed previously in the meeting.

**B. City Hall/Community Room Security System**

Police Chief Kimball had obtained a quote from American Eagle Security Systems for a new security system. With the new system we can use the existing 4 cameras that we have plus add 2 more cameras inside and 2 cameras outside for a cost of \$2,815.00.

Motion made by Baker to purchase the new security system at a cost of \$2,815.00, second by Rollins. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**PC Refresh Invoice** - PC Refresh was used to clean a virus off from the Maintenance department computer.

Motion made by Baker to pay the \$150.00 invoice to PC Refresh, second by Lange. Rollins abstained from voting and motion carried with all other members present voting in favor.

Motion made by Lange to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m., second by Rollins.

Respectfully submitted:

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Diana Mc Manigle, Clerk/Treasurer

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Larry Baker, Mayor